

YU Divest petition

Rose Steele

to:

Judy Horwood

01/23/2017 01:50 PM

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From: Rose Steele/fs/YorkU

To: Judy Horwood/fs/YorkU@YORKU,

1 Attachment



SAIA #9 Fall Term Recap Dec31-14.pdf

I am writing **strongly against** this petition. The YU Divest campaign was very clearly aimed at the State of Israel when it was initiated in the fall of 2011. I was ignorant of this issue for a couple of years until it became more blatant and I, as a concerned faculty member and former YUFA Equity Officer, started to look into the underlying discriminatory practices that some colleagues were talking about.

Partly because of investigation by myself and others in YUFA, including documenting the actual purpose of the YU Divest campaign (see one example in the attached document), the initiators of the campaign changed their language to try to obfuscate the issue and gain more supporters by hiding their actual intent. The YU Divest campaign is not a more general approach about responsible divesting - if there even is such as thing. It is a way of trying to move forward the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

As the York University policy on ethical investment has shown, thoughtful engagement with companies may in fact be more effective in bringing about desired changes. I would support this continuing approach by York. Rose

Rose Steele, RN, PhD
Professor, School of Nursing
Room 342, HNES Building
Faculty of Health, York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Tel: (416) 736-2100, ext. 40556

Fax: (416) 736-5714

e-mail: rsteele@yorku.ca

STUDENTS AGAINST ISRAELI APARTHEID AT YORK UNIVERSITY

LATEST NEWS #YUDIVEST STATEMENTS RESEARCH GALLERY WHO WE ARE CONTACT SUPPORT US

Fall Term Recap - The Time to Divest is Now

December 31, 2014



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Fall Term Report

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We at SAIA York have been hard at work making strides with our divestment campaign. In 2011, we launched the campaign demanding that York University divest its endowment fund from arms manufacturers, military corporations, and companies accused of war crimes and other human rights violations. A university's endowment fund is used to fund scholarships, bursaries, and university projects. See York's September 2014 detailed investment holdings.

In the 2012/2013 academic year, the York Federation of Students and the Graduate Students' Association endorsed the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. CUPE 3903, the TAs and contract faculty union, passed its own BDS motion prior to that.

In the summer of 2014, Gaza endured yet another Israeli military offensive that killed 2,200 people and injured thousands of others, in addition to the bombardment of homes, UN shelters, hospitals, schools, and universities. **The time to divest is now.**

Donate



AT YORK FEST 2014 IN SEPTEMBER, WE LAUNCHED THE FINAL PHASE OF OUR DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGN WITH THE HASHTAG #YUDIVEST, AND WE'VE BEEN TABLING TWICE A WEEK EVER SINCE. UPON RELEASING A NEW HARD-COPY PETITION DEMANDING THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS DIVEST, HUNDREDS OF YORKU COMMUNITY MEMBERS RUSHED TO SIGN IT.

We have begun discussions with the Board of Governors about our campaign, and we have engaged

with its advisory committee on responsible investing. We are now mobilizing support by reaching out to student clubs, associations, councils, and the student caucus of the York Senate.



EXCALIBUR'S INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM HELPED SPREAD THE WORD.

In advancing our commitment to freedom of expression and transparency at York, we requested that the Student Community and Leadership Development (SCLD) office add York's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to its clubs

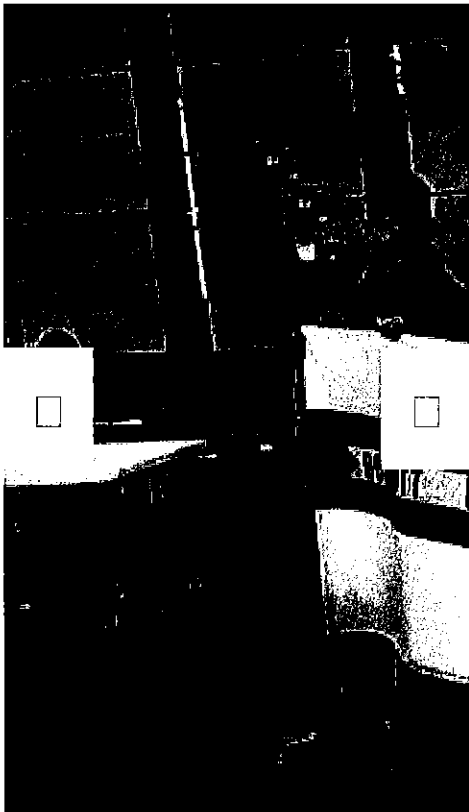
contract. This would ensure that

clubs are aware of their York-


recognized rights when they agree

to abide by University rules by

signing the contract.



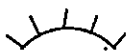
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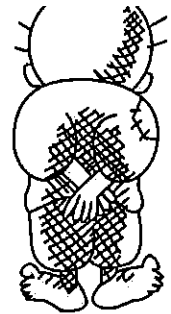
On Red and White Day, we held a banner drop  in the Student Centre and a silent protest in Vari Hall to highlight the difficulty of expressing #YUSpirit when many students have relatives that are directly affected by York's investments.



We had the pleasure of hosting David Sheen and Saron Gebresellassi to speak about racism and incitement under Israeli apartheid.

We look forward to a busy Winter Term where we'll be expanding our networks, reaching out to faculty, and bringing you the annual Israeli Apartheid Week. We were even invited to give a presentation as part of Winters College Frost Week. Divestment from weapons has never been closer on a North American campus. So follow us, share this message, and stay tuned as we advance towards our divestment goals--and closer to freedom, justice, and equality in Palestine and beyond. See you in 2015.





SAIA
Students Against Israeli Apartheid

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David

A year

ago

The investment in
companies complicit in
international war crimes
against the palestinians
is unethical and quite
simply, disgraceful.

Shame on Mamdouh
Shoukri and the entire
board of directors.



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