

## FREE PALESTINE: Boycott, divestment, sanctions

### Palestinian Unified Call for boycott • divestment • sanctions

"We call  
for boycotts  
divestment initiatives and  
embargoes and sanctions  
against Israel"  
July 9 2005

Every week Israeli bulldozers destroy more Palestinian homes, cranes erect new settlements in the West Bank, prison guards lock children away, bombs fall on villages, soldiers fire rifles at farmers. The occupation is this mosaic of human misery and tragedy that the Israeli state has created for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Funded by the United States to the tune of \$3 billion in military aid and let loose upon the Palestinian people, the Israeli Defence Force commits atrocity after atrocity.

In just one usual day (June 1, 2010) they committed the following acts:

- Israeli Army opens fire on protesters near Beit Hanun
- Khan Yunis: 2 Resistance fighters killed during Israeli Army incursion
- Rafah: woman wounded by Israeli fire from Green Line
- Occupation settler violence and vandalism
- 9 nighttime raids and home invasions in refugee camps and villages
- 4 attacks – 1 beaten, 2 dead, 3 injured
- 5 taken prisoner – 13 detained – 82 restrictions of movement



**REALLY EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ACTION WOULD BE A DETERMINED AND SUSTAINED CAMPAIGN OF BOYCOTTS, SANCTIONS AND DIVESTMENT FOCUSING ON THE VERY REAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND ISRAEL**

"Without sustained, effective pressure by people of conscience the world over, Israel will continue with its gradual, rolling acts of genocide against the Palestinians, burying any prospects for a just peace under the blood and rubble of Gaza, Nablus and Jerusalem."

- *Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee*

"If you go to one demonstration and then go home, that's something, but the people in power can live with that. What they can't live with is sustained pressure that keeps building, organisations that keep doing things, people that keep learning lessons from the last time and doing it better the next time."

-*Noam Chomsky, US foreign policy critic and intellectual*

# What can we do to support Palestinians?

## Sanction Rakon from supplying the IDF

NZ company Rakon is the supplier of GPS componentry that is used in the GPS systems of all “smart” bombs currently being used by the Israeli Air Force to kill and destroy in Gaza. These missiles rain death and destruction across the Middle East-Gaza, Lebanon, Iraq Afghanistan. All are guided by parts made in Auckland. Socialist Aotearoa has been involved in organising protests against Rakon, including attacking the factory with paint bombs.

click: <http://socialistaotearoa.org>



## Boycott sporting contacts with Israel

In January 2010 8 activists were arrested protesting against Shahar Pe’er, an Israeli tennis player who was competing in a tournament at the ASB Tennis Centre in Auckland. All of her matches suffered some form of disruption from chanting activists. Police attempted to silence freedom of speech. One protestor arrested was veteran activist John Minto. Minto wrote, “We have been calling for her to leave the tournament just as protests in earlier decades sought to have Springbok tours to New Zealand abandoned... Shahar Peer will not be stopped by the protests this year but increasingly the boycott will tighten on Israel in trade, investment, cultural and sporting ties. Among these the sports boycott will be the most important because it has a higher profile and is most closely linked to a country’s sense of itself and in Israel’s case this is what needs drastic change.”

## Superfund divestment from Israel

The New Zealand Superannuation Fund is billions of dollars of tax payer money which has been invested to fund pensions in the future. It holds investments in corporations deeply complicit in the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and also corporations who build the tanks, aircraft and bulldozers used in the siege of Gaza. Some of these are listed below. click: [investmentwatch.wordpress.com](http://investmentwatch.wordpress.com)

Corporation	Amount Invested	Activity
Bank Leumi Le-Israel BM	\$1,475,329	The second largest bank in Israel. Has branches in Israeli settlements in the West Bank.
Caterpillar	\$1,162,877	Supplies bulldozers to the IDF. The IDF uses these to destroy Palestinian homes, orchards and olive groves in the Occupied Territories. They are also used to clear Palestinian land for illegal Israeli settlements, segregated roads and the Separation Wall.
United Technologies	\$5,517,080	Produces Blackhawk helicopters which are used by the Israeli military to attack Palestinian cities, refugee camps and villages.

