

# Cornell Faculty and Staff Divestment Petition

We call on Cornell University to divest from the companies that directly enable and profit from the war on Gaza and the occupation of the West Bank. Divestment means that Cornell would sell all its investments/shares in these companies. For Cornell to keep these investments would mean to continue to directly support and profit from war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Divesting means refusing this criminal profit and allocating Cornell investments to economic sectors that are not morally reprehensible, upholding Cornell's [core values](#). Cornell undergraduate students [have voted "yes" for divestment](#) by a 2:1 ratio in a historic referendum. We want President Pollack and the Board of Trustees to know that the faculty and staff are on their side.

In [2016](#), the Board of Trustees committed Cornell to divest from companies whose "actions or inactions are '[morally reprehensible](#).'" This divestment threshold has long been met. Today, we are witness to what the [International Court of Justice](#) has described as a "plausible" genocide. Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, [reported](#) in March that "the threshold indicating Israel's commission of genocide is met." Human Rights Watch and others have also reported that Israel has committed multiple [war crimes and crimes against humanity](#).

The depth of Palestinian suffering is unfathomable. More than five percent of Gazans are confirmed to have been killed or wounded since the beginning of the war, and many more lie unidentified under the rubble. More than a million Gazans, half of them children, are now facing immediate death from famine. Already in February, Gaza's entire population was facing "[the highest share of acute food insecurity ever classified worldwide](#)." The threshold of famine was imminent in March 2024; today, "Gaza's entire population is in [the state of crisis, emergency, or catastrophe/famine](#). The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development has [described](#) this as a "horrific milestone," and has called on "Israel to take immediate action to put an end to this mass—and preventable—suffering."

The explosive force of the missiles that have been dropped on Gaza—a territory equivalent in area to the city of Las Vegas—exceeds that of the two atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki and has [killed more civilians](#) than any war in the 21st century. The 2000-pound bombs [made by General Dynamics](#) and dropped relentlessly on Gaza have long been deemed

inappropriate for use in urban areas due to the mass casualties they cause, with a radius of destruction and injury equivalent in area to [58 soccer fields](#). Yet a *New York Times* investigation concluded that during just the first six weeks of the war in Gaza, Israel used this most destructive bomb at least 206 times in densely populated urban areas, including in zones where it had specifically directed civilians to [take shelter](#).

An American Friends Service Committee [analysis of companies profiting from the attacks on Gaza](#) shows that “the scale of destruction and war crimes in Gaza would not be possible without this continued flow of weapons from the U.S.” While a large majority of Americans [disapprove of the genocide](#) in Gaza and our government’s weapons supply and other support, Washington continues to fund and enable this slaughter and to undermine the trust in American democracy.

Intellectuals are called to speak truth and challenge injustice. All scholars of conscience must actively resist genocide. There can be no neutrality: we either explicitly oppose the massacres or we enable them. This is a critical moment in the moral life of our institution and its faculty and staff. What will happen to our ethical core—to our humanity and that of current and future students—if we do not act forthrightly now?

As Cornelians, we shoulder a particular responsibility due to our University’s partnership with the Technion Institute, which [designs remote-controlled bulldozers that demolish Palestinian homes](#) and serves as the “[R&D wing of the Israeli military](#).” Disturbingly, these and other weapons are [marketed](#) as having been “[field-tested](#)” on the captive Palestinian populations. We are concerned about these ethical failures as well as our University’s legal standing, as complicity with genocide by non-state actors is increasingly seen as a violation of international law.

Though many of us have watched the events of the last seven months with growing despair, we do not have to remain paralyzed. We must act now in the ways that are available to us. We must show our students that we, too, recognize our responsibility as historical actors.

Divestment campaigns work. Such efforts were central to the successful anti-apartheid struggles in the U.S. during the 1980s and are shaping the struggle against climate change today. Let us stand together on behalf of peace and human rights. Let us reaffirm the values of human dignity that brought many of us to our fields of study in the first place. Let us join the scores of

university communities across the country that are pressuring their institutions to take the principled step of divestment.

