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| Dear Friend of Hillel at Stanford, I write with some urgency about an intimidating environment at Stanford for many Jewish students related to Tuesday's Stanford Student Senate vote on a bill that urges the university to divest from companies that maintain "the Israeli occupation," and facilitate "collective punishment of Palestinian civilians" and "state repression against Palestinians." The bill was introduced last week on Holocaust Remembrance Day, and is proposed by a broad coalition of student groups, "Stanford Out of Occupied Palestine." Their effort has included extensive flyers posted in all dorms and on a wide variety of Stanford list-serves, door to door campaigning for students to sign a petition supporting divestment, a sophisticated website and frequent events, culminating in last week's Town Hall on Divestment. Jewish students organized a counter-campaign, the "Coalition for Peace," to lobby student senators. They are urging concerned students, faculty, and alumni to sign and circulate a [petition opposing divestment](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001o40TE7HcFq79Qmw94Eq03B9VYqXPOHY5THhNE71hCPRGX9pX_rPD9PkB6UUzO0e7tgSqyJ3e-Wxq5cawXkjy3MOUTwF2FfNG8iwQxJepsfxztGK_licfNK8H88NoLlB5gUVpXd_sKgP6gLdN0r31PZlwqKD0-RoJdhkKHQS0Tc4UMBWADu_kM_Z9MFKIXw0iGRJOYwvgqszhUJYq6FamqXEi3SBo6IGRc5tv_PLdEMSf2dSAVsNEveTLV0H1Cm-Z_yB_CkNlQZGgVUS9FLfbvhJiC6SH8o65&c=inbjrYjSRhbSw5kMmWgYad4JLGs72LM5UzAUxiIKcWvNnvR_mQlK5g==&ch=S2rtHdXOogwrMhl0H7ugKLHtC7OXUtdTY2KnuSYB0e2CN2Ju7lbBFw==" \t "_blank). Over 1500 signatures have been gathered in the past ten days; more are needed. Stanford students are closely following the divestment votes on other campuses. Last week, at a similar student senate divestment vote at UC Davis, the pro-Israel community on campus staged a walk-out from the divestment hearing, highlighting the fact that the resolution was "toxic" and "damaged lives." Two days later,  [swastikas were found outside of AEPi, the Jewish fraternity.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001o40TE7HcFq79Qmw94Eq03B9VYqXPOHY5THhNE71hCPRGX9pX_rPD9PkB6UUzO0e7HEGqZxYCxBSMrb7iSkTLx9UYfgCi3n_OPBauPQu6bCLRclp4eNrjM62HdvgxYz25JbXo0hoLqZktws1AJvtJub3s5EamTpaN3y-mI3OkgTkho4-aF-A__4uNBvqASIGzAY2RqMgXI39TPnopfxwZ0M0haYu7munCvnfH6oEU3HIX3Mhpfl22a82_pgkd-voP&c=inbjrYjSRhbSw5kMmWgYad4JLGs72LM5UzAUxiIKcWvNnvR_mQlK5g==&ch=S2rtHdXOogwrMhl0H7ugKLHtC7OXUtdTY2KnuSYB0e2CN2Ju7lbBFw==" \t "_blank) A student senator who supported divestment posted on her Facebook page, "Hamas & Sharia law have taken over UC Davis."  Similar campus defacement with swastikas following divestment votes have also been reported at UCLA and UMichigan.Hillel staff are hearing numerous reports from students that they no longer feel safe at Stanford, feel ostracized and targeted, and are unable to express their identities and opinions in the dorms and around campus. Last night, a panel of Jewish students spoke at a Coalition for Peace event, "The Case Against Divestment." One student, a JD/MBA who served as a lone soldier in the IDF, shared that she now feels uncomfortable at Stanford wearing a Jewish star. Hillel is working with senior administrators to address these concerns. Hillel continues to serve as a steadfast resource, working tirelessly on these issues with students, faculty, and administrators. seeking to educate and empower Jewish students, as well as contribute to the respectful and intellectual campus conversation for which Stanford is widely recognized. This weekend, Hillel will host the sold-out annual Daniel Pearl Memorial Lecture with Thomas Friedman, who will speak on "Covering the Middle East."   **Your support is needed at this time.** Donations can be made to the Coalition for Peace  [student mobilization fund,](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001o40TE7HcFq79Qmw94Eq03B9VYqXPOHY5THhNE71hCPRGX9pX_rPD9PkB6UUzO0e79gQEpHkii9Y_gW8K86akf9Tm-O7C3buMjV1xgM9By2N95Nr1Swg4ORi3egJu2tQbvJEcKy6Z8N8X7Ddz1T5cyS5V_KEs2WS57FfgGZbejMt9aDsIM2s2YlIc1lswtmTo7OpuOlPwAdy19G08ib9SQNuI3ZfgqBWekFTGLjbge6o=&c=inbjrYjSRhbSw5kMmWgYad4JLGs72LM5UzAUxiIKcWvNnvR_mQlK5g==&ch=S2rtHdXOogwrMhl0H7ugKLHtC7OXUtdTY2KnuSYB0e2CN2Ju7lbBFw==" \t "_blank) and please consider making a contribution to [Hillel's ongoing and robust Jewish life programs](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001o40TE7HcFq79Qmw94Eq03B9VYqXPOHY5THhNE71hCPRGX9pX_rPD9PkB6UUzO0e7qsDVX1mlOFr4c-AlDxiQ1Ds0oop8poXzR57TpBqduPOQBhHr6VGC3eJv-beH_BM_104a6i2T06E6qMGK2DwtmvUMxjw8AlKvvzI-pYbg9zBUF51-Pg23B86XIM2lixD_6bK78C2IeWgjL8tnI7QUuU5ALFDIWmERbGUimheeH4Z0B0hhK28bAA==&c=inbjrYjSRhbSw5kMmWgYad4JLGs72LM5UzAUxiIKcWvNnvR_mQlK5g==&ch=S2rtHdXOogwrMhl0H7ugKLHtC7OXUtdTY2KnuSYB0e2CN2Ju7lbBFw==" \t "_blank). Thank you enormously for your support and interest. Sincerely, Rabbi Serena EisenbergExecutive Director, Hillel at Stanford PS  Harvard University President Emeritus, Lawrence Summers, has frequently spoken publicly on academic freedom issues related to the calls for boycotts and divestment, including[an article published last week.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001o40TE7HcFq79Qmw94Eq03B9VYqXPOHY5THhNE71hCPRGX9pX_rPD9PkB6UUzO0e7Ljf1oD5ST7kB-w5xD3NwmA3qIJzrlhSB10Ytfl753ZeVH8eZzfZ_GSoNNPWvvvG-XLmA8nzKaqBhecuVee9YopI-Xv3pzBXM3DAhAZyksDKm-oGmrkiaJq-V0kOgE_YcbVF_OOvLf90P-DhVGCmpuocwEVxHJXt6_RSqTJGowB1JSWASeaedIronsFOuYvuS&c=inbjrYjSRhbSw5kMmWgYad4JLGs72LM5UzAUxiIKcWvNnvR_mQlK5g==&ch=S2rtHdXOogwrMhl0H7ugKLHtC7OXUtdTY2KnuSYB0e2CN2Ju7lbBFw==" \t "_blank)  |

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