

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CITY OF IOWA CITY TO BOYCOTT THE
INVESTMENT OF ANY AND ALL PUBLIC MONIES FROM ENTITIES COMPLICIT
IN THE CURRENT AND ONGOING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA,
INCLUDING ALL ENTITIES ASSISTING ISRAEL IN THE OPPRESSION OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Iowa City recognizes the importance of peace and security for all communities and nations around the world regardless of national, ethnic or religious affiliations, and advocates for the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Iowa City recognizes that all human life is precious; and

WHEREAS, the City of Iowa City seeks to provide for the safety and wellbeing of its community, in accordance with the values outlined in the City of Iowa City's Strategic plan, of racial equity, social justice, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, over 60,000^[1] Palestinians, including at least 17,000 children (more than the entire enrollment in the Iowa City Community School District), have been killed by Israeli attacks on Gaza, with thousands estimated to be buried under the wreckage or missing; and

WHEREAS, over 146,000^[1] Palestinians in Gaza have been wounded, while less than half of Gaza's hospitals remain and are only partially functional^[1]; and

WHEREAS, our city, as a proud university town, deeply values education and recognizes the vital role that educational and cultural institutions play in enriching communities; and

WHEREAS, in Gaza, Israel has destroyed all universities^[2] and 88 percent of schools^[1], along with archives, libraries, cultural centers, museums, bookstores, and nearly 200 heritage sites^[3] (over 100 with UNESCO designation^[4]) - including the historic Al-Aqsa University library that safeguarded irreplaceable records of Gaza's history and culture; and

WHEREAS, under sustained Israeli blockades, 2 million Palestinians in Gaza face imminent food insecurity, with 100% facing crisis levels (IPC* phase 3), 50% facing emergency levels (IPC phase 4) and 25% facing catastrophe/famine (IPC phase 5) — the most severe level of food insecurity possible^[5]; and

WHEREAS, the Israeli government continues to encourage, materially support, and legitimize illegal settlements on Palestinian land such as the West Bank and East Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, Israel has escalated conflict to neighboring countries, such as Syria and Lebanon, and according to the United Nations Human Rights Office, Israel has engaged in a bombing campaign that has “consistently violated the laws of war.”^[6]; and

WHEREAS, Israeli atrocities in Gaza impact the community of Iowa City as a burden to the physical, mental, and emotional health and safety of Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese residents of the City of Iowa City as well as all Iowa Citizens of conscience; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the lack of accountability for Israel’s crimes against humanity, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry, and antisemitism have risen significantly across the United States, and around the world, with direct impacts on communities – from synagogues, churches, and mosques to schools, universities, homes, offices, and places where communities gather, as well as at protests and rallies; and

WHEREAS, all of these forms of bigotry, violence, and oppression serve to divide our communities and weaken our efforts to achieve collective safety, justice, and true multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-religious democracy here and everywhere; and

WHEREAS, condemnation of Israel’s apartheid and genocide is not antisemitism and the conflation of these endangers Jewish people everywhere; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2024, the City Council of the City of Iowa City passed Resolution 24-11, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine and Israel; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, this Resolution actively pursues the objectives of the Resolution 24-11, financially limiting Israel’s continuation of this genocide, to the best of the City’s ability; and

WHEREAS, since 1948, hundreds of UN resolutions^[7] have condemned Israel's colonial and discriminatory policies as illegal – including the 2024 advisory opinion by the international court of justice that Israel’s occupation is an apartheid system^[8] -- and called for immediate, adequate and effective remedies; and

WHEREAS, boycott is an immediate, peaceful, appropriate, and effective remedy, as well as a proven policy leveled by the international community against apartheid in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the entities on the Boycott List maintained by the American Friends Service Committee^[9] are complicit in Israel's violation of international law because these corporations, as investigated by the United Nations and multiple human rights organizations, are known to a) provide Israel with weapons and other military equipment used in Gaza, b) operate in and contribute to the expansion of Israel's illegal settlements, c) enable or profit from the ongoing Israeli occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Iowa City recognizes the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the genocide of Palestinian people, ethnic cleansing by Israeli armed forces, and illegal occupation of Palestinian land and seeks to avoid economically supporting these through the City's investments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Iowa City advocates for the city's finances to align with the City's values; and

WHEREAS, an ethical investment policy is only possible with the continued vigilance of trusted officials in the City of Iowa City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council directs that the City Manager divert existing investments held by the City of Iowa City from all entities complicit in the current and ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and occupation of Palestine, as identified by the American Friends Service Committee list of "Companies Profiting from the Gaza Genocide – Divestment Shortlist"^[9], hereinafter referred to as the "Boycott List"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, regardless of current investments, that the City Council directs the City Manager to not make any future directly-held general fund investment in the equities or bonds of any entities on the Boycott List or make any investments in the Israeli military in the form of Israel Bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Iowa City directs the City Manager to continue to investigate and report on investments made by the City of Iowa City annually to ensure the absence of investments in entities on the Boycott List; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution will remain in effect as long as the occupation of the Palestinian Territories and the violations of human rights and international law, such as those described above, continue, as determined by the City Council.

REFERENCES CITED

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- [3] K. Ahmed, "'Everything beautiful has been destroyed': Palestinians mourn a city in tatters," *The Guardian*, Feb. 04, 2024. Accessed: Aug. 03, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/feb/04/everything-beautiful-has-been-destroyed-palestinians-mourn-a-city-in-tatters>
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- [7] "List of United Nations resolutions concerning Israel," *Wikipedia*. July 25, 2025. Accessed: Aug. 03, 2025. [Online]. Available: https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_United_Nations_resolutions_concerning_Israel&oldid=1302513506
- [8] "World Court Finds Israel Responsible for Apartheid | Human Rights Watch." Accessed: Aug. 03, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/19/world-court-finds-israel-responsible-apartheid>
- [9] "Divesting for Palestinian Rights," American Friends Service Committee. Accessed: Aug. 03, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://afsc.org/divest>