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Spring 2022

S22RS SGR No. 26 (Divestment)

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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fifty Fifth Student Senate



AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION OF
Two Thousand and Twenty-Two

S.G.R. 26

ENROLLED

AUTHORED BY SENATOR(S):
Mandell, Quadir, Ferguson

A Resolution

To Urge and Request that Louisiana State University divests its stocks, funds, and endowments from companies and institutions that profit from or engage in human rights violations in US prisons, at the US-Mexico Border, in Occupied Palestine, and environmentally

1 WHEREAS, human rights as defined by the United Nations' Universal
2 Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) resolution 217 A (III), states that
3 "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade
4 shall be prohibited in all their forms;" and

5
6 WHEREAS, UDHR Article 7 states that "All are equal before the law and
7 are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All
8 are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of
9 this Declaration and any incitement to such discrimination;" and

10
11 WHEREAS, many companies throughout the United States and many
12 companies with business deals with LSU profit from prison labor and
13 other violations of Article 4; and

14

15 WHEREAS, LSU Spring 2022 Student Government Resolution (S.G.R.) 24
16 supported the permanent termination of prison labor use on campus, and
17 passed the Student Senate unanimously; and
18

19 WHEREAS, LSU's Commitment to Community states "To demonstrate my
20 pride in LSU, as a member of its community, I will hold myself and others
21 to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity;" and

22 WHEREAS, by the standard set in S.G.R. 24, the concern that "those
23 performing carceral labor are paid paltry wages, amounting to mere cents
24 per hour" stated in the bill should extend to services provided on campus
25 that are provided by companies that commit such human rights
26 violations; and

27 WHEREAS, UDHR Article 5 states, "No one shall be subjected to torture
28 or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;" and

29 WHEREAS, UN human rights offices in Mexico and Central America have
30 documented numerous violations and abuses against migrants and
31 refugees in transit, including the excessive use of force, family separation,
32 denial of services (including religious ones) and arbitrary expulsions; and

33 WHEREAS, these violations are violations of UDHR, the Refugee
34 Convention of 1951, and its 1967 Protocol; and

35 WHEREAS, many private-sector companies create tech, transportation
36 methods, and for-profit prisons that aid in these human rights
37 abuses; and

38 WHEREAS, many of these companies use forced migrant labor within
39 these detention centers which is a violation of UDHR Article 4; and

40 WHEREAS, many students have raised concerns that private profit
41 incentive in the immigration process and prison-industrial complex
42 incentivizes maximizing incarceration and detainments which the United
43 States has the highest recorded total in the world; and

44 WHEREAS, Occupied Palestine is defined as the area of historic Palestine
45 occupied by the state of Israel in June 1967, as recognized by the
46 International Court of Justice, the United Nations, and the European
47 Union; and

48 WHEREAS, LSU, represented by its College of Engineering, is now part of
49 a \$27 million consortium that will lead one of the United States' three
50 inaugural U.S.-Israeli Energy Centers; and

51 WHEREAS, the consortium includes Tel Aviv University, Haifa University,
52 the Israeli Institute of Technology, and the Geological Survey of
53 Israel; and

54 WHEREAS, Tel Aviv University was responsible for developing the
55 "Dayhiya doctrine", which calls for disproportionate force against civilian
56 infrastructure and which was implemented by the Israeli occupation forces
57 in their massacres of Palestinians in Gaza; and

58 WHEREAS, the "Dayhiya doctrine" encompasses the destruction of the
59 civilian infrastructure of countries deemed hostile; and

60 WHEREAS, this is a violation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva
61 Convention which states "No persons may be punished for an offense he or
62 she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all
63 measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited ... Reprisals
64 against persons and their property are prohibited;" and

65 WHEREAS, A Human Rights Watch study documents institutionalized
66 discrimination against Palestinians in Israeli universities and segregated
67 school system; and

68 WHEREAS, B'Tselem, Israel's largest human rights organizations, Human
69 Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the United Nations' have all
70 concluded that Israel has imposed an apartheid system upon Palestine and
71 have all condemned Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory as
72 a "flagrant violation of international law;" and

73 WHEREAS, many companies that have investments from colleges aid in
74 upholding a system of apartheid and oppression within Occupied Palestine
75 including producing technology and military equipment that aid in
76 violating privacy and human rights, producing technology which aid in
77 destroying Palestinian homes and expanding illegal settlements,
78 producing technology that reinforces the apartheid system and aids in
79 discriminating against Palestinians, and establishing businesses in the
80 illegally settled areas; and

81 WHEREAS, LSU's Commitment to Community states, "To demonstrate
82 my pride in LSU, as a member of its community, I will use my LSU
83 experience to be an active citizen in an international and interdependent
84 world;" and

85 WHEREAS, United Nations' resolution 48/13 states, recognizes access to a
86 healthy and sustainable environment as a universal right; and

87 WHEREAS, LSU Policy Statement 19 Environmental Health & Safety
88 states, "Recognizing that a healthy environment is critical to the quality of
89 life of all living organisms, LSU is committed to protecting the
90 environment from harm due to campus operations and activities;" and

91 WHEREAS, LSU resides in a location that is identified as "Cancer Alley"
92 due to the amount of petrochemical plants and refineries that it holds as
93 well as its portion of the nation's total petrochemical production; and

94 WHEREAS, researchers have found that cancer risk and racial disparity in
95 cancer risk from air toxics have increased in this area; and

96 WHEREAS, LSU has relationships with many companies that increase
97 pollution and this area and contribute to the problem.

98

99 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE
100 UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE, that the LSU Student Government
101 believes in Article 1 of UDHR that "All human beings are born free and
102 equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience
103 and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." and the
104 rights outlined by the United Nations as a whole, and;
105

106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Government calls on the
107 Louisiana State University to withdraw investments in securities,
108 endowments, stocks, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments with
109 holdings in companies and other institutions that aid and/or profit from
110 human rights abuses in US prisons, the US-Mexican Border, in Occupied
111 Palestine, and environmentally until humanitarian standards outlined by
112 the United Nations are met; and,

113 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Government will support all
114 efforts by students and student organizations to get the university to divest
115 from entities that profit from human rights violations in the areas
116 specified in this resolution and abroad; and,

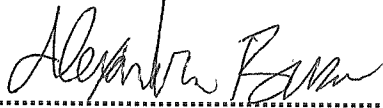
117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Government will support any
118 efforts to create a committee at LSU, consisting of faculty, students and
119 staff to conduct a transparent investigation into corporations and
120 institutions involved in human rights violations that their securities,

121 endowments, stocks, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments are
122 currently invested in, and;

123 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Government supports
124 responsible social investments on the part of Louisiana State University
125 ventures that promote the upholding of human rights, equity, and justice,
126 and that, overall, do not contribute to the systematic oppression of any
127 group of people

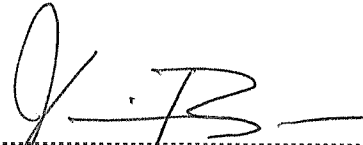
128
129 THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE by a simple
130 majority (one-half plus one) vote of the LSU Student Senate and signature
131 by the Student Body President, upon lapse of time for presidential action,
132 or if vetoed by the President and subsequently approved by the Senate, on
133 the date of such approval.

APPROVED:



.....
ALEXANDRA BASSE
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: 04/21/2022



.....
JAVIN BOWMAN
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: 04/22/22