

TO: CUNY Law Student Government Association  
FROM: CUNY Law Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)  
CUNY Law Jewish Law Student Association (JLSA)  
DATE: December 2, 2021  
ENDORSED BY: South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA)  
Women of Color Collective (WOCC)  
Foundation for Immigration and Refugee Empowerment (FIRE)  
Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)  
Luis DeGraffe Racial & Social Justice Orientation (RSJO)  
Housing Rights Project (HRP)  
National Lawyers Guild (NLG)  
Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)  
If/When/How  
Black Law Students Association (BLSA)  
Muslim Students Association (MLSA)  
HALT  
OUTLaws  
Law Students for Accessibility  
Irish Law Students Association (ILSA)  
Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC)  
Students Against Cybersexual Abuse (SACSA)  
Public Interest Law Association (PILA)  
Formerly Incarcerated Law Students Advocacy Association (FILSAA)  
Labor Coalition  
CUNY Law Review  
International Law Society (ILS)

WHEREAS, the City University of New York (CUNY) has a vibrant community of anti zionist Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, and Jewish students who have been active in resisting Israeli settler colonialism;

WHEREAS, CUNY has a history of [censoring](#), [repressing](#), [harassing](#), and [surveilling](#) Palestine solidarity activists, including current CUNY Law students and co-sponsors of this resolution.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In 2020, a Palestinian law student was the target of a concerted harassment effort. In response to calls for her expulsion from CUNY Law that were instigated by Act.il, an app with ties to Israel's intelligence and military apparatus, CUNY Law responded with a statement condemning "antisemitism"; the school later took down the statement. In July 2021, the school issued a [formal statement](#), believed to be the first of its kind condemning the harassment this student and others received.

In 2019, CUNY launched an investigation into CUNY Law's partnership with Defense for Children International-Palestine (DCIP) after a right-wing group falsely accused DCIP of having links to "terrorism." In 2018, CUNY canceled a Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) event titled 'The General's Son: The Transformation of an Israeli in Palestine' over fears the event would be controversial.

In 2018, CUNY investigated a doctoral student for comments made that were criticizing Israel in response

WHEREAS settler colonialism and structural racism work across the world, including in the United States, to disenfranchise, dispossess, and inflict violence upon specific groups of people for the benefit of others;

WHEREAS the unceasing military occupation and colonization of Palestine by the Israeli state is a manifestation of both settler colonialism and structural racism, supported politically, financially, and militarily by the U.S.;

WHEREAS the Israeli state systematically violates Palestinians' rights under international law;

WHEREAS CUNY, including CUNY Law, is directly complicit in the ongoing apartheid, genocide, and war crimes perpetrated by the state of Israel against the Palestinian people through its investments in and contracts with companies profiting off of Israeli war crimes;

WHEREAS, [as of 2014](#), CUNY had close to \$1.1 million invested in companies profiting off of Israeli war crimes, including weapons manufacturers ([Boeing](#)<sup>2</sup>, [General Electric](#)<sup>3</sup>, [Lockheed Martin](#)<sup>4</sup>, [Northrop Grumman](#)<sup>5</sup>, and [Raytheon](#)<sup>6</sup>), tech and security companies (including

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to an email advertising a Fulbright fellowship in Israel on a student listserv.

In 2016, CUNY conducted a major investigation into Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), after the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) accused SJP of creating a hostile environment for Jewish students, and sought to have SJP banned at CUNY. The final report cleared SJP of wrongdoing, found that acts of antisemitism could not be attributable to SJP, and found no support for the claim that Jewish students had left CUNY because of antisemitism.

In 2011, Brooklyn College rescinded an academic appointment of a faculty member who supported Palestinian human rights.

<sup>2</sup> Boeing is one of the largest military companies in the world, and makes fighter jets and missile systems used by the Israeli air force against Palestinian civilians.

<sup>3</sup> General Electric's aviation division manufactures engines for military aircraft Israel uses against civilians.

<sup>4</sup> Lockheed Martin is a US defense and aerospace company that makes fighter jets, attack helicopters, and missile systems used by the Israeli military against Palestinian civilians.

<sup>5</sup> Northrop Grumman is one of the largest military companies in the world. It develops missile systems consistently used by the Israeli air force against Palestinian civilians.

<sup>6</sup> Raytheon is one of the largest military companies in the world and the largest producer of guided missiles used by Israeli military against Palestinians.

