

12 November, 2012

Dear President Paxson,

The Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policies (ACCRIP) considers issues of ethical and moral responsibility in the investment policies of Brown University. Committee members include students, faculty, staff and alumni of the University. ACCRIP examines all proxy resolutions concerning issues of social responsibility that are presented to the University as a shareholder, and has developed guidelines for voting on such resolutions. Groups or individual members from the Brown University community -- students, faculty, staff, and alumni -- are encouraged to bring to the attention of ACCRIP ethical and moral issues or issues of alleged social harm with respect to the activities of corporations in which the University is an investor.

For the past two years we have had an ongoing dialog with Brown Students for Justice in Palestine (BSJP). The group raises serious allegations that major US corporations in which Brown may be an investor, such as Caterpillar, Boeing, and others, are “profiting from the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories.” The BSJP calls for Brown to divest from companies that are involved in maintaining said abuse.

The documented abuses of Palestinian citizens by the Israeli Defense Force in the Occupied Territories are deeply troubling. Israel is indisputably engaged in ongoing systemic abuses of human rights and violations of international law, as documented by the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Court of Justice.

This has led to ongoing discussions within our committee about the best way forward. We recognize that the conflict between Palestine and Israel is many faceted and deeply divisive from both personal and institutional perspectives, but the relevant evidence suggests that Brown may be invested in firms whose products and services are being used to commit human rights violations in Palestine.

The committee wishes to facilitate further campus dialogue on this issue before making a recommendation. We respectfully ask that you consider initiating a forum for broader exploration. The University should consider the implications of its investment in companies perpetrating human rights abuses, and whether or not divestment is an option in dealing with the

issue. In light of whatever discussion ensues, the committee will return to this issue in the next semester.

Sincerely,

Christopher Bull, Chair, for the committee,

Fredric Alper, '60

Sean Dinces, Graduate Student

James Dunn, Staff

Stanley Griffith, '68

Daniel Moraff, Undergraduate Student

Sandra Seibel, Investment Office

Anne Sharp, Investment Office

Naoko Shibusawa, Faculty

Ian Trupin, Undergraduate Student

Vazira F-Y Zamindar, Faculty

Cc: Brown Students for Justice in Palestine