



**PALESTINE
SOLIDARITY
CAMPAIGN**

www.palestinecampaign.org

Palestine Solidarity Campaign Ltd
PO Box BM PSA
London, WC1N 3XX

020 7700 6192
info@palestinecampaign.org

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Dear [UK University],

We are writing to you regarding the recently released United Nations mandated report listing 112 companies involved in activities relating to Israel's illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Additional companies are also guilty of facilitating Israel's human rights abuses by providing services and equipment to the Israeli military.

We'd like to draw your attention to the fact that your institution is one of 10 UK universities who hold investments in or institutional links to companies included in the UN list. This information is listed in our user-friendly database. Holding investments in such companies poses grave risks to your institution's reputation.

Every settlement in the OPTs amounts to a war crime under international law; the Fourth Geneva Convention expressly prohibits an occupying power from transferring its own civilian population into occupied territory, the confiscation or destruction of property by an occupying power, and appropriation of natural resources for any reason other than for the benefit of the local population.

Amnesty International UK recently wrote to all companies in the FTSE 100 warning that it is not possible to do business in or with settlements without contributing to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights clearly state that companies have an obligation to take active steps to 'avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impact' and to 'seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts'.

Israeli settlements have displaced entire Palestinian communities, who are then forcibly excluded, kept out by checkpoints and heavily armed soldiers, unable to access the valuable resources on which their communities previously relied. Israel's aggressive settlement expansion means illegal settlements and their infrastructure now make up over 60% of the occupied West Bank.

Settlements are a catalyst for other human rights abuses. Demonstrations by Palestinian civilians against settlement expansion are frequently met with violence by Israeli security forces, causing injuries and death. In addition, Palestinians arrested by Israeli forces in the West Bank are dealt with by Israel's illegitimate military court system, under which civilians are denied their rights to fair trials, while Israeli settlers are dealt with by the civilian legal system. Further, violence is often perpetrated by Israeli settlers in an attempt to intimidate the Palestinian population.

As Human Rights Watch has previously identified "the context of human rights abuse to which settlement business activity contributes is so pervasive and severe that businesses should cease carrying out activities inside or for the benefit of settlements."



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We note that the UN list of 112 companies is not an exhaustive list of companies complicit in activities supporting Israel's illegal settlement activity, and that there are many more companies not included on the list who remain deeply complicit in Israel's illegal occupation. There are also companies complicit in wider aspects of Israel's violation of international law and Palestinian rights for example by the provision of weapons and military technology used in the commission of war crimes, including in Gaza.

Therefore, we urge your institution to immediately end investments in companies included on the UN Settlement companies list and to make steps to end all investments and institutional links which supply and finance Israel's arms trade and illegal settlement economy, which is highlighted in our online database. We would also like to invite you to take an active stance against support for the oppression of any people, including the Palestinian people by signing our pledge.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this crucial matter.

Yours Sincerely,

**Ben Jamal
Director**

PSC is the leading organisation campaigning for Palestinian human rights in the UK, with over 70000 supporters.