

STOP the Bulldozers

JCB's complicity in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people



War on Want is a movement of people committed to global justice.

Our vision is a world free from poverty and oppression, based on social justice, equality and human rights for all.

Our mission is to fight against the root causes of poverty and human rights violation, as part of the worldwide movement for global justice.

We do this by:

- working in partnership with grassroots social movements, trade unions and workers' organisations to empower people to fight for their rights
- running hard-hitting popular campaigns against the root causes of poverty and human rights violation
- mobilising support and building alliances for political action in support of human rights, especially workers' rights
- raising public awareness of the root causes of poverty, inequality and injustice and empowering people to take action for change

Join us!

The success of our work relies on inspiring people to join the fight against poverty and human rights abuse. There are three easy ways for you to donate and join the movement:

Call 020 7324 5040

Visit www.waronwant.org/support-us

Post write to:
War on Want
44-48 Shepherdess Walk
London N1 7JP

Preface

Palestine is in crisis. A third generation of Palestinian children is now being brought up in refugee camps inside and outside Palestine, living in chronic poverty and denied the right to return to their family homes. In the West Bank, the expansion of Israeli settlements, the continued construction of the Apartheid Wall, the military closure of the Jordan Valley and the annexation of East Jerusalem are creating an irreversible reality of permanent Occupation. And Israel's siege of Gaza has condemned its 1.5 million inhabitants to a humanitarian disaster with no end in sight.

All of these actions are illegal under international law. Yet no Western government has been willing to call Israel to account for its crimes. Instead, the US, UK and other governments have consistently rewarded Israeli aggression with economic benefits and closer political ties. Official support for Israel has taken precedence over Palestinian rights at every turn. This is why it is up to ordinary people around the world to take action.

War on Want has worked in Palestine for over 30 years, building partnerships with popular movements and workers'

organisations fighting for the rights of the Palestinian people. We have run hard-hitting campaigns to challenge government support for Israel's policies of aggression, and we have taken action to expose corporate complicity in Israel's illegal Occupation. War on Want is proud to support the call from Palestinian civil society to build a global movement of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law.

This briefing explores JCB's activities in Palestine, and details the use of JCB equipment in Israel's human rights abuses. New evidence uncovered by War on Want has exposed the direct sale of JCB military equipment to the Israeli army. War on Want is calling for people to contact JCB to demand that the company ends its arms sales to Israel and takes steps to ensure its equipment is not used by Israel to commit war crimes against the Palestinian people. Only popular pressure can hold governments and corporations to account, and end the crisis in Palestine.



John Hilary
Executive Director
War on Want

JCB in Palestine

02

Stop the Bulldozers: JCB's complicity in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people

JCB is best known for its iconic yellow bulldozers. The family-owned company is one of the world's top three manufacturers of construction equipment, and a symbol of British manufacturing strength. But new evidence uncovered by War on Want has exposed the direct sale of JCB military equipment to the Israeli army for use in the violation of Palestinian human rights, and to support the illegal Israeli Occupation.

In September 2011, the Israeli military announced that JCB had supplied its armoured bulldozer, the High Mobility Engineer Excavator (HMEE), to be used by the paratroopers' division of the Israeli army's Central Command. JCB's equipment has already been documented in use on illegal projects such as the construction of the Apartheid Wall, Israeli settlements and the demolition of Palestinian homes. By moving from supplying civilian machines to military vehicles, JCB has entered a new phase of complicity with Israeli war crimes.

JCB equipment has been used by Israeli forces to target the homes and land of Palestinians in Occupied East Jerusalem, Gaza, the Jordan Valley and across the West Bank. This ranges from the use of JCB equipment in the construction of illegal settlements and settlement infrastructure to the demolition of Palestinian homes, mosques and olive trees.¹

JCB's main partner and distributor is the Israeli company Comasco. JCB dominates the Israeli market with a 65% market share of all excavators, and a 90% market share of commonly used loading vehicles.²



JCB equipment arrives in Silwan for a demolition, protected by the Israeli military, February 2012

JCB equipment has been widely documented in use not only in the demolition of Palestinian property, but for construction of illegal settlement infrastructure by Israel.³ For instance, JCB equipment has been used in building the Jerusalem light railway which connects West Jerusalem to illegal settlements on Palestinian land. According to the Who Profits? website entry on JCB by the Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP):

“Company trucks are used in the construction of settlement and checkpoints. For instance, they were used in the construction of homes in the West Bank settlements of Alfei Menashe and Zufin, at the checkpoint in Qalandia and at the checkpoint near Ofer prison, and in the Ariel West settlement industrial zone. Their excavators and other equipment are used in the construction of the A1 train line between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, which is being constructed on Palestinian land in Lathrun.”⁴



JCB Licence

JCB make a range of DIY tools and household equipment. However, JCB's best known consumer products are children's toys, which are manufactured under license in China by Golden Bear Toys. In addition to die-cast models for older children and the collectors market, toy versions of JCB's iconic diggers and bulldozers are available. These range from 'My 1st JCB' toys for ages 1+, to ride-on diggers, plastic toys for older children, and a range of JCB branded merchandise.

