



# THINK TWICE

The human rights risk of doing business with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

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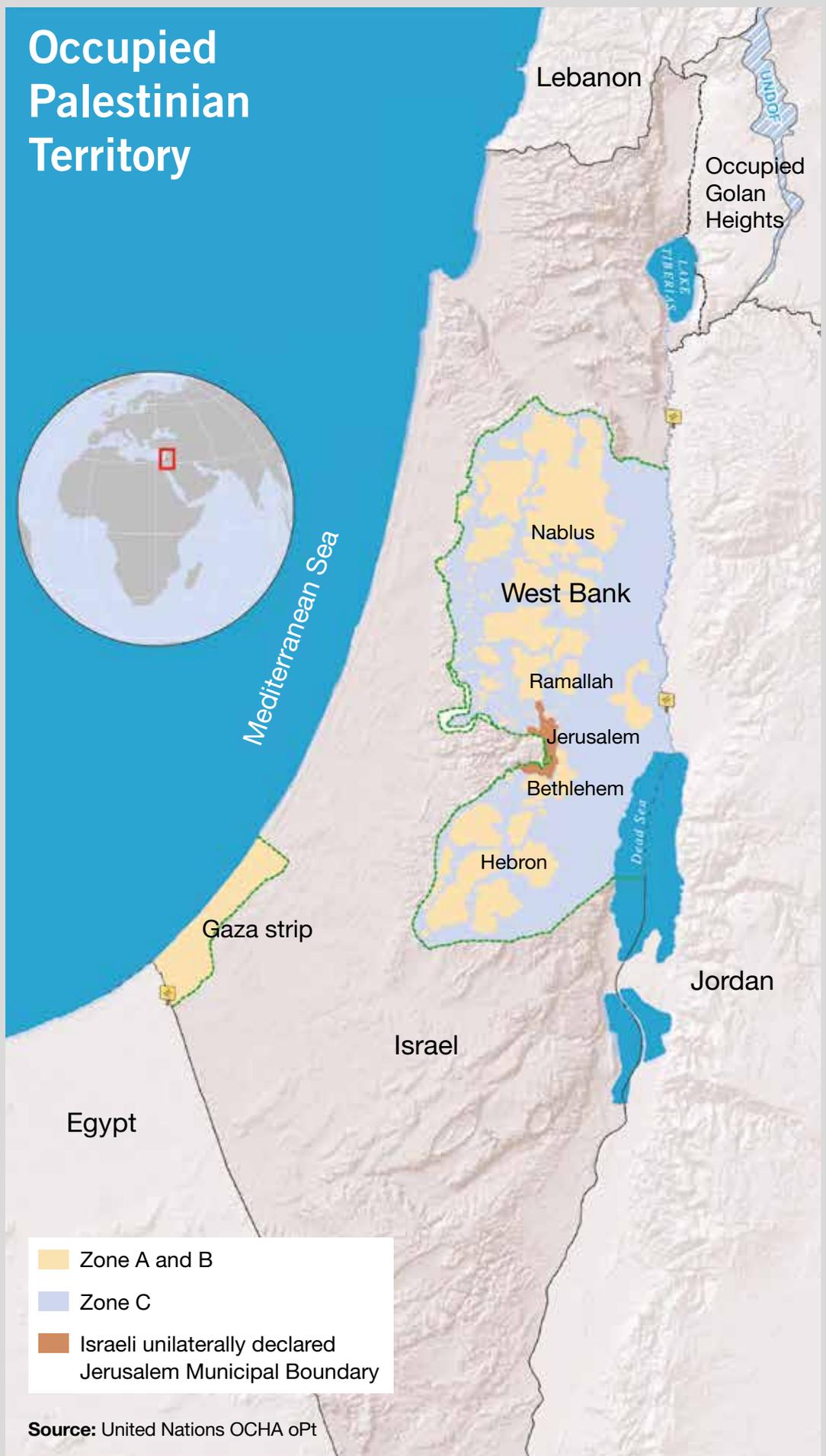


**AREA A** is under full civil and security control of the Palestinian Authority.

**AREA B** is under Palestinian civil control and Israeli security control.

**AREA C** comprising an estimated 60 per cent of the West Bank is under full Israeli control for security, planning and construction purposes. It forms a contiguous territory in contrast to Areas A and B, which are disjointed. This is where the settlements are located.