### **Our Demands:**

1. Adopt Cornell's standards for divestment, in accordance with policies set by the Board of Trustees on [January 29, 2016](#), and divest from companies whose "actions or inactions are 'morally reprehensible.'"
2. Specifically, divest from defense companies, arms manufacturers, and other institutions that sustain the ongoing war on Gaza and the occupation of the West Bank.\*
3. Terminate funding for research used to develop military technologies at the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute.
4. Formulate a policy and process for auditing all investments so that they comply with the policy of not being morally reprehensible.

\*Companies, arms manufacturers, and research institutions that develop military technologies that [sustain and profit from](#) the genocide in Gaza include BAE Systems, Boeing, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX, [Technion Institute](#), and ThyssenKrupp. In addition, each of these military manufacturers materially contributes to ongoing human rights violations in at least one of the following countries: Azerbaijan, Chile, China, the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Mexico, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sudan, Ukraine, the US, Venezuela, and Yemen.

Cornell Coalition for Justice in Palestine

Cornell Jewish Alliance for Justice  
Endorsed by the following faculty and staff:

1. Abderhman Abuhashem, Weill Cornell Medicine
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3. Marcelo Aguiar, Mathematics
4. Chloe Ahmann, Anthropology
5. Esra Akcan, Professor/Architecture
6. Benjamin Anderson, History of Art and Classics
7. Catherine M. Appert, Associate Professor, Music

8. Sandra Liliana Arias Suarez, Biomedical Engineering
9. Sabrina Axster, Migrations
10. Natasha Ayaz, Department of Literatures in English
11. AB, Government
12. Oumar Ba, Department of Government
13. Ewa Bachminska, Romance Studies, Polish Program
14. Audrey Baker, Public Health program, College of Veterinary Medicine
15. David Bateman, Government
16. Khadija Batool, Cornell University
17. Jose Beduya, Library
18. Leila Ben Abdallah, Mario Einaudi Center
19. Sarah Besky, ILR School
20. Eliza Bettinger, Cornell University Library
21. Natasha Bishop, Cornell University Library
22. Amiel Bize, Anthropology
23. Anne M. Blackburn, Asian Studies
24. Caitlin Blanchfield, Visiting Lecturer, Architecture
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26. Norma Bloy, Radiation Oncology
27. Alexis Boyce, Asian American Studies Program
28. Anne Marie Brady, ILR Worker Institute
29. Mary Pat Brady, Literature in English
30. Jamie Budnick, Sociology
31. NoViolet Bulawayo, Literatures in English
32. Iliana Burgos, Cornell University Library
33. Judith Byfield, History
34. Jodi Byrd, Literatures in English
35. AC, College of Arts & Sciences
36. HC, Neurological Surgery
37. Marty Cain, Staff, Mann Library
38. Mary Campany, Library
39. Emma Campbell, Society for the Humanities
40. Thomas Carruthers, Architecture
41. Carrie Chalmers, College of Human Ecology

42. Adam Chandler, Cornell University Library
43. Derek Chang, History & Asian American Studies
44. Julia Chang, Romance Studies
45. Maud Charpentier, WCMC / Radiation Oncology
46. Ani Chen, Society for the Humanities
47. Michelle Chen, School of Industrial and Labor Relations
48. Eric Cheyfitz, American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program
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51. Raymond Craib, History
52. SD, MSE
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58. HE, Graduate Admissions Office
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60. Ekin Erar, Architecture
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64. Sharif Ewais-Orozco, Undergraduate Coordinator, ECE
65. SF, Biomedical Engineering
66. Ziad Fahmy, NES
67. Grant Farred, Africana Studies & Research Center
68. Eveline Ferretti, Mann Library
69. Elise Finielz, Romance Studies
70. Julia Finkelstein, Division of Nutritional Sciences
71. Paul Fleming, Comparative Literature / German Studies
72. Chiara Formichi, Asian Studies/ Religious Studies
73. Carolyn Fornoff, Romance Studies
74. Jason Frank, Government Department

