



# Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign

*Building effective solidarity with the Palestinian people*

# Scotland & the Arms Trade with Israel



LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION FUNDS  
**INVESTING IN APARTHEID  
& MASS KILLING**

[www.timetodivest.net](http://www.timetodivest.net)



## **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign**

was founded in September 2000 in response to Israel's brutality against the Palestinian uprising, *Intifada*, when Israel fired over 1 million bullets at Palestinians during the first week. Palestinians were resisting military occupation, dispossession and state-enforced racism, i.e. apartheid.

We invite you to join a local branch, as a member at large or in a network in various parts of Scotland. SPSC is a wholly volunteer organisation; we have no paid employees and rely entirely on donations from supporters to finance our activities.

### **We stand for:**

- the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes or the areas from which they were driven, in line with UN Resolution 194
- an end to the Zionist project of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians
- self-determination for Palestinians
- equal rights for Palestinians living in Israel
- an end to all British arms sales to Israel

Israel enjoys political, economic, military and diplomatic support but popular opinion across Scotland, the UK, Europe and most of the world is deeply hostile to Israeli crimes.

## Israel guilty of crimes against humanity

The UN Human Rights Council report at the end of February 2019 found Israeli snipers had been shooting Palestinian children dead during demonstrations “knowing them to be children”. Israel dismissed yet again the overwhelming evidence that their

snipers deliberately kill hundreds and maim tens of thousands of Palestinians.

The UK Foreign Secretary Alistair Burt had even refused to support the UN investigation into Israel’s mass killings, attacking it as “unbalanced”.

Burt defended Israel and said the UK will continue to sell the Israeli military arms, which currently includes sniper rifle parts. It also includes sales of weapons to another bestial regime, Saudi Arabia, which enable it to commit further massacres in Yemen.

Since the massacre of over 2,200 Palestinians in the summer of 2014, including 551 children, UK



arms sales to Israel have risen 10-fold, i.e. by over 1,000%. UK arms sales to Israel include sniper rifle components.

## **Arms sales and purchases**

Britain buys arms and surveillance (“security”) systems that have been improved and developed through testing on the living bodies of Palestinians under military occupation in the West Bank and under regular shelling, bombing and live fire in Gaza.

Guy Keren, CEO of Israeli firm iHLS explained to journalists how the Gaza Strip gives Israel a competitive advantage in the arms bazaar because of the real-time opportunities to test new products year-round. “Because we are checking our systems live. We are in a war situation all the time. If it’s not happening right now, it will happen in a month.”

He continued: *“It’s not [just] about building the technology and having to wait years to try out the systems. The Israeli arms industry success comes from operating the technology faster than any other country in live situations.”*

Brigadier General Elkabetz told a border control conference in El Paso in a bid for part of a border

wall contract: *"We have learned lots from Gaza. It's a great laboratory."*



## **Made in Scotland – dropped on Gaza**

Ibrahim, a Palestinian living in Glasgow, had eleven members of his family massacred by Israeli bombs; the dead included five children.

Laser guidance 'smart' systems made sure the Paveway II bombs hit his family's home in Khan Younis early in the morning on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014. The components are made in Fife, at the Glenrothes Raytheon factory. Parts for Israeli weapons used in periodic massacres of

Palestinians are also made in Glasgow, Edinburgh and many parts of Scotland.

## **Calls for an arms embargo on Israel**

During the Israeli massacre of 2,200 Palestinians in summer 2014, while the vegetable and frozen goods fridges in Gaza were overflowing with the corpses of infants, the Scottish Government sent a message to a Palestine solidarity demonstration in Edinburgh.

The message condemned the “deep inhumanity” of the Israeli attacks and called for an arms embargo against the State of Israel until it carried out a credible investigation into the killings.

***“I am today, on behalf of the Scottish Government, calling for an immediate arms embargo on Israel”***

**Humza Yousaf**

*Minister for Europe & International Development*

No investigation has been forthcoming and mass killings amounting to war crimes have continued. Israel has been “unlawfully killing” thousands of Palestinians for many years. And not only Palestinians; two British inquest juries within a

week of each other found Israeli snipers in Gaza had “unlawfully killed”, i.e. murdered, British citizens Tom Hurndall and James Miller.