**SOURCE:** 2013 Report of the independent international fact finding mission, established by the UN, to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people.



**Cover photo:** Machinery removes trees near an Israeli settlement in Hebron, February 2018  
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## The human rights risk of doing business with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)<sup>1</sup> are illegal under international law.<sup>2</sup> Israel's policy of settling civilians in occupied territory, its extensive appropriation and destruction of land and property, as well as its use of the OPT's natural resources for private gain, constitute violations of international humanitarian law.<sup>3</sup> For years, Amnesty International has been calling on Israel to cease all settlement activity, dismantle all settlements and remove its nationals from occupied territory into Israel proper. Despite an international consensus that these settlements are illegal, Israel continues to pursue expansion.

## State responsibility under international law

**States must ensure respect for international humanitarian law, which means taking measures to stop settlement expansion. They must not explicitly or implicitly recognise as lawful the illegal status of settlements, nor give them assistance, including the means to sustain themselves.**

For this reason, Amnesty International calls on states to:

- prevent, through laws and regulations, the import of settlement goods to their markets
- prevent companies domiciled in their territory from operating in settlements or trading in settlement products.<sup>4</sup>

Settlements and the Israeli settlement policy are inherently discriminatory and result in grave human rights violations against Palestinians which have been widely documented by Amnesty International and other organisations. For example, the forcible displacement and

transfer of Palestinian civilians from their homes and lands is a direct consequence of Israel's settlement policy. So are the extensive appropriation and destruction of Palestinian property, and restrictions on the movement of Palestinians. Settlements and their related infrastructure are a means by which Israel dominates access to and use of Palestinian natural resources – such as water, fertile land, stone quarries and the mineral-rich Dead Sea. In doing so, Israel denies or arbitrarily restricts Palestinians' access to, use of and enjoyment of these resources. The appropriation of land for construction of illegal settlements and related infrastructure, and for economic activities, has had a devastating impact on Palestinians. It has undermined their rights to an adequate standard of living, to work, to housing, to health, to freedom of movement and to education. It has effectively crippled the Palestinian economy.

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# Business activity and the settlements

Israeli and foreign companies carrying out activities in or with the settlements contribute directly or indirectly to settlement maintenance, development and expansion.<sup>5</sup> These activities also in effect ‘normalise’ what international law defines as an illegal situation.

The settlements are illegal and there are serious, widespread and systematic human rights abuses that stem from their existence. This makes it all but impossible for businesses to carry out any activity in, or related to, settlements in a way that is consistent with international human rights and humanitarian law. Regardless of the human rights impacts of specific activities, virtually all business activity in the settlements goes to support an illegal situation characterised by grave and widespread human rights violations.

## Direct operations in settlements or in support of settlement activity

Businesses directly operating in settlements or supporting settlement activity reinforce their viability, development and expansion. This in turn contributes to violations of international humanitarian law and to a discriminatory system that inherently violates the human rights of Palestinians. For this reason, companies should refrain from undertaking any activity in or with settlements. Any business already carrying out such activities should take immediate steps to discontinue them. Companies that have

caused or contributed to human rights abuses associated with the settlements continue to have a responsibility to remedy the harm caused to the Palestinian population in the OPT.

Among businesses that operate in settlements are construction companies that clear land, demolish buildings or construct new homes; utilities companies that supply settlement homes with water and energy; and agricultural businesses that produce food for export.

Among businesses that support settlement activity are banks that provide financial services and loans to settlement businesses and individual settlers; construction companies that supply equipment and materials for the construction or expansion of settlement homes and infrastructure; and online booking sites offering accommodation in or travel to the settlements.

