

Stop Elbit Systems - Updates



Eight year after the campaigning efforts against the Israeli military corporation Elbit Systems started, the struggle to Stop Elbit on the rise again. This document presents:

- Updated information about Elbit's complicity with Israeli violations of international law and human rights
- The latest actions to Stop Elbit
- Current divestment campaigns, institutional investors and tips to think of when starting a divestment campaign
- A timeline of successes
- Useful links

The campaign is part of the wider BDS efforts which seek to hold Israel and its supporters accountable by pressuring Israel on all fronts – politically, culturally, and economically.



Elbit Systems - a symbol for Israeli apartheid

Founded in 1967, the Israeli company has become one of the world's premiere "security and defence," firms, specializing in military electronics, surveillance systems, Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs or "drones"), and security systems. It is a symbol for the Israeli economy, which essentially thrives on and fuels war, repression and control in Palestine and around the globe. Elbit Systems is built on the expertise of the Israeli Ministry of Defense Research Institute and has profited greatly from supplying the Israeli military with a variety of equipment used to sustain Israeli occupation of the Palestinian people.

"My main recommendation is that the businesses highlighted in the report [including Elbit Systems] – as well as the many other businesses that are profiting from the Israeli settlement enterprise – should be boycotted, until they bring their operations into line with international human rights and humanitarian law and standards,"

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, Richard Falk, said in a news release issued as he presented a report on his work to the Assembly. (25th of October 2012)

Elbit, the Gaza massacres and the Wall

Elbit fuels Israeli aggression

Elbit Systems has once again benefitted from Israeli military aggression during the latest onslaught on Gaza. Elbit's shares have risen 6.6% even though it's net income is still expected to fall 7.7% this year¹. The company supplies the Israeli army since years with weapons, knowing that these are used for and facilitate internationally illicit acts. It benefits from this developing, testing and publicly presenting their products during Israeli military attacks and in the context of war crimes.

"Israel's ability to launch such devastating attacks with impunity largely stems from the vast international military cooperation and trade that it maintains with complicit governments across the world."

(Call for a military embargo on Israel signed by six Peace Nobel prize winners, dozens of well known figures and tens of thousands more)

- **2014 (Protective Edge):** During this military aggression on Gaza, Elbit weaponry has again been used. Elbit CEO Bezhael Machlis confirmed during the conference call on the company's results of the second quarter of 2014 that "our systems are being used by the IDF" in the military aggression in Gaza². While Elbit's Skylark mini-UAV has been operational in Gaza since 2008, Protective Edge marked the first time it was used in quantities for high-tempo support of ground forces and was essential for a series of military operations that lead to killings of a still unknown

number of civilians. The Hermes 900 (Kochav) was tested for the first time by the IAF during the operation. Based on this experience the drone will be further developed³.

- **2008/9 (Cast Lead):** Drones from the larger Hermes models can be outfitted with two missiles, and in addition to scouting and tracking targets, they were used in some of the more horrific incidents in the 2006 war on Lebanon and the 2008-2009 war on Gaza⁴. In the 23-day assault on Gaza, missiles fired from drones were directly attributed to the killing of 78 Palestinians, including 29 children, and wounding 73 others⁵. The Hermes infrared sensors enable a drone operator to read a license plate number determine whether a person on the ground is armed⁶.

- **Up to 2006:** The Hermes 450 drones are described Elbit as "the 'backbone' of Israeli army and air force ISTAR [Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition And Reconnaissance] missions". They have reportedly been deployed for surveillance and targeting missions in Gaza prior to 2006, and were reportedly central to IDF operations in Gaza and Lebanon during 2006, according to Elbit Systems⁷.

Elbit, the Wall and settlements

The Israeli Apartheid Wall, which is crippling Palestinian communities by isolating them in walled-in ghettos and has been confirmed illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004, has provided a massive source of revenue for Elbit.

- Elbit Systems provides "intrusion detection systems" for the Wall, in particular around Jerusalem.

