

Queen Mary University of London has received a number of enquiries along the following lines: 'I am writing to you...regarding the violence that is unfolding in Palestine. As a result, I have felt inclined to question where my own actions and consumer choices may be fuelling this violence.

Firstly, I am deeply concerned by the evictions that are happening in Sheikh Jarrah which are an international violation of human rights according to the UN: "In many cases in East Jerusalem, including in Sheikh Jarrah, the forced eviction of Palestinians is occurring within the context of Israeli settlement construction and expansion, illegal under international humanitarian law. Some of these are based on pre-1948 claims, while Palestine refugees are discriminatorily banned from reclaiming their properties/homes lost in West Jerusalem in 1948. However, under international law, an occupying power is obligated to respect the laws in force of the occupied territory, unless absolutely prevented. Claims brought by Israeli settler organisations following Israel's occupation and annexation of East Jerusalem, are disputed."

In 2020, it was found by The Palestine Solidarity Campaign that over 100 UK universities invest in Israeli companies linked to violations of international law. As a student who is greatly concerned by the violence that is being inflicted upon Palestinians, I am dismayed and greatly disappointed to find that your institution is subsidising this violence through financial investments in such companies.

As an educational institution that has a duty to safeguard all individuals that exchange with your institution, and to uphold a standard of protection not only directly within your institution, but with the impact of your institution on both the local and global community. Furthermore as a fee-charging institution that I paid to attend, I am deeply concerned that you are fuelling this conflict in the form of financial investments into such companies. This is not the case for all universities in the UK, for example, last year Manchester University committed to divesting from firms involved in the Israeli arms trade.

In regard to this, I am demanding that you take the steps to divest and boycott from Israeli companies that are fuelling this harm. I ask how you intend to move forward to ensure your university is not complicit in international human rights violations against the Palestinian people? What steps have been taken thus far? How much are you investing in such companies and are you intending to divest? Are you committed to an ethical investment policy?

Answers to these questions are legally permitted to myself by The Freedom of Information Act regarding [someone] who is deeply concerned by the human rights violations being inflicted upon Palestinians.'

The following is Queen Mary University of London's response:

Our endowment fund investments are managed by an external fund manager (Ruffer LLP):

UK Equities
Ruffer SICAV UK Mid & Smaller Companies Z GBP Dis
Barclays
BT Group
Countryside Properties
Dixons Carphone

GlaxoSmithKline
Lloyds Banking Group
Man Group
NatWest Group
Tesco
North America Equities
Alexion Pharmaceuticals
American Express
Berkshire Hathaway B
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Centene
Charles Schwab
Cigna
eHealth
Nexstar Media
Central & South America Equities
Ambev ADR
Europe Equities
LF Ruffer European I Acc
Carrefour
Hennes & Mauritz
Japan Equities
LF Ruffer Japanese I Acc
Mitsubishi Electric
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group
Orix
Rakuten
Sony Group
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group
Tokio Marine Holdings
Asia ex Japan Equities
LF Ruffer Pacific & Emerging Markets I Acc
Swire Pacific 'A'
Gold and Precious Metals
LF Ruffer Gold I Acc
Ishares Physical Gold ETC
Kinross Gold (USD Quote)
Newcrest Mining
Newmont Goldcorp

Forward Foreign Exchange
FWD: EUR Vs. GBP 15/04/2021
FWD: JPY Vs. GBP 15/04/2021
FWD: USD Vs. GBP 15/04/2021

You can view other information about our investments in our annual Financial Statements, which can be found at: <http://www.finance.qmul.ac.uk/statements/> In short, we do not believe we invest in any Israeli companies.

Our Ethical Investment Policy is available on this page of our website: <http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/policy/>