

Dear Dr. Ralph Hexter, President, Hampshire College:

I am writing to express my congratulations to Hampshire College for your historic decision to divest from the Israeli Occupation. This move should be an example to all institutions of higher learning and concern for human rights across the world. The brutal illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories stands in violation of international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention and repeated Security Council resolutions.

However, I am disappointed that the administration has been trying to distance itself from the decision and de-politicize the powerful statement that divestment sends. In your response to the Student's public campaign, you have repeatedly insisted that the divestment decision had a "variety of reasons" for going through, and that it had no regional or political significance. However, the length & intensity of the campaign that the Students for Justice in Palestine have run makes it clear that it was their efforts that brought this divestment to the table. I sincerely hope that you will reconsider your position on divestment and express your support for the students' efforts in an official statement soon.

Lastly, your failure to condemn the threats that Alan Dershowitz has made towards SJP's spokespeople is regrettable. Dershowitz has called for a boycott on the College and you have still maintained your "neutral" position, hurting the students, the college, and yourself. I urge you to protect your students and their right to speak out on this important occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.

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