

[I am strongly opposed to any state-wide bill that includes a trade relationship with Israel, specifically when it pertains to manufacturing technology used for purposes of war or national security. My former employer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the world's leading technological institution,] and the #2 ranked university in the U.S., severed ties with Israel this past year due to Israel's poor record of human rights abuses. I call on Ohio to join MIT in its moral leadership.

Israel sells the technology it develops to authoritarian regimes who use this technology to surveil, detain, and disappear dissidents. Israel's drones have been sold to countries such as Chile and China, and its Pegasus software has been sold to countries such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Not only does Israel sell its technology to countries that use it to maintain repressive conditions, but Israel also uses this technology to maintain what international law calls the occupation of Palestinian lands. Indeed, Israel tests this technology on Palestinians—human subjects!—before distributing it to undemocratic countries around the world. These technologies of war are being used to conduct what the International Court of Justice has described as a probable genocide on the Palestinian people in Gaza. As Israel perfects its technology during its decades-long occupation and ongoing genocide, the U.S. has begun to use Israeli surveillance technology to monitor U.S. citizens. We Ohioans should condemn government overreach and any practices that quell democratic actions of its citizenry.

Lastly, the city of Columbus just decided to not reinvest in Israeli bonds due to Israel's declining economy. We should not form new ties with a bad investment.