## Business activities related to settlements through supply or value chain relationships

A company that is not directly operating in the settlements, may nevertheless be connected to them through supply or value chain relationships. Companies in these situations do – even if inadvertently – contribute to the viability, development and expansion of the settlements. They therefore contribute to an illegal situation and to serious and systemic human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. In addition, their operations, products or services may contribute to or directly link to specific human rights abuses connected to the business activity taking place in the settlements.

To avoid these situations, companies that risk being drawn into settlement activity through their supply or value chain must carry out rigorous human rights due diligence processes. If they identify that their operations, products or services are connected to business activities in or with settlements, or may become connected with settlements in future, they should cease the relevant activity or avoid commencing it. When a company that contributed to human rights abuses associated with the settlements decides to discontinue an activity, it continues to bear a responsibility to remedy the harm done.

Businesses in this category may include companies buying settlement goods beyond the point of import (for example, supermarkets); banks financing companies that operate outside the settlements but that invest in business activities there; and companies supplying goods and equipment that are ultimately used in, or for the benefit of, settlements.

Palestinians pass through an Israeli army checkpoint near Nablus, June 2007. Getting to work, school or hospital is a constant struggle.  
© GettyImage



# A first step towards accountability: the UN database

The links between settlement business activities, the sustainability of the settlements, and the human rights violations and abuses associated with them were emphasised in the 2013 report of the International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements – an independent body appointed by the UN.<sup>6</sup>

The report noted that ‘business enterprises have, directly and indirectly, enabled, facilitated and profited from the construction and growth of the settlements.’ It further noted that

[it] is with the full knowledge of the current situation and the related liability risks that business enterprises unfold their activities in the settlements and contribute to their maintenance, development and consolidation.<sup>7</sup>

Acting on this report, the UN Human Rights

Council in March 2016 requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to create a database of all business enterprises involved in activities which, according to the report, ‘raise particular human rights violations concerns’. One stated purpose of this database is to help states ensure that any companies domiciled in their territory and/or under their jurisdiction that conduct activities in, or related to, the settlements respect human rights.<sup>8</sup> On 26 January 2018, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights published a progress report describing the steps taken towards consolidation of the database.<sup>9</sup> In a joint letter to the High Commissioner, Amnesty International and another 32 organisations acknowledged the progress achieved in establishing the database, and made recommendations for a strong process going forward.<sup>10</sup>

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## What part do businesses play in these settlements?

Business activities are essential to virtually every aspect of the maintenance, development and expansion of the settlements in the OPT.

Companies become involved with the settlements either because they operate directly in the settlements or because they have business relationships with them. Many are involved through their supply or value chain relationships. For instance:

- **Banks** provide finance for mortgages to pay for the purchase of land and the construction of settler homes, and financial services to businesses operating in, and trading with, the settlements.
- **Law firms** provide legal services connected with the purchase of properties and homes, and the establishment and operation of businesses in the settlements.
- **Construction companies** provide services, equipment and materials to individuals, legal entities and public authorities for the clearing of land, demolition of buildings and the construction of new homes, buildings and other settlement infrastructure.
- **Real-estate agents** organise the buying and selling of settlement homes, and provide related property services to owners, renters

and buyers of real estate.

- **Utilities companies** supply homes in the settlements with water and energy.
- **Telecommunications companies** supply homes and businesses with telecommunications and broadband services.
- **Waste-management companies** provide rubbish collection and disposal services to homes, businesses and public authorities.
- **Supermarket owners** operate shops and other facilities within the settlements.
- **Tourism companies, including tour companies, online accommodation and travel booking sites and rental car companies** offer goods and services to visitors to the settlements.
- **Agricultural businesses** produce food, such as dates, olives and grapes, for export to Israel and the rest of the world.
- **Manufacturing companies** make goods for export to Israel and the rest of the world.
- **Distribution and retail companies** purchase agricultural produce and manufactured goods originating in the settlements for distribution to markets in other parts of the world.
- **Security companies** provide security services to individuals and businesses in the settlements.

‘...virtually all business activity in the settlements goes to support an illegal situation characterised by grave and widespread human rights violations.’

