Israel uses military force to maintain its oppression of Palestinians, who are subjected to daily violence, including house demolitions, mass arrests, extrajudicial executions, as well as the military blockade and large scale bombings on Gaza.

These abuses are made possible by Israel’s trade in arms with many complicit countries, including the UK. Since 2013, the UK government has approved licences for exports to Israel of arms and other controlled technology worth more than £300 million, including components for aircraft missiles, drones, sniper rifles and body armour.

Arms companies in the UK are making a killing from Israel’s violence against Palestinians. These companies are supported and financed by some of the major financial institutions in the country, such as HSBC.
The Chain of Complicity in the UK-Israel Arms Trade

Both the UK government and UK banks and financial institutions are complicit in Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land and violations of Palestinian human rights through the arms trade.

This is where the Stop Arming Israel Campaign takes action: get involved!

UK Banks & Financial Institutions (e.g.: HSBC and others)

- Directly investing and owning shares in military and technology companies selling weapons to Israel
- Investing in these companies on behalf of the bank’s clients
- Providing financial services such as loans to these companies
- Profiting financially from Israel’s occupation and violations of human rights

International & UK Arms and Weapon Technology Producers

UK Government

- Granting export licences to companies in the UK to sell arms to Israel
- Importing arms and weapon technology manufactured in Israel
- Encouraging trade & cooperation with Israeli arms companies
- Institutional complicity with Israel’s occupation and violations of human rights

Israel
HSBC MUST END ITS BUSINESS TIES WITH COMPANIES VIOLATING PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS

ARMS SALES ON OUR DOORSTEP

HSBC is a major shareholder in companies that supply weapons to Israel and also provides arms companies with the loans they need to operate. Through these investments and financial services, HSBC is directly profiting from Israel’s militarised oppression of Palestinians.

HSBC owns shares in military and technology companies that sell weapons and equipment to Israel worth £831m, including:

- £180m of shares in BAE Systems, involved in manufacturing the F-16 fighter jets used by Israel to attack Palestinians in Gaza.
- £69m of shares in Raytheon, whose ‘bunker buster’ bombs were identified by Amnesty International as being used by Israel to target Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

HSBC has been involved in providing loans to companies that supply weapons to Israel worth at least £19.3bn, including:

- Caterpillar, whose specially modified bulldozers are used to demolish Palestinian homes on both sides of the green line.
- United Technologies, who produce UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters used by the Israeli military in its assaults on Palestinian civilians.

HSBC claims that it has no responsibility for the actions of its clients, even if there is clear evidence that they are acting in violation of international law. If HSBC is serious about its commitment to human rights, its first step must be to immediately end its business relationship with companies that arm Israel’s militarised repression.

JOIN US IN CALLING ON HSBC TO END ITS COMPLICITY WITH ISRAELI WAR CRIMES AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST PALESTINIANS.
Palestinians have called upon people of conscience around the world to support their struggle for justice by conducting campaigns of boycott, divestment and sanctions, to put an end to government and corporate complicity in Israel’s violations of Palestinian rights.

The Stop Arming Israel campaign is our way to heed that call: by calling on the UK government to implement a two-way arms embargo on Israel, and by putting pressure on corporations to end their complicity. We can’t allow banks on our high streets to continue lending support to Israel’s militarised repression of Palestinians.

Visit our websites:
www.palestinecampaign.org/campaigns/stop-arming-israel
www.waronwant.org/stop-arming-israel

- Email HSBC’s CEO to pressure HSBC to cut ties with companies supplying Israel with weapons and weapon technology.
- Book a speaker or a workshop on how your local group can join the campaign.
- Order free campaign materials including action cards and leaflets.