

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Label:** SGAR-61012

**Date introduced:** April 17th, 2024

**Author(s):** Senator Ortega, Harrison Martin, Students for Justice in Palestine HTX

**Sponsor(s):** UHBDS Coalition of which contains 20+ organizations (Young Democratic Socialists of America, Muslim Student Association, Deeds not Words, Ahlul-Bayt Student Organization, Arab Student Association, UH English Advocacy, Scholars Against the War on Palestine, Architecture Lobby, Association of Latinx/Hispanic Advocates and Allies, Students for a Democratic Society)

**Draft:** Vote

**Divest from Death**

**Whereas**, in 1987, the Board of Regents took decisive action by divesting \$6.4 million from companies engaged in business with South Africa, marking the University of Houston as the pioneering institution in the South to endorse divestment from the apartheid state of South Africa;

**Whereas**, since 2016, the University of Houston has invested over \$7.6 Million in weapons manufacturers like Raytheon, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and General Electric;

**Whereas**, these companies fuel violence from Palestine, to the Philippines, to Yemen, to Afghanistan, to U.S. police and ICE forces at the border, and beyond;

**Whereas**, these deadly weapons end up making their way to local police departments in the U.S., compounding the state's ability to police, surveil, and occupy Black and Brown communities, as well as unleash violent force against protestors;

**Whereas**, in 2022, after a semester of campaigning, SJP successfully passed a divestment resolution through the Student Government Association which urged the Board of

Regents to divest from the top 5 weapons manufacturers and implement a policy of Socially Responsible Investing;

**Whereas**, in 2023, the University proceeded with investments in the Delek Group and Primo Water, notwithstanding the 2022 resolution. These companies are implicated in the occupation of Palestine, as they engage in resource extraction, including gas and water, on occupied land.

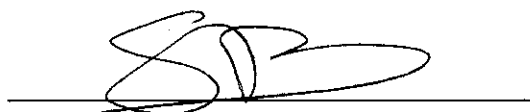
**Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:**

We call on the University of Houston to end its complicity in the ongoing apartheid, occupation, and genocide of Palestinians through implementing our demands of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

**Be it further resolved**, the Student Government Association requests the Board of Regents meeting on May 15th to include an agenda item to hear and vote on divestment with the following demands:

- Divest the endowment fund from weapons manufacturers and other companies that perpetuate occupation, apartheid, and genocide through material aid or resource extraction. This includes Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing, General Electric, Northrop Grumman, Delek Group, and Primo Water.
- Implement a Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) policy into the Endowment Fund Statement of Objectives and Policies and establish a task force/committee to ensure that the University's investment practices uphold the SRI policy.

**Let it be resolved**, the University of Houston undertakes bold initiatives to reclaim its position as a powerhouse, in the sphere of social responsibility.



Sebastian Ballesteros

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 04-29-2024