- **Technical and logistical supply and services companies** provide a range of goods and services to individuals, businesses and public authorities, including courier services, computer equipment, surveillance equipment, identification equipment and

other equipment needed for the operation of checkpoints.

- **Pension and investment fund managers** provide finance to businesses operating or investing in, or providing services to, the settlements.

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## What are the obligations and responsibilities of businesses in relation to the settlements?

**Businesses carrying out activities that are closely linked to an armed conflict must respect applicable rules of international humanitarian law.**<sup>11</sup>

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has clarified that business activities may be considered to be closely linked to the conflict even though they do not take place during fighting or on the battlefield. It is not necessary for businesses and their managers to intend to support a party to the conflict (or an occupying power) for their activities to be considered to be closely linked to the conflict. Business activities that support settlements in occupied territory have a nexus to military occupation and therefore are governed by the relevant rules of international humanitarian law.

Under the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** (UNGPs), companies have a responsibility, wherever in the world they operate, to respect all internationally recognised human rights and to respect standards of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict.<sup>12</sup> The UNGPs are the global standard on business and human rights. They were adopted unanimously by the members of the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011.<sup>13</sup>

The corporate responsibility to respect human rights is, in the words of the UNGPs, a global standard of expected conduct for all business enterprises wherever they operate. It exists independently of States' abilities and/or willingness to fulfil their own human rights obligations, and does not diminish those obligations. And it exists over and above compliance with national laws and regulations protecting human rights.

The corporate responsibility to respect human rights requires companies to 'avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts through their own activities, and address such impacts when they occur.'<sup>14</sup> The UNGPs

set out an authoritative and internationally agreed standard of conduct for companies to meet their responsibility to respect human rights.

The UNGPs urge companies to:

- establish a clear policy commitment to respect human rights;
- implement a human rights due diligence process to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their impacts on human rights, and;
- remediate any adverse human rights impacts they cause or to which they contribute.

Human rights due diligence should cover adverse human rights impacts that the business enterprise may cause or contribute to through its own activities, including in relation to its supply or value chain.<sup>15</sup> It should also cover adverse human rights impacts directly linked to its operations, products or services, even where these impacts are caused or contributed to by business relationships.<sup>16</sup>

Under the UNGPs, companies operating in the settlements, or whose activities relate in some way to the settlements (for example, as a consequence of supply-chain relationships) must take account of the standards laid down in international human rights and humanitarian law, in particular those that protect people in occupied territory. This includes a prohibition on establishing settlements, as well as special provisions designed to protect the local population from abuse, protect their assets and resources from theft or pillage, and ensure the continuation, as far as possible, of their pre-conflict way of life.



## What steps must companies take to comply with their responsibility to respect human rights?

Companies that are at risk of becoming involved in human rights abuses associated with the settlements should:

- include, as part of their policy framework on human rights, a commitment
  - not to carry on business activities in the Israeli settlements;
  - not to carry on business activities with individuals or entities based in the settlements;
  - not to trade in goods originating in the settlements;
  - not to provide goods or services that are ultimately used in, or for the benefit of, settlements;
  - not to engage in any business activities that contribute, directly or indirectly, to the maintenance, development or expansion of settlements;
- put in place suitable human rights due diligence systems to ensure that the risk of becoming involved with settlement business activity through supply or value chain relationships is identified at an early stage, and the relevant activities are prevented or ceased;
- track the effectiveness of those early warning systems and the actions taken in response;
- be transparent and communicate externally all efforts to address these risks;
- provide an appropriate remedy for any harm done.

Continuing expansions: diggers break the ground for a new settlement near the existing settlement of Shiloh, June 2017  
© AP/Rex/Shutterstock

# Why are businesses divesting and disengaging from settlements?

The past few years have seen decisions by a number of companies to terminate operations in the OPT. In addition, banks and pension funds have taken steps to exclude companies from their investment portfolios owing to concerns about the legal and ethical implications of those companies' business activities in the OPT.

The reasons for these divestments differ from case to case – legal actions, governmental pressure, outcomes of dispute resolution processes under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, reputational risk, civil society campaigns, or the ethical policies of state pension funds. The examples below cover a combination of such factors that appear to be influencing decisions.

