



UCSB Gaza Solidarity Encampment Statement and Demands

May 3, 2024

#escalate4gaza

Dear Chancellor Yang and UCSB Administrators,

We are an autonomous collective of students, staff, faculty, and community members gathered together to protest UCSB's role in the state-sanctioned genocide in Gaza. As communities across the United States and across the world rise up against the ongoing genocide in Palestine, we, as students, workers, and community members at UC Santa Barbara answer the

urgent call from Palestinians to disrupt this genocidal violence inflicted on the people of Gaza by Israel. In the last 209 days, over 34,000 Palestinian people in Gaza have been brutally murdered by the Israeli military. Thousands more Palestinians are buried under the rubble of their homes along with an uncountable number of people impacted by disease, famine, and injury. We escalate because UCSB's involvement in Palestinian genocide, through academic, economic, and carceral collaboration, has become unbearable. As administrators, your inaction is unacceptable.

In our call for a free Palestine, we also recognize our education's entwinement with struggles beyond Gaza. In concert with those connecting struggles from stopping cop cities in the United States to ethnic cleansing in Tigray to violent displacement in Sudan to the long-term disinvestment in Haiti to the \$14.1 billion the U.S. government recently passed in military aid to Israel, we demand that UCSB disclose their investments in the war machine that connects these seemingly disparate sites. We come to this encampment as we witness the scale of violence that has resulted in the brutal destruction of Palestinian land and decimation of every university in Gaza. Silence is inexcusable, and we refuse to be complicit in these atrocities.

UCSB students, staff, and faculty have voiced their demands for divestment and have received no substantive response from administration. As students, staff, faculty, and local community members, we will not be silent as UCSB, one of the largest land owners, employers, and contributors to weapons manufacturing on the central coast, continues to play a role in the violation of human rights in Palestine. We come together in solidarity with Palestine and to answer the calls from international labor unions, the growing number of university encampments facing police violence and repression, and other groups engaging in civil disobedience that call for an end to this genocide. The following are our initial demands.

Demands:

1. Disclose.

We demand the UC complies fully with the Public Records Act requests, such as those submitted on April 8, 2021 and March 9, 2024, for the number and copies of all UCSB Department of Defense-related contracts. We also demand that UCSB disclose its investments and partnerships with three of the largest U.S. weapons manufacturers—Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, and Lockheed Martin. These military contractors provide the Israeli military with weapons, enabling the genocide in Gaza. We demand that UCSB publicly discloses all investments in all federal military institutions as well as private arms and defense companies.

2. Divest.

Divest from the war machine

We demand that UCSB divest from all weapons manufacturers that are profiting from Palestinian genocide. That includes divestment from the weapons manufacturers Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman and the investment funds Blackrock and Vanguard, which are top shareholders in these companies.

Divest from unethical materials

We also demand that UCSB sets ethical research guidelines, including the funding of research using only ethically sourced minerals in labs on campus. The Democratic Republic of the Congo currently contains **80%** of the entire world's cobalt under the ground and produces **77%** of cobalt for the global supply chain for use in the production of batteries and military equipment. These raw materials are mined by forced Congolese labor in dangerous work-conditions by a labor force including approximately 25,000 children. At this moment, UCSB Materials' laboratories are taking Department of Defense funding to develop proof-of-concept, high-temperature alloys made from cobalt for use in aerospace and munitions applications. These novel alloys will be produced at scale for military applications without regard for the people producing the supplies.

Divest from colonial infrastructure

As a land grant institution on Chumash land, we recognize that UCSB has long been complicit in the dispossession of Indigenous peoples from their lands and waters, and we recognize that these settler colonial investments have stretched far beyond the space of our campus. We demand that UCSB divest from the Thirty-Meter Telescope and divest from research on Mauna Kea. In addition, we demand the formation of ethical guidelines for research that ask for collaboration from local stakeholders, particularly the traditional stewards of the lands on which new research will take place, to prevent UCSB from continuing to be complicit in the degradation of sacred lands.

