

UK-ISRAEL ARMS TRADE

The oppression of Palestinians and the Palestinian territories is enabled by advanced military technology. Surveillance services, aerial bombardment, demolition of homes, restricting freedom of movement and the incarceration of children are crucial parts of a programme of systemic violence that would be impossible to maintain without the continued supply of arms from countries like the UK. Not only does this continued support come in spite of flagrant violations of international human rights laws which in effect ought to prohibit UK arms trade with Israel, but it also lends Israel and their violence a façade of respectability.

HOW DOES IT OPERATE?

SUCCESSFUL TRADING OF ARMS REQUIRES THREE KEY COMPONENTS:

- ARMS MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS
- GOVERNMENTS TO ISSUE LICENCES FOR EXPORT
- BANKS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE UK-ISRAEL ARMS TRADE?

UK EXPORTS OF ARMS HAVE GROWN EXPONENTIALLY OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, WITH THE TOTAL VALUE OF GOVERNMENT GRANTED LICENCES AMOUNTING TO £325M.



2,251 PALESTINIANS 551 CHILDREN

KILLED BY AIRSTRIKES, TANK AND ARTILLERY SHELLS IN SUMMER 2014. WHILST THE UN FOUND CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS OF WAR CRIMES, UK ARMS SALES HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE, INCLUDING PARTS FOR DRONES, HELICOPTERS AND F-16 FIGHTER PLANES, DIRECTLY PROFITING FROM THE WEAPONS USED TO KILL PALESTINIANS.

250 PALESTINIANS

INCLUDING 56 CHILDREN 3 PARAMEDICS



SINCE MARCH 2018

KILLED IN THE GREAT RETURN MARCH DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE END OF THE SIEGE OF GAZA, BRITISH EXPORTS IN THE LAST 3 YEARS HAVE INCLUDED COMPONENTS FOR SNIPER RIFLES, THE SAME WEAPON WIELDED AGAINST PALESTINIANS.

WHO IS BEHIND IT?

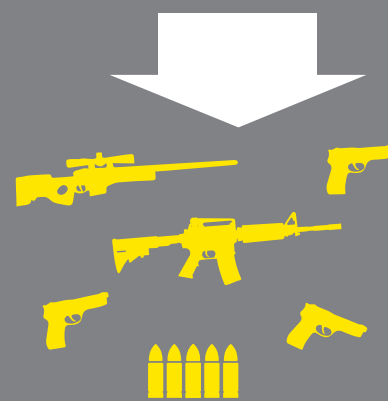
MORE THAN 100 COMPANIES SUPPLYING MILITARY AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES TO ISRAEL HAVE OFFICES, FACTORIES OR SUBSIDIARIES IN THE UK INCLUDING G4S, BAE SYSTEMS, BOEING, LOCKHEED MARTIN AND ROLLS ROYCE.

THE UK GOVERNMENT ALSO PURCHASES WEAPONS FROM ISRAELI FIRMS WHICH BOAST OF 'COMBAT PROVEN' EQUIPMENT FIELD TESTED ON PALESTINIANS IN GAZA. IN 2013 THE MOD PURCHASED 54 WATCHKEEPER DRONES WORTH ALMOST £1BN MODELLED ON ELBIT'S HERMES 450 WHICH RAINED DOWN DEATH AND DESTRUCTION OVER GAZA FOR 15 YEARS.



UK BANKS CURRENTLY INVEST £10.6 billion

IN COMPANIES SELLING WEAPONS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TO ISRAEL. THE SIX BIGGEST ARE HSBC, BARCLAYS, LLOYDS BANKING GROUP, ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, STANDARD CHARTERED AND THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY
THE UK GOVERNMENT IS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF BRITISH COMPANIES SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH ARMS AND COULD FREEZE ALL TRADE WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. THE UK IS LEGALLY BOUND BY THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE TREATY TO ASSESS WHETHER ARMS GOING TO ISRAEL WILL BE USED IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. IF THE UK FOLLOWED ITS OWN POLICY, IT WOULD HAVE ALREADY PLACED AN EMBARGO ON ARMS TRADE WITH ISRAEL.



FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS COMPLICITY

UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS (UNGPS) STATES COMPANIES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO 'AVOID CAUSING OR CONTRIBUTING TO ADVERSE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS' WHICH INCLUDES BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. THEY MAY BE LIABLE AS PRINCIPLE PERPETRATORS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.



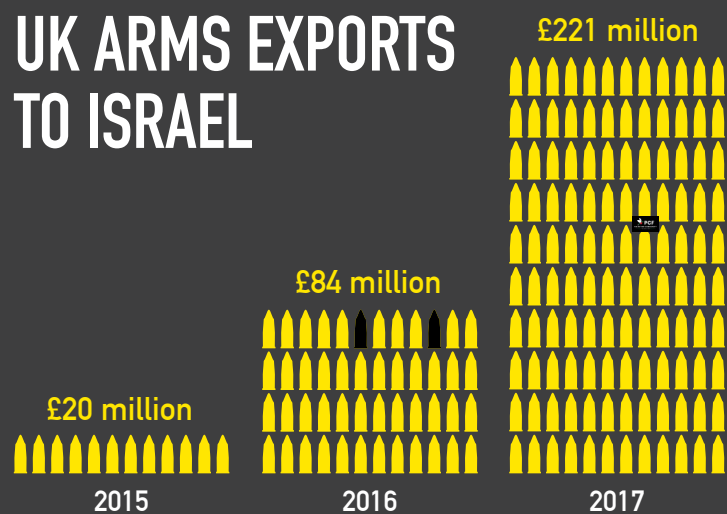
HSBC CURRENTLY HOLDS

£831 million

IN COMPANIES ARMING ISRAEL INCLUDING:



UK ARMS EXPORTS TO ISRAEL



WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Email your MP demanding an immediate embargo on all arms trade with Israel
- Tell HSBC and other banks to divest and stop lending money to companies facilitating the oppression of Palestinians
- Investigate your own institution's investment portfolio
- Read more: War on Want: www.waronwant.org/stop-arming-israel Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT): www.caat.org.uk/