



## **SA UNION OF STUDENTS (SAUS) ENCOURAGES STUDENTS AT PONTIFICAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF CHILE TO SUPPORT BDS**

**16 SEPTEMBER 2016**

As the legitimate voice and elected leadership of South Africa student councils, representing democratically elected Student Representative Councils across South African campuses, we send our revolutionary greetings to comrades in Latin America and in particular our fellow students at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (UC).

We have been notified by progressive organizations that you are facing a turning point at your university, a mile stone. You are now on the verge of enforcing the adoption of boycott, divestments and sanctions (BDS) against the apartheid state of Israel.

We recognize that students in Latin America and South Africa have had long standing relations particularly when it comes to solidarity. As South Africans we have long been the beneficiaries of your international support and solidarity, today we support you in your courageous efforts and believe that we need to close ranks and stand firmly together against the oppression of Palestinians by the imperialist supported forces of Apartheid Israel.

We are not together by any unseen accidents, but because we frequently find ourselves placed together, with our clear and focused energy in support of our peoples and of the oppressed people of the world.

Long before it was fashionable or sexy it was various Latin American countries, and of course the Palestinians who gave us resources, training and other forms of solidarity. They stood with us, you stood with us, as today we stand together with Palestine. We are proud to give this solidarity back to other oppressed peoples of the world and we are proud to do so with you as a part of the global solidarity movement.

We are well aware of the tactics used by the highly resourced pro-Israeli Apartheid lobby groups and their student structures, they use bribes, free trips and as the sweet carrots and intimidation, defamation and character assassinations as their nasty sticks. We have resisted and we know that you will resist any Israeli intimidation, we stand in firm support of your bold stance and trust that your membership receives this message well.

It is out of this commitment to international solidarity that various South African universities, students government bodies and associations have endorsed, backed and advanced the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign. It is no surprise then that we are extremely pleased to hear of the developments in Chile in support of the BDS campaign and we hope that the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (UC) will be announcing an end of its complicity with Israel's crimes and will be joining us in the international struggle for freedom, justice and equality for the Palestinians.

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