

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE DIVESTS!

In February, Hampshire College in Massachusetts became the first U.S. college to divest from companies that support the Israeli occupation of Palestine. In this context, divestment means the college may hold no investments in any company that provides products or services to the Israeli government which are used to facilitate violations of international law or violent acts against civilians.

This ground-breaking move is in keeping with Hampshire's history of being the first college in the country to divest from apartheid South Africa thirty-two years ago, a decision based on similar human rights concerns. Like the South Africa divestment, the current action is the direct result of student pressure. Following a two-year campaign by the campus group, Students for Justice in Palestine, Hampshire College's Board of Trustees agreed to divest from six companies which provide the Israeli military with equipment and services in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. These companies are Caterpillar, ITT Corp., Motorola, Terex, United Technologies and General Electric. Grounds cited for this selection are as follows:

- * **Caterpillar** supplies bulldozers used to destroy Palestinian homes, orchards and olive groves in the Occupied Territories. They are also used to clear Palestinian land for illegal Israeli settlements, segregation roads and the separation barrier.
- * **ITT Corp** provides the Israeli army with night-vision goggles used by pilots to attack refugee camps and villages in the middle of the night when most of these raids take place.
- * **Motorola** is engaged in a \$93 million project to provide radar systems for illegal West Bank settlements deep inside Palestinian territory. It also has a \$90 million contract to provide the Israeli army with an advanced cell-phone system.
- * **Terex** subsidiary, American Trust Company, has a \$54-million contract to supply tactical trucks and logistic support to the Israeli army. Another subsidiary manufactures mobile floodlight towers.
- * **United Technology** produces Black Hawk helicopters, and a subsidiary produces engines for Israel's F-16 aircraft. Both are used to attack Palestinian towns and refugee camps.
- * **General Electric** supplies the propulsion systems for Israel's Apache assault helicopters used in attacks on Palestinian towns and camps.

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So far, the divestment has been endorsed, among others, by Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Rashid Khalidi, Cynthia McKinney, Moustafa Bargouti, Israeli history professor Ilan Pappé, Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire, E.U. Parliament Vice-President Louisa Morgantini, John Berger and Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies.

Phyllis Bennis had this to say: "The U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and our 280 member groups around the country applaud Hampshire College for again being among the leaders of the movement to divest their holdings in the service of human rights. As was the case with Apartheid South Africa, the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement seeks to nonviolently pressure Israel to end its systematic human rights abuses and violations of international law against Palestinians. Economic isolation and international pressure are crucial components to ending the Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land, expansion of Israel's illegal settlements and Israel's targeting of Palestinian lives and infrastructure. Combined with boycott campaigns, divestment both pressures Israel to change its policies on human rights, and sends an important message to corporations that investors and consumers refuse to be complicit in human rights abuses. Hampshire College Students for Justice in Palestine's hard won campaign for divestment is truly a beacon for students and faculty seeking to nonviolently bring justice to Palestinians and peace and security to all."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONFLICT--PARTIAL LIST OF WEBSITES

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| Ha'aretz-Israeli Newspaper www.haaretz.org | If Americans Knew www.ifamericansknew.org |
| Christian Peacemakers www.cpt.org | B'Tselem, Israeli Peace Gp. www.btselem.org |
| Rabbis for Human Rights www.rhr-na.org | Electronic Intifada www.electronicintifada.net |
| Al Jazeera in English www.english.aljazeera.net | Maan News(Palestine) www.maannews.net/en |
| Jewish Voice for Peace www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org | Brit Tzedek v'Shalom www.btvshalom.org |
| | Sabeel www.sabeel.org |

Bay Area Women in Black are Jews and allies who stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own. We wear black as a sign of our mourning for all the lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarization and violence, and particularly those in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine. As part of the international movement of Women in Black, we seek to transform women's mourning for the dead into a powerful refusal of the inevitability of war.

Join us at the Grand Lake Theater every Saturday at noon to register your protest and your presence as we continue to urge an end to the U.S. military and financial support for Israel's disastrous occupation.

The group with flags and signs supporting Israel is the San Francisco Voice for Israel, a local group who oppose Bay Area Women in Black's criticism of the policies of the Israeli government and military. BAWIB is not anti-Israel. BAWIB believes Israel's occupation is wrong and deprives Palestinians of basic human rights. BAWIB calls for the end of the occupation and its violent effects on Israelis and Palestinians. The flyers distributed by Voice for Israel do not accurately reflect BAWIB.