JCB consumer products are stocked by many well-known high street stores. Stores stocking JCB branded products

include Hamleys, Amazon, John Lewis, B&Q, The Early Learning Centre, Boots, Mothercare, Argos and Halfords.

JCB branded items for sale in the UK include:

- Children's toys and clothing
- Adult clothing and footwear
- DIY hand tools and power tools
- Lawnmowers and gardening tools
- Mobile phones
- Batteries
- Vacuum cleaners



Photo: Wadi Hilweh Centre

JCB EQUIPMENT USED TO DESTROY CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

The Palestinian town of Silwan lies on the edge of East Jerusalem, just outside the walls of the Old City. Many Palestinian families in Silwan live in fear of imminent eviction by the Israeli authorities in order to make way for a new tourist attraction. As part of the resistance to the planned evictions, residents have established two community centres in central Silwan, the Wadi Hilweh community centre and the Madaa children's centre.

But on 13 February 2012, Silwan residents awoke to the sight of bright yellow JCB equipment demolishing the only children's playground in their town. The playground and sports field at the Madaa creative centre was used as a football pitch and recreation ground by local children. JCB's machines were

filmed and photographed carrying out the demolition of Madaa's playground and sports field, which was carried out illegally on the instruction of the Jerusalem municipality without warning and without a demolition order.

Silwan is one of East Jerusalem's most impoverished areas, and faces a chronic lack of schools and public areas. The playground had helped to keep Silwan's young residents off the streets, where they face intense harassment from Israeli settlers and police. Only a few hours after the demolition, children gathered for a game of football on the rubble of their old sports field. The community is defiant, and now plans to rebuild their shattered playground.

JCB military sales to Israel

JCB started to produce military vehicles in 1984, and has supplied over 3,500 vehicles to the military forces of 57 countries.⁷ These range from machines produced especially for military use to the full spectrum of over 300 JCB commercial products modified to suit military requirements. JCB Defence Products Limited was listed as a separate UK company in 2006, and is also registered with the Aerospace, Defence and Security Group, the UK industry body for the arms trade.

The JCB High Mobility Engineer Excavator (HMEE) is one of JCB's military vehicles recently sold for use by the Israeli army. The HMEEs were sold through the American Foreign Military Sales programme to the Central Command unit of the Israeli army for use by their paratroopers' division; the machines are already in use by the Israeli

army's Combat Engineering Corps.⁸ The Central Command unit of the Israeli army has responsibility for much of the Occupied West Bank, including some of Israel's largest illegal settlements and occupied Palestinian land in East Jerusalem. The sale, which was announced by the Israeli military in September 2011, coincided with a UN report which found that 2011 had seen a 40% rise in illegal demolitions of Palestinian homes and property.⁹

Developed in Britain for the US army, the HMEE was used in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. It is now manufactured in JCB's factory in Savannah, Georgia. JCB worked with the Israeli army to modify the vehicles to their specific requirements. At 3.86 metres tall, the HMEE is an armoured bulldozer as tall as a double-decker bus. It weighs up to 16 tons with full armour, and can travel at speeds of up to 60mph.¹⁰



JCB and the Conservative Party

06

Stop the Bulldozers: JCB's complicity in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people

JCB is a major donor to the Conservative Party, to which it has contributed over £2 million since 2006¹¹. The company also has close links to the most senior government figures, including Prime Minister David Cameron and Foreign Secretary William Hague. Prior to taking up his office in 2010, William Hague was paid £50,000 a year to act as a parliamentary adviser to JCB.¹² In 2012 Sir Anthony Bamford was named as one of the influential major donors to the Conservative Party who had been invited to enjoy a private dinner with David Cameron at 10 Downing Street, when he was caught up in the 'Cash for Access' scandal.¹³

The British government has condemned Israel's demolition of Palestinian homes and lands, yet it has refused to take any action to stop the use of JCB equipment in Palestine. In May 2012, Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt MP responded to a parliamentary question about the use of British machinery in the demolition of the Madaa centre's playground in Silwan (see page 4). He confirmed that the Foreign Office was "aware of reports that equipment manufactured by a British construction equipment company may have been used in demolitions".¹⁴ However, despite stating that the demolition of the Madaa playground "was contrary to Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law; harmful to the peace process; as well as causing unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians", no further action was taken by the Foreign Office.¹⁵



Company Information

JC Bamford Excavators Limited (JCB) is one of the largest global construction manufacturing companies, and operates 18 factories across the UK, Brazil, North America, India, China and Germany. It is a private limited company wholly owned by the Bamford family. The Chief Executive Officer of JCB is Alan Blake, and the Chairman is Sir Anthony Bamford. Bamford was knighted in 1990, and serves as a Business Ambassador to UK Trade & Investment.