## Examples of divestment by companies

■ In mid-2015, French company **Transdev** (part owned by French utility company **Veolia**) sold its stake in the Jerusalem light rail project. It also sold its shares in **Connex Jerusalem**, the operating company responsible for running

the train service. The rail project had been the subject of litigation against **Veolia** in France (dismissed in 2013) in which it was claimed that the French company's involvement in the project amounted to complicity in breaches of international humanitarian law. In public statements representatives of the company described the sale of its stake in the rail project as 'strategic' and unrelated to a campaign to boycott the company because of its OPT-related investments.<sup>17</sup> However, it was also reported that **Veolia** executives had acknowledged privately that the company's involvement in the Jerusalem light rail project had cost it contracts elsewhere.<sup>18</sup> The sale of the light rail project, which followed earlier disposals of other investments in utilities in Israel in April of the same year,<sup>19</sup> ended a business development strategy that had long been of concern to some investors. As early as 2006, **ASN**, a bank based in The Hague, Netherlands, announced its decision to divest itself of its holdings in **Veolia**, on the grounds that the project 'is not in line with the United Nation's demand to stop all support for Israel's settlement activities.'<sup>20</sup>

■ In October 2014 **SodaStream** announced the closure of a factory near the West Bank settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. The company described the decision as a purely commercial one. However, it came in the midst of a campaign by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement to boycott **SodaStream**. In testimony to the US congress in July 2015, the company's chief executive, Daniel Birnbaum, spoke of the impact of this campaign on sponsorship opportunities in France and Japan.<sup>21</sup>

■ In September 2013, engineering consulting firm **Royal HaskoningDHV** announced the termination of its involvement in the Kidron wastewater treatment plant project in East Jerusalem. The company made the decision after forming the view 'after due consultation with various stakeholders' that 'future involvement in the project could be in violation of international law.'<sup>22</sup> An earlier statement by the company suggests that it had reviewed its position following advice from the Dutch ministry of foreign affairs 'of possible aspects relating to international law that may influence the project'.<sup>23</sup>

■ In June 2015, telecommunications company

Jerusalem Light Rail train outside a mall in Pisgat Ze'ev, East Jerusalem. May 2014.  
© Djampa/Wikimedia Commons/CC-BY-SA3.0





Orange made public its wish to terminate a brand licensing relationship with Partner Communications. Orange had faced pressure from campaigners because of Partner's business activities in the settlements. At a press conference in Cairo, the company's chief executive suggested that, were it not for the likely contractual penalties, he would seek to end the arrangement as a matter of urgency.<sup>24</sup> An agreement was reached to terminate the relationship in January 2016.<sup>25</sup>

■ In March 2016, security company G4S announced its intention to sell its Israeli subsidiary, G4S Israel. The sale was described by the company as driven by commercial considerations<sup>26</sup> and its debt reduction strategy.<sup>27</sup> However, the decision came less than a year after the UK National Contact Point under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises had determined that the company's actions were 'technically inconsistent with its obligation under [the Guidelines] to respect human rights.'<sup>28</sup> The company had been under sustained pressure over a number of years from campaigners<sup>29</sup> and trade unions<sup>30</sup> to end its activities in, and connected with, the OPT. In 2013 the company announced that having conducted a review in 2011, we concluded that, to ensure that G4S Israel business practices remain in line with our own business ethics policy, we would aim to exit the contracts which involve the

servicing of security equipment at a small number of barrier checkpoints, a prison and a police station in the West Bank area.<sup>31</sup>

#### Examples of companies involved in OPT business being excluded from investment portfolios

■ In January 2014, Dutch pension fund PGGM announced that it had withdrawn all its investments from Israel's five largest banks (Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi, Bank Mizrahi-Tefahot, the First International Bank of Israel and Israel Discount Bank). The reason given was that these banks have branches in the West Bank or are financing construction in the settlements. In its public statement, the fund stated that it had commenced a dialogue with the relevant banks because of concerns about business activities in the settlements 'as the settlements in the Palestinian territories are considered illegal under international humanitarian law'. PGGM said it had decided to withdraw after concluding that 'engagement as a tool to bring about change will not be effective in this case.'<sup>32</sup>

■ In June 2015 Norwegian pension fund KLP decided to exclude Cemex and Heidelberg Cement from its investment portfolio because of their involvement in managing quarries in the occupied West Bank. In its public statement, KLP explained that it had come to the view that 'the companies' operations are associated with violations of fundamental ethical norms'.