Amnesty International joined the call for an arms embargo against the State of Israel a few weeks after Israel’s snipers started their attacks on Palestinian demonstrators. Amnesty and other human rights campaigns endorsed the UNHCR investigation’s findings that Israeli snipers had deliberately targeted Palestinian children and called for support for the UNHCR report.

***“Israel: Arms embargo needed as military unlawfully kills and maims Gaza protesters”***

**Amnesty International**

Instead of an arms embargo, however, Scotland remains a significant supplier of arms to Israel (and Saudi Arabia). Glasgow operates a sinister Israeli military-grade-surveillance system, and major Scottish local authority pension funds invest in companies that supply Israel with the means to do what Israel does - continue massacres, bulldoze Palestinian homes, and imprison a whole people into the Gaza Concentration Zone and walled-in villages and towns in the West Bank.

# Scottish Arms Trade with Israel

## Elbit systems

Israel's largest defence company, Elbit, collaborates with international companies to produce surveillance technology used in drones and on the illegal separation wall.

Elbit sells drones world-wide that have been tested on Palestinians; their best-selling *Hermes* drone can carry the same missiles used extensively against the civilian population in Gaza.

## Sinister, not 'NICE'

Police Scotland now scans Glasgow city centre streets with the military-grade surveillance system supplied by NICE, a company set up by seven former officers of Unit 8200, Israel's main military signals unit and now owned by Elbit.

The experience of Unit 8200 in sustaining Israel's siege of Gaza fed into the development of the facial recognition - and even "emotional recognition" software - that now sweeps up personal data in Glasgow city centre. This kind of surveillance has been banned in San Francisco but anyone on a political protest in Glasgow can now be identified and matched to their social media posts and other personal data accessed.



## **It is well past '*Time to Divest*'**

The sizeable protest at the *Undersea Defence Technology* exhibition, hosted by Glasgow City Council from 26-28 June 2018, faced large protests organised by *Sink the Glasgow Arms Fair Coalition*, which included SPSC.

Glasgow City Council announced on the last day of the protests that it would not hold arms fairs in the future - targeted protest can work.

Glasgow City Council also manages the 11-council Strathclyde Pension Fund (SPF) which, like most other Scottish local authority pension funds, invests in arms and other companies that facilitate Israel's massacres and dispossession of the Palestinian people. Join the effort to pressure these pension funds to divest, the 'D' of BDS, from companies complicit in Israel's (and many other) crimes.

There have already been successes on this front and we need your help to achieve more. Go to [www.timetodivest.net](http://www.timetodivest.net) for information on pension funds across Scotland - and what you can do from your keyboard to push for divestment.

Send a monthly letter to your local councillors to ask them to press for pension fund divestment from complicit companies.

Get your friends and contacts across Scotland to join in:

- Go to [www.timestodivest.net](http://www.timestodivest.net) and send the monthly email
- Download the SPSC App to do the same and get others to do the same *on the move*

➔ we have a right to know about the activities of the pension funds

➔ pension fund managers are accountable to councillors, who are accountable to us

➔ pension fund investments are NOT legally required to invest in arms companies to secure maximum profits

➔ involvement in war crimes is grounds for scrutinising investments



# What next?

SPSC is committed to building support for the Palestinian call for **Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions** against the State of Israel until it ends its crimes against the Palestinian people. In Scotland, as around most of the world, we are strong and Israel is exceedingly weak.

By many accounts the Israeli authorities are well aware of the strength of the BDS movement worldwide which is why they are fighting back by trying to smear supporters of Palestine as antisemitic. We reject these smears with contempt. For SPSC, real antisemitism is a contemptible racism. Opposition to the pernicious ideology of Zionism and all its crimes is a duty for all anti-racists and decent people around the world.

**Join:** [www.scottishpsc.org.uk/join](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk/join)

**Donate:** [www.scottishpsc.org.uk/donate](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk/donate)

*A fully referenced version of this booklet can be accessed on our website: [www.scottishpsc.org.uk](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk)*

# **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign**

*Building effective solidarity with the Palestinian people*

Scottish PSC is an extension to the Palestinian struggle for freedom against Israel's programme of ethnic cleansing and genocide in Palestine. SPSC exists to channel public opposition to the Zionist settler-colonial project into an effective and dynamic Scottish component of the global campaign that sends a powerful message of solidarity with the Palestinian people and a warning to Israel that its crimes must end.



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