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MINNESOTA BREAK THE BONDS CAMPAIGN DEMANDS THAT THE STATE BOARD OF INVESTMENT DIVEST FROM ISRAEL

MINNEAPOLIS – February 1, 2011 – The Minnesota Break the Bonds Campaign (MN BBC), a statewide campaign aimed at ending Minnesota investment in Israel until Israel complies with international law and respects human rights, has issued a written demand, a copy of which is attached, to the Minnesota State Board of Investment (SBI) that the Board divest from Israel Bonds. The demand is based on both legal and moral grounds. MN BBC has also requested that the issue be placed on the Board’s agenda for its next scheduled meeting on March 3, 2011.

The SBI’s investments in Israel Bonds are unlawful. MN BBC’s demand letter refers to provisions of the Minnesota Statutes that restrict state investment in foreign governments. These investments also entangle Minnesota in Israel’s myriad international law and human rights violations.

MN BBC has formally advised the SBI that it will pursue legal action if the Board fails to place the issue on the March 3, 2011 meeting agenda and fails to divest.

About MN BBC

MN BBC is a group of Minnesotans, including Palestinians, Jews, Christians, Muslims, students, teachers, farmers, professionals, clergy, parents, community activists and their allies working together to bring fair and honest Palestine-centric education to Minnesota, to support justice and human rights and to take responsibility for correcting the injustices suffered by the indigenous Palestinian population under US sponsored Israeli occupation. MN BBC believes that the people of Minnesota have the moral obligation to make sound investments that do not aid in the oppression of any one race, creed or people.

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