

Motion on Crimes Against Humanity and Divestment from Israeli Companies

June 25, 2024

1. Whereas on March 18, 2024 the Canadian Parliament [passed a motion](#) ceasing authorization of and transfer of arms exports to Israel, recognizing the provisional measures of International Court of Justice finding a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza by Israel, reaffirming Israeli settlements as illegal, and instituting concrete measures to end the occupation of Palestine;
2. Whereas since October 2023, Israel has accelerated its violations of Palestinian human rights and academic freedom, including a [genocidal campaign in Gaza](#) resulting in [at least 34,000 dead \(including more than 7,500 children\)](#) and 2 million displaced and facing threats of starvation and illness;
3. Whereas the systematic assault on the educational and other sectors in Palestine is part of an historic and ongoing project of [apartheid](#), ethnic cleansing, settler colonialism, and fragmentation;
4. Whereas the [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#), citing Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, noted that “An entire generation of children is traumatized and will take years to heal. Thousands have been killed, maimed, and orphaned. Hundreds of thousands are deprived of education. Their future is in jeopardy, with far-reaching and long-lasting consequences”;
5. Whereas the [ICJ](#) ruled its Provisional Measures that “Israel must, in accordance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention”;
6. Whereas the ICJ’s finding of [plausible risk of genocide](#) engages the legal [obligations of third parties](#) such as national governments as well as educational institutions such as universities to (1) ensure that its current actions, programs, and investments are *not complicit* in violations of the Genocide Convention, and (2) ensure that it take all reasonable measures within its institutional power to *prevent* violations of the Genocide Convention;

7. Whereas the Canadian Labour Congress, as well as many other Canadian unions, [have declared the need for an immediate ceasefire](#);
8. Whereas [Canadian trade unions such as CUPW, CUPE, the CSN and Unifor amongst others](#), have recognized the need to support the BDS campaigns to ensure their actions are not complicit in genocide;
9. Whereas [several Faculty Associations across Canada](#) have already passed motions committed to divestment from Israeli companies complicit in apartheid and other crimes against humanity;

We affirm that:

10. An active stance by Canadian academics and educational institutions against the attacks on the Palestinian people is urgently needed, given Canada's complicity in their dispossession.

We thus move MUNFA to:

11. Make ~~every effort possible to~~ **efforts to** ensure the divestment of the Memorial University's pension fund, endowment fund, and non-endowment fund and any other financial holdings from the State of Israel and all Israeli and international companies that sustain Israeli [apartheid](#), war crimes, and occupation.
This includes but is not limited to calls to the Board of Regents to divest, as well as actions available to MUNFA representatives on the Memorial Pension Committee
MUNFA representatives in support of divestment.
12. ~~Support any calls~~ **Support calls** to step up pressure to end the war on Gaza and join the international movement calling for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire.

NOTE

~~[Red, bracketed strikethrough]~~ indicates original text that was amended to be deleted at July 26, 2024 EGM

Highlighted indicates current text as amended at July 26, 2024 EGM