- Subsidiaries Elbit Electro-Optics (EI-Op) and Elbit Security Systems supplied and incorporated LORROS surveillance cameras in the Ariel settlement section as well as

around Ar Ram.

- One product made by Elbit Systems, "Torch", is manufactured specifically for use on the Wall.

- An armed UGV (Unmanned Ground Vehicle) was developed for patrolling the Wall's buffer zone⁸.

Elbit offers its experience to repress other people

In February 2014, Elbit won a contract with the US of \$145 million to provide security equipment to the US-Mexico border wall. In 2006 its American subsidiary Kollsman Inc. won already a contract to participate in the creation of the US - Mexico border 'Wall of Death'⁹.

"All States are under an obligation [...] not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such [the Wall's] construction." *International Court of Justice, 2004*

1) <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-07-27/elbit-gains-as-gaza-conflict-seen-fueling-defense-tech.html>

2) <http://ir.elbitsystems.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=61849&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1955718&highlight=>

3) http://www.defensenews.com/article/20140812/DEFREG04/308120026/Israeli-Forces-Praise-Elbit-UAVs-Gaza-Op_

4) http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iropt0609webwcover_0.pdf

5) <http://www.stopthewall.org/downloads/pdf/Elbit-fc.pdf>

6) http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iropt0609webwcover_0.pdf

7) On winged heels: Hermes flies high as UAVs play a bigger part in operations', Jane's International Defence Review, 1 Nov 2007; Elbit Systems Press Release, 12/11/ 2007

8) <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/elbit-systems>

9) <http://electronicintifada.net/content/how-israels-war-industry-profits-violent-us-immigration-reform/13283>

Elbit worldwide

Latest actions

United States

- Kollsman: 220 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, NH 03054, Phone: 603-889-2500
- Vision Systems International LLC (VSI): 641 River Oaks Parkway, San Jose, CA 95134, USA, Phone: 408-232-5300
- International Enterprises, Inc.: 108 Allen St, Talladega, AL 35160, Phone: 256-362-8562
- C4I Solutions: 1721 W. Paul Dirac Drive Tallahassee, FL 32310, Phone: 850-350-8444
- Innovative Concepts, Inc.: 8200 Greensboro Drive, Suite 700, McLean, VA 22102, Phone: 703-893-2007

United Kingdom

- Ferranti Technologies Limited is a wholly-owned U.K. subsidiary: Cairo House, Greenacres Rd Waterhead, Oldham OL4 3JA T. +44 161 624 0281E,
- U-TacS. UAV Tactical Systems Ltd. (U-TacS) is a 51% U.K. subsidiary located (49% owned by Thales UK). Currently building Hermes 450 drones: Scudamore Road, Leicester, LE3 1UA, U.K.+44 1162 870 621

Belgium

- Optronics Instruments & Products N.V. OIP is a wholly-owned subsidiary: Westerring 21, 9700 Oudenaarde, Tel.: +32 55 33 38 11

Austria

ESL Advanced Information Technology GmbH ("AIT") is a wholly-owned subsidiary: Obachgasse 26, A-1220 Wien, +43(1)2562453 - 0

Germany

Telefunken Radio Communications Systems GmbH (Telefunken RACOMS) is a wholly-owned subsidiary: Eberhard-Finckh-Straße 55, D-89075 Ulm, Tel.: +49 731 15 53 - 0

Brazil

- AEL Sistemas S.A. is a 75%-owned subsidiary (25% owned by Embraer Defesa): Avenida Sertório 4400, Porto Alegre, Fone: +55 51 21011200
- Ares Aeroespacial e Defesa S.A. is a wholly-owned subsidiary: Estrada Sao Mateus, 293 Jardim Primavera, Duque de Caxias, Rio de Janeiro, 25215-283

India

- HALBIT Avionics Private Limited is an Indian company owned 26% by Elbit Systems, with the largest shareholder being Hindustan Aerospace Limited: Bengalore, Karnataka 560001

South Korea

Sharp Elbit Systems Aerospace, Inc. (SESA) is a Korean company owned 19% by Elbit Systems, with an option to increase ownership to 50%. Located in Ansan, Korea.