[Hewlett-Packard Enterprise](#)<sup>7</sup>, [G4S](#)<sup>8</sup>, and [Motorola Solutions](#)<sup>9</sup>), and construction firms (including [Caterpillar](#)<sup>10</sup> and [Cemex](#)<sup>11</sup>)<sup>12</sup>;

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 20-21, CUNY had over \$8.5 million USD<sup>13</sup> in contracts with companies that aid in or profit from Israeli colonization, occupation, and war crimes, including [Dell](#)<sup>14</sup>, [IBM](#)<sup>15</sup>, [HP](#), [Lenovo](#)<sup>16</sup>, [Cisco](#)<sup>17</sup>, and [BMC Software](#).<sup>18</sup>

WHEREAS, CUNY collaborates with the NYPD, including through security [MOUs](#), and [academic programs](#) that offer tuition-free, guaranteed admission to NYPD officers. The NYPD participates in [Deadly Exchange programs](#) with Israel in which the NYPD sends officers to learn

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<sup>7</sup> HP provides and operates technology used by the Israeli military, and provides servers used in surveillance technology that tracks the movement of Palestinians and maintains segregation.

<sup>8</sup> G4S is a private security company involved in the training of Israeli police.

<sup>9</sup> Motorola is a leading supplier of license plate recognition software whose equipment is installed in illegal settlements and in the separation wall in the West Bank, and is used by the Israeli military, police, and prison service.

<sup>10</sup> Caterpillar's equipment is customized for the use of the needs of the Israeli military occupation and is used in home demolitions, the construction of the West Bank and Gaza walls, and the construction of illegal settlements

<sup>11</sup> Cemex has factories in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights and provides building materials to construction projects in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank.

<sup>12</sup> For more information, see: <https://investigate.afsc.org/occupations>.

<sup>13</sup> New York State Office of the State Comptroller, Bureau of Contracts Procurement Stewardship Act Report for FY 2020-2021  
<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/state-agencies/contracts/2020/pdf/psa-centralized-contracts-2020.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Michael Dell, CEO of Dell Technologies, is an Israel backer who supported Texas governor Greg Abbott in passing HB 89, the anti-BDS law, which prohibits the state from doing business with any companies or individual contractors who boycott Israel.

<sup>15</sup> IBM runs the discriminatory Israeli population registry and provides technologies to the Israeli military.

<sup>16</sup> The electronics giant has an R&D center in Israel.

<sup>17</sup> The US-based networking hardware company established a network of "digital hubs" in partnership with the Israeli government, some of them in occupied territories.

<sup>18</sup> The US/Texas-based software company has an R&D center in Israel, and receives financial support from U.S.-Israel Binational Foundations.

Israeli military and policing tactics and vice versa.<sup>19</sup> In addition, the NYPD has infiltrated and surveilled students at CUNY campuses.<sup>20</sup>

WHEREAS, CUNY offers food and beverage products for purchase on campus that are notorious for violating Palestinian human rights, including [PepsiCo](#) and [Sabra Hummus](#).

WHEREAS, CUNY Law contracts with legal research ‘data cartels’ selling surveillance data and services, such as Thomson Reuters (Westlaw) and Reed Elsevier/RELX (LexisNexis). Through its [LexisNexis Risk Solutions](#) arm, LexisNexis contracts not only with the [Department of Homeland Security/ICE](#), but also [BioCatch](#), whose founder [Avi Turgeman](#) served as head of innovation for the cyber-intelligence unit of the Israel Defence Forces;

WHEREAS CUNY is further directly complicit in the ongoing apartheid, genocide, and war crimes perpetrated by the state of Israel against the Palestinian people through it’s academic collaborations with complicit Israeli academic institutions;

WHEREAS Israeli academic institutions are complicit in the occupation and colonization of Palestine and the state’s violence against Palestinians by developing military hardware, weapons, drones, and surveillance technologies; offering military training courses and posts for high-ranking military officers; declaring, via their leaders and other surrogates, their support for Israeli military offensives; discriminating against Palestinian students; and repressing voices in support of Palestinians and their struggle for self-determination;

WHEREAS, several CUNY campuses receive grants from [US-Israel Binational Foundations](#), which “promotes scientific relations between the U.S. and Israel by supporting collaborative research projects” between complicit Israeli academic institutions and US academic institutions;<sup>21</sup>

WHEREAS a number of CUNY faculty, including CUNY Law faculty, have taught at or collaborated with complicit Israel academic institutions, or have [links](#) to the Israeli Defense Forces;

WHEREAS, CUNY, including the Law School, is further directly complicit in the ongoing apartheid, genocide, and war crimes perpetrated by the state of Israel against the Palestinian people through collaboration with and yielding to pressure from organizations that repress

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<sup>19</sup> The NYPD has modeled surveillance programs, including the notorious Demographics Unit, on Israeli military tactics, and the Israeli police have looked to the NYPD to develop “broken windows” style policing

<sup>20</sup> From 2011-2015, an NYPD officer [infiltrated](#) Brooklyn College, “converted” to Islam, and surveilled students and Palestine solidarity organizing.