Divest.

We demand responsible and ethical research. We demand that UCSB break partnerships with the Department of Defense and all federal and private military agencies and cease work on militarized applications of research. We demand that the UCSB administration adopts and formalizes a set of responsible research guidelines and establishes an oversight committee to consider the global ramifications of the institution's research output.

3. Demilitarize.

Demilitarize research

We demand that UCSB break the recruitment pipeline for weapons manufacturing companies on our campus. This includes refusing university access to recruiters or other representatives of Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, removing recruitment portals from Career Services web infrastructure, and providing alternate internship and mentorship opportunities. UCSB should inform staff at Capstone Engineering of the International Court of Justice's provisional measures ordering Israel to stop killing Palestinians and the statement from UN experts that transfer of weapons to Israel for use in Gaza may constitute a violation of international law. The Chancellor's Office should release a statement noting that any joint work professors and researchers perform for both the above military contractors and any contractors aiding and abetting genocide in Gaza may violate international law.

Abolish UCSBPD

We demand that UCSBPD is abolished by the end of the 2024-25 academic year. In the process, we demand that UCSBPD receives no more funding from UCSB's budget going

forward, or that UCSBPD's reported operating budget of over \$7.5 million is defunded and reinvested in community resources. We also demand that UCSBPD is immediately demilitarized. This includes amending the UCSBPD policy so that officers are no longer issued their duty weapon of SIG Sauer, P220, in .45 ACP caliber, no longer permitted to use patrol rifles, and no longer permitted to use deadly force. Demilitarization also means that officers are no longer permitted to use surveillance technologies that facilitate the application of force on targets such as Mobile Audio Video (MAV) undercover surveillance and aerial surveillance, as mentioned permissible in codes 440.2 and 458.2.

4. Academic Boycott of Israel.

UCSB should immediately terminate collaboration and affiliations with Israeli academic institutions, including our EAP study abroad programs at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Technion Institute of Technology. We also demand that research centers, labs, and institutes on campus break their partnerships and collaborations with Israeli universities.

5. Protect Free Speech and Academic Freedom.

UCSB has failed to protect the right to freedom of speech, the freedom to assemble, and academic freedom for students, staff, and faculty. Activism on our campus has been met with hostility from Zionist groups on campus with full administrative support. We demand that UCSB condemn the censorship and targeted attacks on pro-Palestine, anti-war, and anti-apartheid speech and activism, and affirm and protect the academic freedom and free speech of all UCSB students, staff, and faculty.

As we witness the nationwide brutality brought on by law enforcement at the request of university administrators, we recall the UC's own history of brutality—the criminalization of the Irvine 11, the pepper spraying of Davis protesters, and the administrative retaliation against Santa Cruz wildcat strikers, to name a few. We demand amnesty for all students, staff, faculty, and community who stand with Palestine on our campus.

6. Name and Acknowledge Violence

We demand public acknowledgement from Chancellor Yang and UCSB administrators of the atrocities committed against the people of Gaza and that UCSB call for a permanent ceasefire and end to occupation in Gaza. We also demand a public acknowledgement of the ethnic cleansing in Tigray, the violent displacement in Sudan, the long-term disinvestment in Haiti, and the violence facilitated by neo-colonial resource extraction in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

7. Reinvest

Extending our demand that UCSB divests from all companies and institutions that are complicit in the Israeli occupation and genocide of Palestinian people, we demand that it reinvest these resources in our community. Reinvestment includes: the implementation of Palestine Studies Program that fulfills degree requirements; immediate financial subsidies for Palestinian students, such as scholarships, mental health services, and dedicated community spaces on campus; and investment in programs that support precarious students on campus, including food or housing insecure students, non-traditional students who need childcare

support, and emergency funds for students to access. We also demand that the school invest in the development of more student housing.