



**2003- 2008:** Political statements, letters and meetings with the Foreign Minister: the illegal wall (2001/2004) , end the siege of Gaza (2007), recognize Palestine, economical contributions to Palestinian committee in Norway.

- **2008/2009:** Cast Lead, Israel's attack on Gaza 3 weeks



## 2009 - 2021: JOINED FORCES



- IN COLLABORATION WITH NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID
- AGREEMENT IN 3 PARTS:
  - POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND LOBBYING
  - SUPPORT TO PROJECTS IN PALESTINE AND LEBANON
  - AMBASSADORCORPS FOR PALESTINE TO INFLUENCE OUR OWN MEMBERS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.



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Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees

## National Ambassador Corps for Palestine



All three levels  
All three focus areas



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FARMERS IN GAZA





## Information is the key



### Military trade

**Invitasjon til lansering av rapporten:  
«Norsk våpenhandel og militært samarbeid med Israel»**

Tid: Fredag 2. november 2012 klokka 10.00 - 11.00  
Sted: FAGFORBUNDETS lokaler i Meyers gate 15  
Arrangører: FAGFORBUNDET og Norsk Folkehjelp

Presentasjon ved rapportforfatter Alexander Hwang.

Kommentarer fra panel bestående av:

- Statsadvokat Gry Lønn
- Generalsekretær i Norsk Folkehjelp, Liv Terjes
- Medlem i FAGFORBUNDETS arbeidsutvalg, Stein Guldbrenden

Det blir anledning til å stille spørsmål.



History and raising awareness



Investing in injustice






**«The occupation economy»**



- 150 illegal Israeli settlements and 100 "outposts".
- 20 large industrial zones connected to illegal settlements.
- Over 500 companies, Israeli and international, are active in the occupied Palestinian territories on Israeli licenses.
- Delivery of infrastructure (i.e. water and electricity) to settlements
- Building or financing settlements
- Facilities in settlements or settlement industrial zones
- Extraction of Palestinian non-renewable natural resources
- Sourcing produce from settlement agriculture.
- Delivery of technology and services to Israeli prisons, the separation wall, checkpoints and settlements.
- Production of military equipment.

Map: New York Times



The overall aim is to contribute to reduce Norwegian **Economic, organizational and institutional ties to the Israeli occupation**, and increase the pressure on the occupation

**These are achievable goals!**

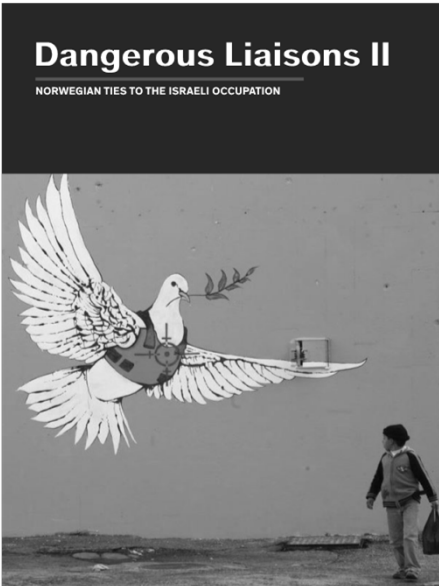
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### International framework on business and human rights


- UNGP: Increased risk of contributing to violations in conflict areas
- Complicity in occupation means financial, reputational and legal risk


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### Dangerous Liaisons

#### A look at Norwegian links to the Israeli occupation

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## Focus areas

- Investments in companies (including municipal investments)
- Trade
- Norwegian organizations that fund settlements
- Public procurement
- Differentiation: Settlements are not Israel. Norway needs to make sure that settlements are not benefiting from bilateral relations with Israel



13 of these companies are involved in grave violations, according to NPA and Fagforbundet

- HeidelbergCement
- Cemex
- Hewlett-Packard
- Motorola Solutions
- Alstom
- G4S
- Caterpillar
- Bank Hapoalim
- Bank Leumi
- Dexia Group
- First International Bank of Israel
- Israel Discount Bank
- Mizrahi Tefahot Bank





### Main findings

The Norwegian government and Norwegian companies are involved in trade and financial investments which contribute to the occupation

Between 2011 and 2014, the Norwegian Government Pension Fund (the «oil fund») have increased investments in Israeli state bonds 40 times – from 199 million NOK to 8 billion NOK.

- The 4 largest municipalities in Norway all invested in companies that contribute to the occupation of Palestine.
- Norwegian fruit and vegetable importers still trade with companies that have production in settlements.
- A Norwegian company cooperates with Elbit.

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### Banking and Investments – we have a job to do!