<sup>21</sup> Baruch College, Brooklyn College, CUNY Buffalo, City College, Hunter College, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Queens College, CUNY Staten Island, and all received grant funding from US-Israel Binational Foundations.

Palestinian organizing and its complicity in the ongoing censorship, harassment, and intimidation of Palestine solidarity activists;

WHEREAS, a number of student organizations across CUNY receive money from the State of Israel, or from organizations lobbying on behalf of the State of Israel, and whose mission includes support for the State of Israel, and whose practices include surveillance, intimidation, harassment of Palestine solidarity activists on campuses. These organizations include [Hillel](#),<sup>22</sup> [CAMERA](#)<sup>23</sup>, [StandWithUs](#),<sup>24</sup> Bulldogs for Israel, Israel Independence Day Committee, United 4 Israel, Israel Student Association, Students Supporting Israel at City College of New York.

WHEREAS, CUNY is further directly complicit in the ongoing apartheid, genocide, and war crimes perpetrated by the state of Israel against the Palestinian people through the participation of [student organizations in "birthright" trips to Israel](#), which are [designed](#) to cover-up Israeli settler colonial and apartheid violence and dispossession in order to generate support for zionism amongst Jewish students in the US. The program essentially provides a free vacation to Jewish students while at the same time the Israeli government refuses to implement the internationally recognized right of return for Palestinian refugees;

WHEREAS, a number of CUNY schools participate in Israel exchange programs, including the Brooklyn College Program Study in Israel (PSI), in collaboration with Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Haifa University, Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, as well as the City College of New York's student exchange program with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, all of which are a form of propaganda, and normalize settler colonial and apartheid rule.

WHEREAS the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is a Palestinian-led global movement that aims to end international support for Israeli violations of international law by forcing companies, institutions and governments to change their policies. BDS calls for the end

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<sup>22</sup> Hillel operates chapters at City College, Brooklyn College, Baruch College, College of Staten Island, Queens College, Hunter College, and several other CUNY campuses. In their own words, "Israel is at the heart of Hillel's work. Our goal is to inspire every Jewish college student to develop a meaningful and enduring relationship to Israel and to Israelis. Whether they want to engage in deep dialogue or are politically active in mobilizing others to support Israel, we enable students to share a rich connection to Israel and to each other as a people. Engaged and educated students can become committed Jewish adults who are passionate supporters of Israel." In addition, Hillel International prohibits its chapters from partnering with organizations, groups, or speakers that support BDS. See <https://www.hillel.org/jewish/hillel-israel/hillel-israel-guidelines>.

<sup>23</sup> CAMERA's mission includes an "unshakeable belief in the causes of Zionism and Israel." CAMERA hosts a fellow at Brooklyn College and has published defamatory pieces on CUNY faculty. See for example: <https://www.jns.org/opinion/political-agenda-found-in-the-classroom-at-john-jay-college/>

<sup>24</sup> "StandWithUs' mission is to "empowe[r] and energiz[e] students and communities with leadership training and educational programs" to build support for Israel in "middle schools, in high schools, on college campuses and in communities around the world." It has published disparaging articles on the [CUNY-PSC's June 2021 resolution](#) in Solidarity with the Palestinian People as well as the April 2021 [campaign to defeat the IHRA resolutioun](#) in CUNY's student senate.

of Israeli occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall, the recognition of the fundamental rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel, and the full right of return of Palestinian refugees;<sup>25</sup>

BE IT RESOLVED, that CUNY Law Student Government proudly and unapologetically endorses the Palestinian-led call for Boycott Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel;<sup>26</sup>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CUNY Law's Student Government calls on the institution to divest from and end contracts with all companies that aid in or profit from Israeli colonization, occupation, and war crimes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CUNY Law Student Government calls on the institution to end all Israel exchange programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CUNY Law Student Government calls on the institution to commit to transparency regarding its finances, contracts, investments, exchanges, and academic collaborations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CUNY Law Student Government calls on the institution to cut all ties with organizations that repress Palestinian organizing and end its complicity in the ongoing censorship, harassment, and intimidation of Palestine solidarity activists, including through ending contracts, academic collaborations, and refusing to be complicit in the targeted harassment and silencing of Palestine solidarity activists;

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<sup>25</sup> <https://bdsmovement.net/what-is-bds>

<sup>26</sup> Dozens of academic bodies around the world, including the Association for Asian American Studies, the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies, the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, the Critical Ethnic Studies Association, the African Literature Association, the American Studies Association, the graduate student worker union of the University of California, the American Anthropological Association and the National Women's Studies Association, have endorsed or recommended the boycott of Israeli academic institutions, and more, including the Modern Language Association and the Middle Eastern Studies Association, are considering doing so, altogether making the issue of academic boycott a central one of the academic profession