August 5 2014, London: activists occupy for 3 days the Shenstone in Staffordshire that is owned by Elbit Systems and manufactures engines for drones that have been exported to Israel.



May 15 2014: Trade unionists and movements block the entrance of the Elbit subsidiary AEL Sistemas in Porto Alegre, Brazil.



August 15 2014: activists occupy the roof of Elbit Systems of Australia in Melbourne.

Divest Elbit

Because of Elbit Systems' conscious complicity with Israeli illegal policies, investors in and partners of the firm are accessories to Israel's violations of international law and human rights. Some of the current divestment campaigns include:

Barclays' invests in Elbit!

Write and post messages on social media calling on Barclays to withdraw immediately:

Via Banktrack:

http://www.banktrack.org/show/actionletters/stop_barclays_investing_in_bombing_of_gaza#tab_actionletters_main

Via Avaaz:

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/israel_palestine_this_is_how_it_ends_rb/?bkVEGhb&v=4273

Other ongoing campaigns:

* RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia) launched in 2013 a campaign against both BAE and Elbit Systems. The university receives funding for postgraduate research.

* Grassroots International launched in 2013 a campaign against TIAA-CREF to divest from Elbit Systems, as part of a broader effort regarding the pension fund.

Divestment successes

Several pension funds and financial institutions have pulled their investments from Elbit. The world is becoming increasingly unwilling to bankroll Israeli war crimes.

* **September 2009:** Norwegian State Pension Fund divests.

* **September 2009:** Kommunal

Landspensjonkasse (KLP), one of the largest life insurance companies in Norway divests from Elbit

* **January 2010:** Danske Bank, the largest bank in Denmark and a leading player in the Scandinavian financial markets, divests, making it one of only 24 companies from which the Danish bank has divested. Thomas H. Kjaergaard, the staff member responsible for socially responsible investment at Danske Bank states: "We handle clients' interests, and we do not want to put customers' money in companies that violate international standards."

* **January 2010:** Danwatch, the Danish financial watchdog adds Elbit to its blacklist of 35 companies that are disqualified from investments due to ethical considerations.

* **January 2010:** PKA Ltd., one of the largest Danish pension funds, sells shares in Elbit worth 1 million dollars. The PKA's investment director, Michael Nelleman tells the Stop the Wall campaign that "the International Court of Justice stated that the barrier only serves military purposes and violates Palestinian human rights."

* **February 2010:** Folksam, Sweden's largest asset manager announces that it has no investments in either Elbit or Africa-Israel. Folksam's Head of Corporate Governance, Carina Lundberg Markow, writes to The Electronic Intifada: "We have a strict policy regarding activity on occupied land." She notes that KPA Pension, a leading Swedish pension company in the public sector, also did not have holdings with either Elbit or Africa-Israel.

* **February 2010:** ABP sells Elbit shares worth 2.7 million dollars.

* **March 2010:** The First, Second, Third and Fourth Swedish National Pension Fund (AP1, AP2, AP3, AP4) decide to exclude Elbit Systems from their investments.

* **May 2010:** Deutsche Bank announces Elbit does not meet its ethics standards. Yet, it remains one of Elbit's biggest partners.

* **April 2014:** graduate students at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, USA, passed a resolution calling for divestment from companies profiting from human rights violations in occupied Palestine and at the US-Mexico border. The resolution targeted Elbit Systems following the company securing a contract for the US-Mexico border wall.

Institutional investors in Elbit

They can be found at:

<http://www.nasdaq.com/asp/holdings.asp?symbol=ESLT&selected=ESLT>: As of August 2014 investors outside the US were:

- **Allianz Asset Management AG**, Seidlstrasse 24-24A, Munich
- **Deutsche Bank AG**, Taunusanlage 12, Frankfurt am Main
- **AMP Capital Investors LTD**, 50 Bridge Street, Sydney
- **Barclays Global Investors UK Holdings Ltd**, 1 Churchill Place, London
- **Royal Bank of Canada**, Royal Bank Plaza, Toronto
- **Bank of Montreal**, 1 First Canadian Place, Toronto
- **Canada Pension Plan Investment Board**, One Queen Street East, Toronto
- **AXA**, 25 AVE Matignon, Paris
- **Swiss National Bank**, Boerenstrasse 15, Zurich
- **Credit Suisse AG**, Po Box 900, Zurich
- **UBS AG**, Bahnhofstrasse 45, Zurich

Banks and public funds, universities, unions and churches have often an obligation to disclose their investments. It is up to you to check their investments.