## Who is Socialist Aotearoa?

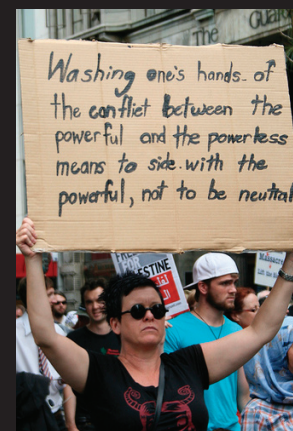
Socialist Aotearoa is an activist organisation of left-wing workers and students. We are involved in the trade union movement as activists, delegates, and organisers. We oppose all imperialist wars and occupations, and support indigenous liberation struggles in Palestine and West Papua. We demand the immediate withdrawal of New Zealand troops from Afghanistan and an end to support for and ties with repressive regimes in the Pacific. We fight for socialism from below. Get involved.

**Auckland SA:** Text Joe Carolan on 021-186-1450 or [solidarityjoe@yahoo.com](mailto:solidarityjoe@yahoo.com)

**Wellington SA:** Text Omar Hamed on 029-455-5789 or [omarhamed123@gmail.com](mailto:omarhamed123@gmail.com)

**Dunedin ISO:** Text Derwin on 021-189-0000 or [derwin\\_thomas@hotmail.com](mailto:derwin_thomas@hotmail.com)

click: [www.socialistaotearoa.org](http://www.socialistaotearoa.org)



# Auckland rail run by a corporation that dumps Israeli garbage on stolen Palestinian land

Many people will know that Veolia Transport Auckland is a multinational corporation that manages the Auckland passenger rail network on behalf of the Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA). They have a contract that extends through to March 2014.

What most people won't be aware of is that Veolia (formerly Connex) is deeply complicit in the ongoing occupation of Palestine. Veolia's operations in Palestine have drawn criticism and protest from around the world and city councils are beginning to end contracts with Veolia for their continued complicity in the occupation.

The international Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement scored a major victory in May 2010 when the Dublin City Council passed a resolution calling on the City Manager not to sign or renew any contracts with French multinational Veolia.

The resolution came after a long term grassroots campaign. The resolution supported by councillors from the radical left-wing Dublin organisation People Before Profit, and was passed by unanimously at a sitting of Dublin City Council.

Commenting on the motion's passage, Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) chairperson Dr David Landy said: "The passing of this motion represents the elected representatives of a European capital city clearly standing up and saying 'No' to companies that collaborate with Israeli human rights abuses against the Palestinian people."

In November 2006, ASN, a Dutch bank, broke off financial relations with Veolia on account of the light rail contract. Meanwhile, in the UK, the Green Party in Croydon is calling the city council to stop using Veolia to run the recycling services.

Sustained pressure on Veolia around the world is an important part of the BDS movement and a similar campaign in Auckland to pressure the new Supercity Council not to renew the contract with Veolia in 2014 would send a message to multinational corporations around the world that New Zealanders don't want services from a company that builds garbage dumps and train-lines for the Israeli settlements.



**Above:** Photographed in March, a Veolia truck picks up rubbish from Tomer settlement in the occupied Jordan Valley.

## Veolia's illegal operations in occupied Palestine

### Jerusalem Light rail

In 2003, Veolia won a \$500 million contract to build and maintain a light railway that will run across the city of Jerusalem, including occupied East Jerusalem and the illegal settlement in the West Bank. The light railway project violates international law, not only because it is built on occupied Palestinian land, but also because it is an extension of Israel's illegal settlement enterprise and the Apartheid Wall. Through its subsidiary Connex, in Israel, it is one of the companies in the CityPass consortium, contracted to operate the light rail project in Jerusalem. The project plays a key role in sustaining the illegal settlements and ensuring they became a permanent fixture upon Palestinian land, while at the same time maintaining a system of Apartheid that isolates Palestinians and limits their mobility.

### Tovlan Landfill in occupied West bank

Through its subsidiary Veolia Environmental Services, it also owns and operates the Tovlan Landfill in the occupied Jordan Valley, using captured Palestinian land and resources for the needs of the illegal Israeli settlements.

