

Julie Dachtler

From: Nick Buxton <nicholasbuxton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 3:54 PM
To: Clerkoftheboard
Subject: Item 18 - Quarterly Investment Review - Time to divest from Caterpillar

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my shock that Caterpillar is listed in your investments and urge you to divest and to instate an ethical investment policy.

Caterpillar is one of the most egregious companies involved in complicity with war crimes in the occupied territories of Israel. To be invested in such a company - at a time when the world can see an unacceptable campaign of brutality by Israel and what the International Court of Justice has declared a plausible genocide - suggests our county has no concerns about what we invest in.

I can't believe the County can be fine about the fact that Caterpillar's armored D9 bulldozers:

- have been used were also used extensively in Israel's attacks on Gaza which have involved a massive loss of life and destruction of schools, hospitals and cities.
- are routinely used to carry out extrajudicial executions of Palestinians where the bulldozer is used to destroy the house and bury anyone within it
- used by the Israeli military as "crowd control" weapons, which have injured children and unarmed civilian protestors
- most famously, in 2003, an Israeli D9 bulldozer [crushed to death](#) American peace activist Rachel Corrie as she attempted to defend a Palestinian home from being demolished while the family was still inside.

Yolo County's investment should not be used to support war crimes and should reflect our county's values and support for human rights and environmental sustainability. This is not just a moral issue but also a legal one. Just last month, the International Court of Justice found Israel guilty of apartheid against Palestinians and its military occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory to be illegal. This means that all states, local governments, corporations and institutions must immediately end all forms of complicity with Israel's illegal military occupation and the brutal genocide in Gaza.

I therefore urge the Board to cease investing in above companies so long as they ignore UN's warnings and to terminate the current investments as soon as possible. I also urge the Board to establish a human rights screen that will prevent any future investments in corporations involved in human rights violations (see for example <https://investigate.afsc.org/>).

Sincerely,

Nick Buxton
Yolo County resident

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