Israeli border guards arrest a Palestinian youth during a demonstration, July 2017 © Getty Images

'...banks and pension funds have taken steps to exclude companies from their investment portfolios owing to concerns about the legal and ethical implications of those companies' business activities in the OPT'

‘Many states warn about the legal, commercial and reputational risks associated with doing business in, with or related to the settlements...’

It added:

The fact that exploitation of natural resources from an occupied or non-self-governing territory may help to prolong conflict is also an important factor when assessing this matter ... Any rule that allows the occupant to begin exploiting resources in occupied territory creates an incentive to prolong the occupation. This violates the underlying principle of the law on occupation – that occupation should be temporary.<sup>33</sup>

■ **Norway’s Government Pension Fund Global** has also excluded companies from its investment portfolio on ethical grounds. In 2009 it sold its stake in Israeli company Elbit Systems because Elbit supplied surveillance equipment for the separation barrier in the West Bank. In its recommendation to the Norwegian Ministry of Finance to exclude the company, the Council on Ethics stated

The construction of parts of the barrier may be considered to constitute violations of international law, and Elbit, through its supply contract, is thus helping to sustain these violations. The Council on Ethics considers the Fund’s investment in Elbit to constitute an unacceptable risk of complicity in serious violations of fundamental ethical norms.<sup>34</sup>

This was followed by a decision in 2012 to exclude Israeli construction firm Shikun & Binui Ltd ‘based on an evaluation [by the Council on Ethics] of the future risk that the company will contribute to serious violations of the rights of individuals in war or conflict.’<sup>35</sup>

■ **Danske Bank** has excluded several companies involved in settlement construction (eg Danya Cebus Ltd and Africa Israel Investments Ltd) and also Bank Hapoalim (see above). Bank Hapoalim was originally excluded from the Danske Bank investment portfolio in 2014 because it was held to be ‘involved in activities in conflict with international humanitarian law.’<sup>36</sup> Similarly, the Danish pension fund, **Sampension**, has excluded four companies involved in business activities in the OPT: Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi, along with Israeli telecommunications company Bezeq and the German company HeidelbergCement.<sup>37</sup>

■ Other types of funds have also taken steps to exclude banks and construction companies with business interests in the settlements. For instance, the Pension and Health Benefits Fund of the **United Methodist Church** has imposed exclusions on five Israeli banks (Bank

Hapoalim, Bank Leumi, First International Bank of Israel, Israel Discount Bank, and Mizrahi Tefahot Bank) on the grounds that investment would not be consistent with the fund’s policies on human rights. The fund also excludes construction company Shikun & Binui Ltd.<sup>38</sup>

### **Other relevant international and governmental action and advice**

Warnings about the legal, commercial and reputational risks associated with doing business in, with or related to the settlements are contained in the business advisory notes of many states, including 18 members of the European Union. Current UK government advice to business warns of the ‘clear risks related to economic and financial activities in the settlements’. It says:

we do not encourage or offer support to such activity. Financial transactions, investments, purchases, procurements as well as other economic activities (including in services like tourism) in Israeli settlements or benefiting Israeli settlements, entail legal and economic risks stemming from the fact that the Israeli settlements, according to international law, are built on occupied land and are not recognised as a legitimate part of Israel’s territory. This may result in disputed titles to the land, water, mineral or other natural resources which might be the subject of purchase or investment.<sup>39</sup>