- we looked at 13 of the largest banks and investment funds in Norway.
- 12 of these had investments in the illegal settlements.
- varying degrees of what is readily available with regards to information access.







## What do we do?

- Ongoing dialogues with investors, urging them to exclude these companies.
- Focus on HeidelbergCement (and Cemex) and Israeli banks

## Banks and funds

- Positive development.
- Several investors have excluded companies that contribute to the occupation
- Nordea, KLP, Storebrand
- But most Norwegian investors are still invested in complicit companies
- the Norwegian State Pension Fund has excluded 4 due to activities in Palestine
- , but remains heavily involved.



## Campaigning: Our Strategic thinking

- Focus on companies that are complicit to human rights violations and violations of international law through their activities on Occupied Palestinian Territory
- This approach is generally met with understanding by companies, investors, and other actors we get in touch with.
- Focusing on companies that directly support the illegal occupation increases our chances of achieving positive results, e.g. G4S providing services that support mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners in clear breach of the Geneva Convention.
- Choosing already strong international campaigns



## First victory: Ahava

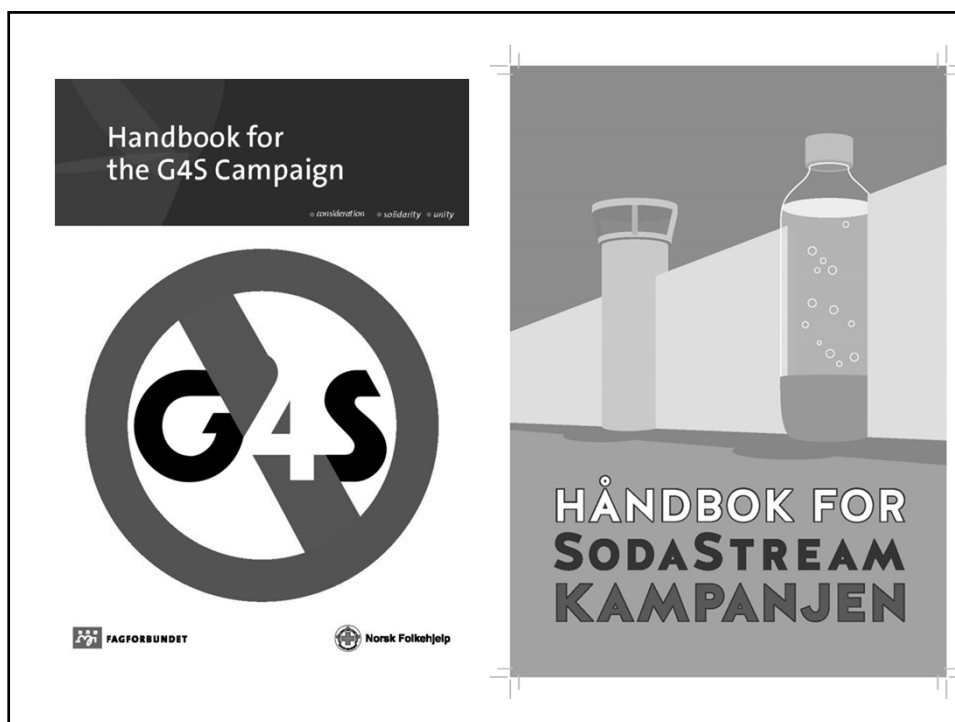
- Vita is Norway's largest retailer of cosmetics with more than 100 stores worldwide
- They have been selling Ahava-products for a number of years
- After our campaign: March 2011 they publicly announced that they would stop selling Ahava and not sell any products from «occupied areas»



November 2012: 21 Norwegian organisations support the call for G4S to withdraw from all activities that contribute to Israel's occupation.



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G4S: Complicity with the detention of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli Prisons November 2012: **21** Norwegian organizations support the call for G4S to withdraw from all activities that contribute to the occupation.



Amnesty International Norge  
 LO i Oslo  
 AUF i Oslo  
 EL&IT forbundet  
 Fagforbundet  
 Norsk Transportarbeiderforbund  
 Norsk Folkehjelp  
 KFUK-KFUM Midtøsten-komiteé  
 Fagforbundet i Oslo  
 Palestinakomiteen i Norge  
 Fellesforbundet avd 023  
 Raufoss Jern og Metall  
 Palestine Network Norway  
 Fellesforbundet avd 850

Oslo Grafiske Fagforening  
 Rødt  
 Fellesorganisasjonen  
 Sosiale institusjoners  
 forening  
 Fellesutvalget for Palestina  
 Sosialistisk Ungdom  
 Handel og kontor i Norge  
 Sosialistisk Venstreparti  
 Industri Energi