### Bus services to the illegal settlements

Veolia's subsidiary, Connex, also operates regular bus services to Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including Beit Horon and Givat Ze'ev along road 443, which is an apartheid road. Palestinians are not allowed to travel on these buses or on these roads in their own occupied country.

### Why are Veolia's operations illegal under international humanitarian law?

The United Nations does not recognise Israel's annexation and occupation of East Jerusalem and have repeatedly stated their views that the Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank contravene international law and numerous UN resolutions.





# Western Leaders are too Cowardly to Help Save Lives

**The Independent's Robert Fisk says it is ordinary people, activists, call them what you will, who now take decisions**

*Has Israel lost it? Can the Gaza War of 2008-09 (1,300 dead) and the Lebanon War of 2006 (1,006 dead) and all the other wars and now yesterday's killings mean that the world will no longer accept Israel's rule? Don't hold your breath.*

You only have to read the gutless White House statement – that the Obama administration was “working to understand the circumstances surrounding the tragedy”. Not a single word of condemnation. And that's it. Nine dead. Just another statistic to add to the Middle East's toll. But it's not.

In 1948, our politicians – the Americans and the British – staged an airlift into Berlin. A starving population (our enemies only three years before) were surrounded by a brutal army, the Russians, who had erected a fence around the city. The Berlin airlift was one of the great moments in the Cold War. Our soldiers and our airmen risked and gave their lives for these starving Germans.

Incredible, isn't it? In those days, our politicians took decisions; our leaders took decisions to save lives. Messrs Attlee and Truman knew that Berlin was important in moral and human as well as political terms.

And today? It was people – ordinary people, Europeans, Americans, Holocaust survivors – yes, for heaven's sake, survivors of the Nazis – who took the decision to go to Gaza because their politicians and their statesmen had failed them.

Where were our politicians yesterday? Well, we had the ridiculous Ban Ki-moon, the White House's pathetic statement, and dear Mr Blair's expression of “deep regret and shock at the tragic loss of life”. Where was Mr Cameron? Where was Mr Clegg?

Back in 1948, they would have ignored the Palestinians, of course. It is, after all, a terrible irony that the Berlin airlift coincided with the destruction of Arab Palestine.

But it is a fact that it is ordinary people, activists, call them what you will, who now take decisions to change events. Our politicians are too spineless, too cowardly, to take decisions to save

lives. Why is this? Why didn't we hear courageous words from Messrs Cameron and Clegg yesterday?

For it is a fact, is it not, that had Europeans (and yes, the Turks are Europeans, are they not?) been gunned down by any other Middle Eastern army (which the Israeli army is, is it not?) there would have been waves of outrage.

And what does this say about Israel? Isn't Turkey a close ally of Israel? Is this what the Turks can expect? Now Israel's only ally in the Muslim world is saying this is a massacre – and Israel doesn't seem to care.

But then Israel didn't care when London and Canberra expelled Israeli diplomats after British and Australian passports were forged and then provided to the assassins of Hamas commander Mahmoud al-Mabhouh. It didn't care when it announced new Jewish settlements on occupied land in East Jerusalem while Joe Biden, the Vice-President of its erstwhile ally, the United States, was in town. Why should Israel care now?

How did we get to this point? Maybe because we all grew used to seeing the Israelis kill Arabs, maybe the Israelis grew used to killing Arabs. Now they kill Turks. Or Europeans. Something has changed in the Middle East these past 24 hours – and the Israelis (given their extraordinarily stupid political response to the slaughter) don't seem to have grasped what has happened. The world is tired of these outrages. Only the politicians are silent.

**The image above is of American solidarity activist and art student 21-year old Emily Henochowicz. On 31 May Emily was shot in the face with a tear gas canister during a demonstration in Qalandiya, on the West Bank. Emily was hit in the face with a tear gas projectile fired directly at her by an Israeli soldier and has had to have an eye removed. She is part of the International Solidarity Movement non-violent resistance to occupation. Read more about it at: [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org)**