Some useful tips to develop a campaign strategy

a) *Discover the importance of the investment*

Both large and small investments have their benefits and drawbacks as campaign targets. While the loss of a large investment makes a more tangible effect on a corporate policy, it may be more difficult to win the case. The loss of smaller investments may be easier to effect and are still effective in raising awareness and build precedents for future campaigns.

b) *Likelihood of success based on ethical guidelines of a fund*

Many banks and funds have ethical guidelines or commitments to ethical standards (i.e. the UN Global Compact). Activists may choose to campaign for the adoption of binding ethical guidelines as a first step and as a way to build alliances with other campaign groups.

c) *Likelihood of success based a fund's record of divestment*

Some investment funds and banks are more conscious of their image as ethically responsible investors. The history of a financial institution can be useful in gauging the likely success of a campaign and can provide useful precedents.

d) *Gain support from stakeholders If a financial institution manages*

funds for a public or third sector body such as churches, trade unions or universities, these stakeholders may be sympathetic to the campaign and be able to provide additional pressure.

e) *Use legal arguments*

International and human rights law can be a useful tool. Elbit is in clear violation of international norms and activists can use legal arguments to convince or in special cases to enter into court.

Parliamentary action against Elbit

* **Philippines:** Civil society and Akbayan party work to cancel an Elbit deal during the coming budget briefing of the Department of National Defense.¹

* **Brazil:** The Defense Ministry is questioned about a recent arms contract with Elbit subsidiary Ares and asked to disclose details about the military relations with Israel.²

1) <http://www.stopthewall.org/2014/09/03/cancel-arms-deal-israeli-defense-corporation-elbit-systems-0>

2) http://www.camara.gov.br/proposicoesWeb/prop_mostrarintegra;jsessionid=15B1DBDC81B21BBB49E500BD0ED4203A.proposicoesWeb2?codteor=1270823&filename=Tramitacao-RIC+4444/2014

More information:

- * Factsheet on Elbit: <http://www.stopthewall.org/downloads/pdf/Elbit-fc.pdf>
- * Factsheet on companies building the Wall: <http://www.stopthewall.org/downloads/pdf/companiesbuildingwall.pdf>
- * Photo Story: Palestinian grassroots activists: Boycott Elbit, CRH and Magal! <http://www.flickr.com/photos/stopthewall/sets/72157623643733905/show/with/4489575603/>
- * List of current investors in Elbit: <http://www.nasdaq.com/asp/holdings.asp?symbol=ESLT&selected=ESLT>
- * Recommendation to the Norwegian Ministry of Finance by the Council on Ethics of the Government Pension Fund – Global, May 15 2009, <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fin/Selected-topics/The-Government-Pension-Fund/Ethical-Guidelines-for-the-Government-Pension-Fund—Global-/Recommendations-and-Letters-from-the-Advisory-Council-on-Ethics/the-council-on-ethics-recommends-that-th.html?id=575451>

More links:

- * <http://icj10.stopthewall.org/>
- * TIAA-CREF: Divest from the occupation, <http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/campaigns/tiaa-cref-divest-occupation> (see the JVP Elbit factsheet, <https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/301/images/Profiles-Elbit.pdf>)
- * Elbit Systems – Wandering Raven
- * War Profiteer of the Month: Elbit Systems, February 2010, <http://www.wri-irg.org/node/9663>
- * Scandinavian financial institutions drop Elbit due to BDS pressure Adri Nieuwhof, 19 February 2010 <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article11084.shtml>
- * A big thank you, Ilan Pappé, 4 September 2009, <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article10752.shtml>