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**Public procurement****G4S VICTORY IN NORWAY**

1. 2012: University in Oslo (UiO) announce that it will not renew contract with G4S because of complicity with the occupation.
2. 2013: KOFA: Appeal Board for public procurement/ Klagenemnda for offentlige anskaffelser: UiO is not allowed to exclude G4S
3. 2013: University in Bergen exclude G4S because of reputational risk
4. **2013: G4S LEAVES NORWAY**  
(NOKAS BUY G4S)  
(2015: G4S leaves Sweden,  
Still in Denmark)



## Campaigns against SodaStream: 23 organizations





## Successes

- Vita decides to stop selling Ahava.
- Karmel Institute excluded from tax exemption scheme
- Investor exclusions (KLP, Storebrand, Nordea, Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global)
- Trondheim and Tromsø municipalities stop buying goods and services from settlements



## Success factors

- **Build coalitions and have clear strategies.** Define roles and find ways of working constructively together towards the same goal even if you do not always agree on methods and content of campaigns.
- **Broad coalitions.** NGOs, Palestine-groups, trade unions, student groups, church groups, ethical trading initiatives, groups having worked on similar strategies elsewhere (for instance on Western Sahara or South Africa),
- **Show your ability to mobilise.** Make sure that corporations or government officials you are trying to influence know that you have the ability to mobilise if dialogue doesn't get you anywhere.
- **Brag about your successes** It is important to use success stories to spread the word about BDS and why we are encouraging it, build broader coalitions, motivate activists, get the media interested, and more!

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- Network formed at conference in Brussels November 2016
- 29 unions/branches (3 million members) in Europe
- Main goal: Ending European complicity with Israeli violations of international law
- Learn from each other, develop new strategies, actions
- Next conference in 18.-19. May 2018 in Barcelona



#### WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FARE?

- Statement in solidarity with the political prisoners hunger strike: The endorsing unions will not use or renew contracts with G4S or Hewlett-Packard
- 1. May pamphlet
- 29. November: action day = Posters etc of checkpoints at the entrance of the unions offices
- 50 years is enough: different actions.





## BDS under pressure



- **Israel's travel ban**
- Anti-BDS laws in some states in U.S.
- EU declares right to boycott Israel is protected by free speech

### Latest:

- No hurricane aid if you boycott Israel (Dickson city in Texas, Oct. 2017)
- Norwegian National Budget: No economical support to organizations that support BDS (Oct. 2017)



## PSI solidarity with Palestine

NOV 2012: Resolution 42 and 49

FEB 2014: UNRWA employees 48 days strike, 30 workers 23 days hunger strike. PSI call to UNRWA to reopen dialog with the union, wage equality, reintegration of dismissed workers.

JULY 2014: Joint EPSU / PSI Statement: An immediate long-lasting ceasefire and return to negotiations

APRIL 2015: 39.000 USD donated to Gaza



**Resolution 42: Palestinian solidarity: support for the Boycott Disinvestment and Sanctions campaign (BDS)**

1. Endorse BDS Campaign and annual Israeli Apartheid Week
2. Campaigns to make every municipality/department an Israeli Apartheid-Free Zone
3. Independent and democratic unions in Israel and Palestine
4. Argue for the state Israel's isolation until dismantle it's apartheid infrastructure and abiding by UN resolutions
5. Raise demand for stopping the arming of the Israeli state
6. Speak out against all for anti-Semitism and islamophobia



**Resolution 49: Palestine and the Middle East**

1. Recognition of Palestinian statehood
2. Increase pressure to end the occupation, removal of the separation wall and the illegal settlements, by disinvestment prohibit exportation of settlements products.
3. Label products from the settlements
4. Corporate social responsibility and cease all activity in the illegal settlements or linked to the illegal settlements.
5. Put pressure on Israeli enterprises and on the Israeli government to respect decent work for all.

## WHY SHOULD PSI PUT PALESTINE ON THE AGENDA?



## Why Palestine?

- 50 years of occupation - will not end in near future
- Palestine still divided : East-Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza
- Oslo agreement: West Bank still divided into 3 part: A, B and C
- Settlements: still increasing
- From occupation to annexation of parts of the West Bank?
- The wall: still expanding
- Checkpoints
- Apartheid state
- 11 year of blockade of Gaza – no change expected



Hebron, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Why Palestine?



5 million Palestinians are waiting to return – no change expected.



## Recourses on trips to Palestine

**WHO PROFITS** The Israeli Occupation Industry

Office: Tel Aviv

Tours in Hebron/Hebron Hills

**BREAKING THE SILENCE**

**TIPH**

The Temporary International Presence in Hebron



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION – FREE PALESTINE !**

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