75. George Frantz, Department of City & Regional Planning
76. Chelsea Frazier, Department of Literature in English
77. Eli Friedman, Global Labor and Work
78. Costanza Galanti, Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholar, ILR
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81. Durba Ghosh, History
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86. Seema Golestaneh, Near Eastern Studies
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99. SJ, Cornell Health CAPS
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101. Steven Mana'oakamai Johnson, Natural Resources and the Environment
102. Kurt Jordan, Anthropology / American Indian & Indigenous Studies 103. Jane  
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105. Youbin Kang, Postdoc, ILR school
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113. Cat Lambert, Classics
114. Tamar Law, Development Studies
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117. Risa Lieberwitz, ILR School
118. Sadé Lindsay, Public Policy and Sociology
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120. Farzin Lotfi-Jam, Assistant Professor / Architecture
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126. Joseph Margulies, Government
127. Patchen Markell, Government
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135. Mostafa Minawi, History
136. Justine Modica, Postdoc, History
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139. Maureen Morris, Library

140. Samyabrata Mukherjee, School of Applied and Engineering Physics
141. Nicholas Mulder, History
142. Viranjini Munasinghe, Anthropology and Asian American Studies
143. Trisica Munroe, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
144. Elsy Murphy, Mann Library
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146. Alex Nading, Anthropology
147. Jess Newman, FGSS/Anthro
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149. Diana Obregon, NYS Integrated Pest Management Program
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151. Gail Phillips, Cornell Atkinson
152. Simone Pinet, Romance Studies
153. Sophie Pinkham, Comparative Literature
154. Jocelyn Poe, CRP
155. Rachel Prentice, Science & Technology Studies
156. HPS, Romance Studies
157. Matthieu Réal, Classics
158. Natasha Raheja, Anthropology, Performing & Media Arts
159. Lucinda Ramberg, Anthropology and Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
160. Masha Raskolnikov, Literatures in English
161. Guillaume Reboul, CVM/Baker Institute
162. Maddie Reynolds, Cornell University Library
163. Riché Richardson, Africana Studies and Research Center
164. Courtney Ricketts, Cornell Health/CAPS
165. Russell Rickford, History
166. Naaz Rizvi, Asian studies
167. Syed Rizvi, Food Science
168. Ken Roberts, Government
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170. HS, Department of Radiation Oncology
171. Juno Salazar Parrenas, Science and Technology Studies and Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies
172. Nick Salvato, Performing and Media Arts



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175. Elke Siegel, German Studies
176. Nathan Sitaraman, Physics
177. Iván Solís Cruz, College of Veterinary Medicine
178. Suyoung Son, Asian Studies
179. David Sossa, Entomology
180. Madeleine Spellman, Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences
181. Derrick Spires, Literatures in English
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184. Ashley Stockstill, ICM
185. David Strang, Sociology
186. Camille Suarez, History
187. Noah Tamarkin, Anthropology and Science & Technology Studies
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189. Lindsay Thomas, Literatures in English
190. Paraska Tolan-Szkilnik, History Department
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200. Anke Wessels, Center for Transformative Action
201. Eleanor Willard, Staff, Mathematics
202. Catherine Wilmes, Art, Architecture, & Planning
203. Ben Wrubel, Cornell University Library
204. Benjamin Yost, Philosophy
205. Ruslan Yusupov, Society for the Humanities
206. Sophia Ziemian, Biomedical Engineering
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210. Anonymous, Asian Studies  
211. Anonymous, Asian Studies  
212. Anonymous, CAPS, Cornell Health  
213. Anonymous, City and Regional Planning 214.  
Anonymous, City and Regional Planning 215.  
Anonymous, College of Engineering/ECE 216.  
Anonymous, College of Human Ecology 217.  
Anonymous, Cornell Law Library  
218. Anonymous, Cornell University Library 219.  
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