

Student Assembly

Resolution 8: Calling for Divestment from War Weapons Manufacturers

Abstract: This resolution expresses the will of the Spring 2024 student referendum and recommends divestment from weapons manufacturers to the Board of Trustees, per the 2016 Divestment Guidelines.

Sponsored by: Karys Everett '25, Imani Rezaka, '25

Type of Action: Sense-of-the-Body

Originally Presented: 10/10/2024

Current Status: Postponed Indefinitely, 5-4-6, 10/10/2024

Whereas in 2016, the Board of Trustees approved a [‘Standard and Process for Review of Divestment Requests’](#) in which the university must consider divesting from companies that, through their “action or inaction,” partake in “morally reprehensible activities” such as “apartheid, genocide, human trafficking, slavery, and systemic cruelty to children” and perpetuate “harm so grave that it would be inconsistent with the goals and principles of the University,”

Whereas, The 2016 Divestment Guidelines empower the five shared governance bodies, including the Student Assembly, “to assist the President and the Board in making decisions regarding social responsibility,”

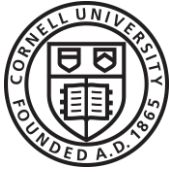
Whereas April 22nd, 2024, the Cornell undergraduate population voted 2:1 to divest from the following weapons manufacturers: BAE Systems, Boeing, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX, and ThyssenKrupp,

Whereas on Thursday, November 13th 2008, the Student assembly passed [Resolution 13: Encourage Action in Congo](#),

Whereas on Thursday 24th, 2021, the Student Assembly passed [Resolution 39: Calling Upon Cornell to Uphold its Ethical Guidelines](#),

Whereas the Student Assembly passed [Resolution 2: Conflict Free Campus Resolution](#),

Whereas in direct relation to the tensions on campus today, on Thursday April 10th, 2014 the Student Assembly passed [Resolution 72: Resolution Urging Cornell University to Divest From Companies Profiting from Israeli Occupation and Human Rights Violations](#),



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31 **Whereas**, Our predecessors have made it clear that discussion on international issues is under
32 the purview of the Student Assembly,

33 **Whereas** the administration's reluctance to listen to the concerns of marginalized students on
34 this campus means that the Student Assembly has a greater responsibility to advocate for their
35 interests,

36 **Whereas** [BAE Systems](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/dec/11/bae-systems-accused-of-being-party-to-alleged-war-crimes) provides munitions, missile launching kits, combat aircraft and
37 armored vehicles used in the mass destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure,
38 [https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/dec/11/bae-systems-accused-of-being-party-](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/dec/11/bae-systems-accused-of-being-party-to-alleged-war-crimes)
39 [to-alleged-war-crimes](https://aoav.org.uk/2024/bae-systems-and-human-rights-a-troubling-relationship-examined/) [https://aoav.org.uk/2024/bae-systems-and-human-rights-a-](https://aoav.org.uk/2024/bae-systems-and-human-rights-a-troubling-relationship-examined/)
40 [troubling-relationship-examined/](https://aoav.org.uk/2024/bae-systems-and-human-rights-a-troubling-relationship-examined/)

41
42 **Whereas** [Boeing](https://www.boeing.com) manufactures attack helicopters, combat aircraft, missiles, bombs and
43 battlefield laser systems, as well as intelligence and surveillance systems that are used to
44 surveil Palestinian civilians in Occupied Palestine,

45
46 **Whereas** [General Dynamics](https://www.codepink.org/general_dynamics) supplies weapon systems and components for armored
47 combat and personnel vehicles, as well as bombs that are used indiscriminately in
48 crowded residential areas,

49 https://www.codepink.org/general_dynamics

50 **Whereas** [L3Harris Technologies](https://www.l3harris.com) components are integrated into multiple weapon
51 systems used by the military, including air-to-ground bombs as well as its main
52 warplanes, battle tanks, and warships,

53
54 **Whereas** [Leonardo SpA](https://www.leonardospa.com) provides the 72mm and 76mm guns which are installed on
55 warships that maintain the naval blockade on Gaza, which has been ongoing since 2007
56 and constitutes collective punishment, [https://www.ecchr.eu/en/case/yemen-arms-](https://www.ecchr.eu/en/case/yemen-arms-exports-france/)
57 [exports-france/](https://www.ecchr.eu/en/case/yemen-arms-exports-france/)