Similarly, the Irish government warns businesses to ‘be aware of the potential reputational implications of getting involved in economic and financial activities in settlements as well as possible abuses of the rights of individuals.’<sup>40</sup> A further 16 EU member states have issued advice to business containing warnings of the legal, financial and reputational consequences they could expose themselves to by doing business in, with or related to the settlements.<sup>41</sup> Outside the EU, similar advice has been issued by Brazil<sup>42</sup> and Japan, among others.<sup>43</sup>

At international level, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights continues work on a database, mandated by the Human Rights Council, ‘of all business enterprises engaged in specific activities related to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, in consultation with the UN Working Group on business and human rights, recalling the illegality of the settlements under international law’.<sup>44</sup> The screening process has been completed and 192 companies have been identified for further review and consideration.<sup>45</sup>

# End notes

- 1 The Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) are the territories known as the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem). They have been controlled by Israel since the end of the 1967 conflict between Israel, and Jordan, Syria and Egypt. Israel also controls the Golan Heights, which is Occupied Syrian Territory. While this briefing note focuses on the OPT, the points of principle raised in this briefing paper apply equally to Israeli settlements in occupied Golan.
- 2 The illegality of Israeli settlements under international law has long been recognized by the vast majority of states and was reaffirmed by UN Security Council Resolution 2334, passed in December 2016, which reiterates the Security Council's call on Israel to cease all settlement activities in the OPT. UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016), adopted at its 7853rd meeting, on 23 December 2016, available at <http://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf>
- 3 Humanitarian law is the law of armed conflict which includes the Geneva Conventions. Israel has been adjudged to have breached the Fourth Geneva Convention relating to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.
- 4 Amnesty International: A Call to States to Stop Sustaining Illegal Settlements: <https://www.amnesty.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017-05-26-Israel-settlements-statement.pdf>
- 5 This does not apply to Palestinian-run businesses.
- 6 Created by the UN Human Rights Council in 2012.
- 7 UN Human Rights Council, Report of the independent fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, A/HRC/22/63, 7 February 2013, available at [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf) (HRC, Report of the independent fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements), p. 20, paras 96, 97.
- 8 UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 24 March 2016, available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session31/Pages/DatabaseHRC3136.aspx> See also UN Human Rights Council, Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, A/HRC/31/L.39, 22 March 2016, available at [www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/31/L.39](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/31/L.39)
- 9 'Database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' A/HRC/37/39, available at [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session37/Documents/A\\_HRC\\_37\\_39\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session37/Documents/A_HRC_37_39_EN.pdf)
- 10 These include the immediate release of the names of businesses that had been duly screened by OHCHR but which rejected the mandate of the office or failed to provide a response within the given timeframe, and the continuation of work with civil society organizations and human rights defenders for the completion and continuous updating of the Database. See <http://www.alhaq.org/images/thumbnails/images/stories/Images/1185.pdf>
- 11 International Committee of the Red Cross, 'Business and International humanitarian law', December 2006, <https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/business-ihl-150806.htm>
- 12 Pillar II, The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights, UNGPs. "Moreover, in situations of armed conflict enterprises should respect the standards of international humanitarian law", Commentary to Principle 12, UNGPs.
- 13 [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)
- 14 Principle 13 (a), UNGPs.
- 15 Principles 13(a) and 17(a), UNGPs; OHCHR: The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights, An Interpretive Guide, Q9.
- 16 Principles 13(b) and 17(a), UNGPs.
- 17 "The company said that the move [away from Israeli investments] was part of a strategy to refocus itself geographically, reduce debt, and pursue other opportunities, and Veolia has exited a number of other non-core markets"; 'Transdev exits Jerusalem light rail project', Financial Times, 30 August 2015.
