

that invests the UO Foundation's funds in companies tied to the defense industry such as aerospace manufacturer Boeing, investment management company Vanguard and Israel-based international military technology company Elbit Systems. The coalitions also called on the university to boycott academic exchanges and other relationships with Israeli universities.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Israel has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians -- more than 14,500 of those casualties are children -- since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, which killed more than 1,200 Israelis.

"We are here to pressure our university to divest from their holdings in companies that perpetuate this genocide, perpetuate the Israeli apartheid state," UO Jewish Voices for Peace leader Gabriella Moreno said on the second day of the encampment. "We're here to show our voices and show our strength in numbers as students in order to pressure our university."

The camp was one of many popping up across the country at the time -- all calling for divestment from Israeli companies and defense manufacturing companies that contribute to the Israeli military. While some of the other encampments across the country faced violent counter-protesters, such as at UCLA, and police use of force like at Columbia University, the UO's encampment remained peaceful with minimal police interaction.

On May 15, one UO student protester, Hazel Muller Key, was charged with criminal mischief for gluing posters to the side of campus buildings.

Over the course of 25 days, the encampment, which relocated to Johnson Hall on May 16, held a series of negotiations with UO. According to Seydel, there were eight meetings between the student protesters and the

original negotiations team, five meetings between the student protesters and the faculty/senate negotiations team, and four informal meetings between the student protesters and representatives from the Office of the Provost, for a total of 17.

Moreno, who was present for these meetings, says negotiations went through several rounds and iterations because the university didn't take their demands seriously. "We were originally meeting with members of the university who had nothing to do with the UO Foundation and its investments," Moreno says.

The original negotiations team was Denis Galvan, vice provost for Global Engagement, Allison Blade, associate vice president and chief of staff in the Office of the Provost, Krista Dillon, chief of staff and senior director of operations for Safety and Risk Services and Marcus Langford, dean of students.

After the eight meetings with the original negotiations team, she says "It felt like things were going nowhere," so the protesters decided to continue to rally and demand to meet with Scholz.

Moreno and a leader for the SJP met with Scholz on May 14 and began meeting with the UO Senate most nights starting the weekend of May 18 until they got the deal on the 22nd.

Scholz released two public statements addressing the encampment's demands as well as numerous emails to students and faculty calling for an end to the encampment. In a Tuesday, May 7, email Scholz asked for the overnight encampment to end and said the university would be "moving forward with the student conduct process related to violations of campus policy as appropriate."

The UO revoked academic amnesty for protesters on May 7 as well.

The protesters held six rallies, including a "100 Hours in Chains" rally on May 20 to honor three students who chained themselves to Johnson Hall for over 100 hours.

University administrators did not publicly respond to that particular protest. Polvorosa, one of the three students chained to Johnson Hall, says, "It was frustrating because they claim to care so much about their students and the health and safety of students, and they're just allowing their students to be physically locked outside for over 100 hours."

Seydel writes in an email to *EW*, "The choice of some protesters to chain themselves to a university building marks an unfortunate escalation of recent protest activities and incurs additional violations of university policy and the student code of conduct. These actions disrupt university operations, impede access to the building and create unsafe obstructions to people exiting the building in case of an emergency."

Protesters reached an agreement with the UO negotiation team two days after the "100 Hours in Chains" rally.

"It's easy to focus on the demands that weren't met, but I think it's important to not let that take over," Polvorosa says. "Take the win that you got from this -- whether that's from feeling like you have a sense of community now or you had a great conversation where you learned something new -- let that impact you just as much as what you're not getting."

Moreno, who was not present at the investiture protest, says that the UO Palestine Coalition never promised to stop protesting in its agreement. She says that while she cannot comment on whether there will be more protests in the future, the SJP is hosting a "People's Commencement for the Popular University for Palestine, Class of 2024," at 6 pm Friday, June 7, on the UO's Gerlinger Lawn.





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