JCB makes over 300 different products and operates in 150 countries through 1,500 dealer depot locations. More than 75% of its machines are produced for export.⁵ JCB's global headquarters are in Staffordshire, and they operate a small office in London in the upmarket Mayfair district for senior staff.

Take action

07



It is unacceptable that a British company like JCB should profit from sales of military and demolition equipment to Israel in the sure knowledge that this equipment may well be used to violate human rights.

Despite ongoing abuses, the UK has done nothing to bring Israel to account for its actions, or to stop British companies from supporting the Occupation of Palestine with goods and services. War on Want is calling on JCB to:

- Investigate the use of JCB equipment in human rights violations in Palestine
- Suspend all military sales to Israel
- Take steps to ensure that JCB equipment is not used to commit human rights violations in Palestine

War on Want is calling for people to contact JCB at the address given below to raise concerns over its activities in Palestine.

Email JCB at jcbinfo@yesresponse.co.uk

Write to JCB at JC Bamford Excavators Limited, Rocester, Staffordshire ST14 5JP

Telephone JCB on +44 (0)800 581761 or +44(0) 20 7491 2576

You can also take action by contacting your MP to raise this issue. To find out who your MP is, visit www.theyworkforyou.com

Join War on Want and support our campaigns and partners in Palestine in their struggle for equality and justice.

www.waronwant.org/palestine

Notes

- ¹ 'UN Body calls for an end to home demolitions -Israeli forces make use of JCB machines', Netherlands Aid, 13 December 2011 <http://www.nl-aid.org/domain /human-rights/un-body-calls-for-an-end-to-home- demolitions-israeli-forces-make-use-of-jcb-machines/>
- ² 90% market share of all loaders up to 150 HP with a 1.5m³ bucket. Data correct as of 2011. Source: <http://www.comasco.co.il/162873/JCB-machine-range-1> (accessed 22/03/2012)
- ³ 'Companies that support the separation wall or the settlements', Interfaith peace initiative, <http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/oldsite/ProfitingFromOccupation.htm#SupWall> (accessed 24/05/2012)
- ⁴ JCB, Who Profits, 8 December 2010 <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/jcb-j-c-bamford-excavators> (accessed 05/04/2012)
- ⁵ 'Sir Anthony Bamford- Business Ambassador profile', UK Trade and Investment <http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/item/121234.html> (accessed 05/04/2012)
- ⁶ Report from the Wadi Hilweh information centre. A clearing order was issued for Madaa, but not a demolition order. The video of the demolition by Just Jerusalem can be accessed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xRIS1_QxLQ
- ⁷ JCB Defence Products <http://www.jcb.com/products/defence/defencehome.aspx> (accessed 05/04/2012)
- ⁸ 'New HMEE Bulldozer to be incorporated into the IDF', Israel Defence Forces, 14 September 2011 <http://www.idf.il/1283-13190-en/Dover.aspx> (accessed 05/04/2012)
- ⁹ 'Demolitions and forced displacement in the Occupied West Bank', UN Report, January 2012, http://unispa.un.org/pdfs/OCHA_Demolitions-Diplacement.pdf
- ¹⁰ 'JCB wins British Army order for high speed back hoe loader', JCB press release, 29 October 2008 <http://www.jcb.com/presscentre/NewsItem.aspx?ID=686> (accessed 24/05/2012)
- ¹¹ 'Who's who: Donors who dined with David Cameron in No 10', BBC, 27 March 2012
- ¹² 'JCB pays top Tory £50k', *This is Staffordshire*, 30 June 2009
- ¹³ 'Who's who: Donors who dined with David Cameron in No 10', BBC, 27 March 2012 (accessed 05/04/2012)
- ¹⁴ *Hansard Commons Debates Written Answers*, 16 May 2012, Column 201W
- ¹⁵ *Hansard Commons Debates Written Answers*, 14 May 2012, Column 45W

DONATE NOW

Help us win justice for the Palestinian people. The success of our campaigns, and the support we can give to our partners in Palestine, relies on inspiring more people like you to join us.

There are three easy and secure ways for you to donate and join the movement:

Call 020 7324 5040

Visit waronwant.org/donate

Post send a cheque to:
War on Want
44-48 Shepherdess Walk
London N1 7JP

Published: November 2012

Written by Kat Hobbs

This report has been produced with the financial assistance of Interpal. The contents of the report are the sole responsibility of War on Want and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of Interpal.

Save Silwan Campaign
War on Want
44-48 Shepherdess Walk
London N1 7JP
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7324 5040
Fax: +44 (0)20 7324 5041
Email: mailroom@waronwant.org

www.waronwant.org

Company limited by guarantee
Reg No. 629916 • Charity No. 208724

Printed on recycled paper

War on Want

War on Want fights poverty in developing countries in partnership and solidarity with people affected by globalisation. We campaign for human rights, especially workers' rights, and against the root causes of global poverty, inequality and injustice.

Cover picture: JCB equipment demolishing part of the Madaa children's centre in Silwan, February 2012 © Wadi Hilweh Centre

Design by www.wave.coop



FIGHTING GLOBAL POVERTY