- 18 'Jerusalem's long awaited light rail project finally ready to roll', <https://www.rte.ie/news/special-reports/2010/11/22/294690-israel/>
- 19 For the company's official announcement of the disposals see <https://www.veolia.com/en/veolia-group/media/press-releases/veolia-closes-sale-its-activities-israel>
- 20 <https://electronicintifada.net/content/principled-dutch-asn-bank-ends-relations-veolia/6547>
- 21 'Israel's Sodastream leaves Westbank', Financial Times, 10 September 2015.
- 22 <https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en-gb/news-room/news/20130906pr-terminate-involvement-wwtp-east-jerusalem/727>
- 23 <https://www.royalhaskoningdhv.com/en-gb/news-room/news/20130827pr-wastewater-treatment-in-east-jerusalem/665>
- 24 'Israel calls on telecoms group Orange to apologise', Financial Times, 4 June 2016.
- 25 'Israel's Partner Comms to terminate Orange brand licence agreement', Reuters, 5 January 2016 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-orange-partner-comm/israels-partner-comms-to-terminate-orange-brand-license-agreement-idUSKBN0UJ1GB20160105>
- 26 'G4S agrees to sell Israeli Unit', Financial Times, 2 December 2016.
- 27 'G4S close to selling Israeli business', Financial Times, 16 August 2016.
- 28 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-ncp-final-statement-complaint-by-lawyers-for-palestinian-human-rights-against-g4s>
- 29 <https://bdsmovement.net/stop-g4s>
- 30 See for instance the October 2013 letter from Dave Prentis, General Secretary of Unison, to G4S quoted in <https://www.palestinecampaign.org/g4sunison/>
- 31 'G4S to quit key contracts in Israel', Financial Times, 21 April 2013.
- 32 <https://www.pggm.nl/english/who-we-are/press/Pages/Statement-regarding-exclusion-of-Israeli-banks.aspx>
- 33 KLP's statement can be viewed here: [http://english.klp.no/polopoly\\_fs/1.31195.1434009511!/menu/standard/file/Heidelberg%20og%20CEMEX%20beslutning%20om%20utelukelse%20ENG.pdf](http://english.klp.no/polopoly_fs/1.31195.1434009511!/menu/standard/file/Heidelberg%20og%20CEMEX%20beslutning%20om%20utelukelse%20ENG.pdf).
- 34 <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/the-council-on-ethics-recommends-that-th/id575451/>
- 35 <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/exclusion-of-a-company-from-the-governme/id685898/>
- 36 Note, however, that the Bank was reinstated in 2016 following a "thorough and constructive dialogue": <https://old.danwatch.dk/en/nyhed/danske-bank-dropper-eksklusjon-af-bank-hapalim/>
- 37 'Danish Pension Fund bans four firms over West Bank Settlement Activity', Jerusalem Post, 13 October 2017.
- 38 <https://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/hr-excluded-12-15.pdf>
- 39 UK Government; guidance, 'Overseas Business Risk – the Occupied Palestinian Territories' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-business-risk-palestinian-territories/overseas-business-risk-the-occupied-palestinian-territories> (March 2018).
- 40 <https://www.dfa.ie/our-role/policies/international-priorities/middle-east-and-north-africa/opt-investment-advice/>
- 41 [www.ecfr.eu/article/eu\\_member\\_state\\_business\\_advisories\\_on\\_israel\\_settlements](http://www.ecfr.eu/article/eu_member_state_business_advisories_on_israel_settlements)
- 42 <http://www.fecomerciomg.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Israel1.pdf>
- 43 [www.ecfr.eu/article/eu\\_member\\_state\\_business\\_advisories\\_on\\_israel\\_settlements](http://www.ecfr.eu/article/eu_member_state_business_advisories_on_israel_settlements)
- 44 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22617&LangID=E>.
- 45 'UN lists 206 companies with business ties to Israeli settlements in the West Bank, The Independent, 1 February 2018. On the methodology and approach of the High Commissioner see: [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session37/Documents/A\\_HRC\\_37\\_39\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session37/Documents/A_HRC_37_39_EN.pdf) And for a response from Amnesty International and other human rights organisations see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/7960/2018/en/>

Amnesty International calls on states to:

- prevent, through laws and regulations, the import of settlement goods to their markets
- prevent companies domiciled in their territory from operating in settlements or trading in settlement products.

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**Telephone 020 7033 1777**

**Email [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:sct@amnesty.org.uk)**

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The human rights risk of doing business with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

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Amnesty International United Kingdom Section  
The Human Rights Action Centre  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London EC2A 3EA

**[www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)**