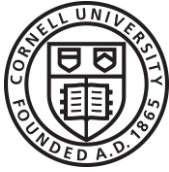
58
59 **Whereas** [Lockheed Martin](https://www.lockheedmartin.com) supplies fighter jets, attack helicopters, and Hellfire missiles,
60 <https://www.corpwatch.org/company/lockheed-martin>
61 [https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1636143/000121465921003503/j326212px14a](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1636143/000121465921003503/j326212px14a6g.htm#:~:text=Lockheed%20Martin%20weapons%20have%20been,potentially%20amou)
62 [6g.htm#:~:text=Lockheed%20Martin%20weapons%20have%20been,potentially%20amou](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1636143/000121465921003503/j326212px14a6g.htm#:~:text=Lockheed%20Martin%20weapons%20have%20been,potentially%20amou)
63 [unting%20to%20war%20crimes.](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1636143/000121465921003503/j326212px14a6g.htm#:~:text=Lockheed%20Martin%20weapons%20have%20been,potentially%20amou)

64 [https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/936468/000121465922005425/j419220px14a6](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/936468/000121465922005425/j419220px14a6g.htm)
65 [g.htm](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/936468/000121465922005425/j419220px14a6g.htm)

66
67 **Whereas** [Northrop Grumman](https://www.northropgrumman.com) provides missiles that are integrated into warships, attack
68 helicopters, and fighter jets, among other weapons,¹

69

¹<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/states-and-companies-must-end-arms-transfers-israel-immediately-or-risk>



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70 **Whereas** [RTX](https://www.state.gov/u-s-department-of-state-concludes-200-million-settlement-resolving-export-violations-by-rtx-corporation/) supplies the state of with missiles and bombs that are used against
71 crowded residential areas, as well as weapon systems, components, and maintenance
72 services to the Air Force, [https://www.state.gov/u-s-department-of-state-concludes-200-](https://www.state.gov/u-s-department-of-state-concludes-200-million-settlement-resolving-export-violations-by-rtx-corporation/)
73 [million-settlement-resolving-export-violations-by-rtx-corporation/](https://www.state.gov/u-s-department-of-state-concludes-200-million-settlement-resolving-export-violations-by-rtx-corporation/)
74

75 **Whereas** [ThyssenKrupp](#) makes a multitude of weapons and vehicles for the military,
76 including but not limited to submarines, warships, naval electronics, towers for battle
77 tanks and artillery guns, and machine gun mountings,
78

79 **Whereas** the inconsistencies between the harm that the following companies perpetuate and
80 Cornell's stated core values constitute grounds for the consideration of divestment,

81 **Whereas** Cornell's failure to begin the process for divestment from the aforementioned
82 companies is a breach of the Board of Trustees' Standard and Process for Review of
83 Divestment Requests,
84

85 **Whereas** there is precedent for socially responsible divestment from companies complicit in
86 morally reprehensible acts, such as Cornell University's moratorium on fossil fuel investments in
87 May 2022 and the liquidation of Cornell's holdings in Sudan (including government bonds and
88 oil company stocks) in light of the Sudanese government's involvement in genocide in 2006,

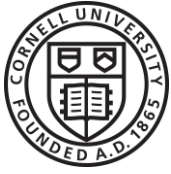
89 **Whereas** Cornell University has partnerships with weapons manufacturers including BAE
90 Systems, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin, each of which produces weapons used by the military
91 have caused unprecedented harm to the civilians in and around the world,

92 **Be it therefore resolved** that Cornell University must execute its 2016 'Standard and
93 Process for Review of Divestment Requests' in which the university must consider
94 divesting from companies that, through their "action or inaction," partake in "morally
95 reprehensible activities" such as "apartheid, genocide, human trafficking, slavery, and
96 systemic cruelty to children" to perpetuate "harm so grave that it would be inconsistent
97 with the goals and principles of the University,"
98

99 **Be it further resolved** that Cornell University will examine its assets for investments in
100 the aforementioned companies,
101

102 **Be it further resolved** that Cornell University will make information about all of its
103 assets public, pertaining especially to its investment managers and the funds that they
104 operate, as well as a list of institutional holdings,
105

106 **Be it further resolved** that Cornell University will end any corporate partnerships with
107 the aforementioned companies,
108



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109 **Be it finally resolved,** Cornell University divest from weapons manufacturers, including but not
110 limited to BAE Systems, Boeing, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies,
111 Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX, and ThyssenKrupp.

112

113 Respectfully Submitted,

114 Karys Everett '25

115 *Undesignated Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*

116 Imani Rezaka '25

117 *Undesignated Representative At-Large, Student Assembly*