

The Case of G4S

Private Security Companies
and the Israeli Occupation



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The Coalition of Women for Peace was established by bringing together ten feminist peace organizations and non-affiliated activist women in Israel. Founded soon after the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, CWP today is a leading voice against the occupation, committed to feminist principles of organization and Jewish-Palestinian partnership, in a relentless struggle for a just peace. CWP continuously voices a critical position against militarism and advocates for radical social and political change. Its work includes direct action and public campaigning in Israel and internationally; a pioneering investigative project exposing the occupation industry; outreach to Israeli audiences and political empowerment of women across communities; and, capacity-building and support for grassroots activists and initiatives for peace and justice.

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Who Profits from the Occupation is a research project of the Coalition of Women for Peace. Initiated in response to the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) on Israel, this research project is dedicated to exposing the commercial involvement of Israeli and international companies in the continuing Israeli control over Palestinian and Syrian land. The project publishes information about these companies on its website (www.whoprofits.org), produces in-depth reports and serves as an information center.

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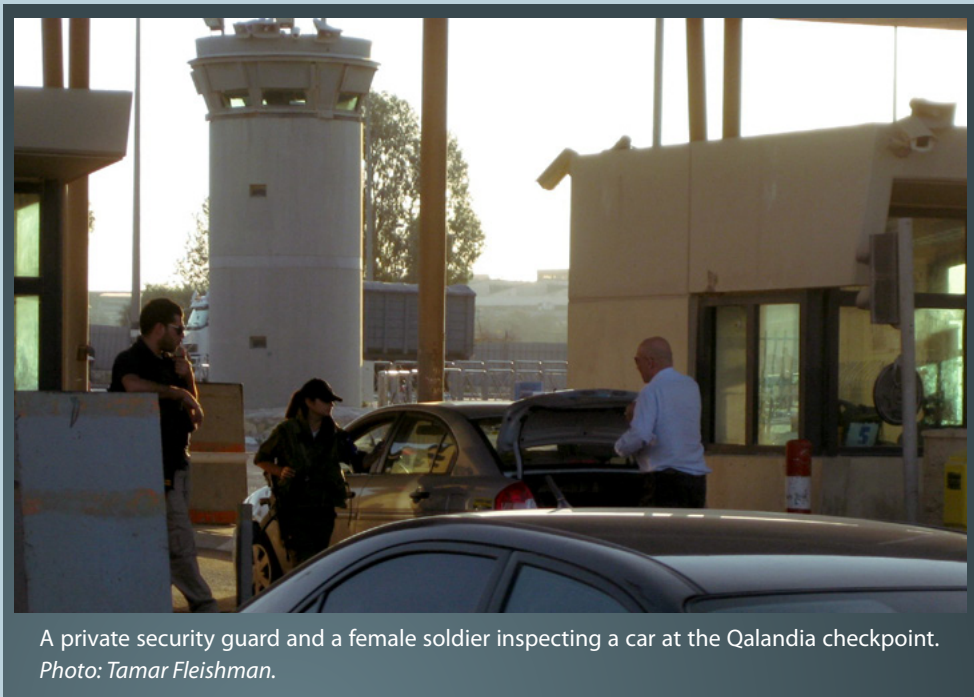
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Introduction

A dramatic change is taking place in the form of Israeli control in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), whereby, in addition to soldiers and security officials, one begins to notice the growing presence of private security personnel. A number of Israeli security companies operate in the oPt, taking over some of the tasks that were traditionally executed by the army. Private companies provide a wide range of services to civilian and military occupation structures, including supplying circumferential security systems to settlements, maintaining security equipment in checkpoints, employing security personnel at checkpoints and securing construction sites of settlements and the Separation Wall. The variety of operations of private security companies illustrates, perhaps most lucidly, that the Israeli occupation today is sus-

tained not only by state military forces, but also by a multitude of commercial and economic forces, whose activities in the oPt are interwoven into the establishment of control itself.

Since 2007, Who Profits has been investigating corporate activity in the occupation, exposing the various means of involvement of local and international corporations from various industries: construction and real-estate, infrastructure development, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and more. The research has



A private security guard and a female soldier inspecting a car at the Qalandia checkpoint.
Photo: Tamar Fleishman.

exposed, time and again, that companies involved in the occupation neglect, and sometimes are also involved in the open breach of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

While all these examples raise the matter of human rights violations and corporate accountability, we believe that the case of private security companies (PSCs) is salient. The importance of understanding the involvement of PSCs in the occupation is twofold: first, it highlights the prominence of the Israeli security industry in the Israeli market. Today, the security industry is the fastest growing economic sector in Israel, and has considerable political influence, which in turn leads to more privatization and increased involvement of PSCs in military activities. Second, given their increased involvement, security personnel are becoming increasingly likely to partake in or witness human rights violations. Moreover, in some cases private contractors can be used by the Israeli authorities as a means of “outsourcing” Israeli human rights violations and escaping government accountability.¹

This report focuses on the Israeli branch of the British-Danish security conglomer-

ate Group4Securicor (G4S). Our research has identified four types of activities performed by G4S Israel, which participate in different facets of the Israeli occupation. First, the company has provided security equipment and services to incarceration facilities holding Palestinian political prisoners inside Israel and in the occupied West Bank. Second, the company offers security services to businesses in settlements. Third, the company has provided equipment and maintenance services to Israeli military checkpoints in the West Bank. Finally, the company has also provided security systems for the Israeli police headquarters in the West Bank.

This report provides a thorough account on G4S activities, based on desk studies and field research. The desk studies included the collection and analysis of information from various public sources, including: company publications, such as brochures and websites, G4S responses to queries by corporate accountability agencies, information from the Israeli Registrar of Companies and from newspaper articles. Field research included site visits in settlements where G4S operations take place, visits to checkpoints and to incarceration facilities.

¹ For an overview on this role of PSCs in the occupation see: “The Privatization of the Checkpoints and the Late Occupa-

tion”, Eilat Maoz, available online at: http://whoprofits.org/Article%20Data.php?doc_id=705

I. About G4S

G4S is a British-Danish security conglomerate that operates in more than 120 countries worldwide and employs nearly 625,000 workers. The company offers a wide spectrum of services to both public and private sectors, including: operating private security personnel in cooperation with municipalities, governments and private businesses, in airport and seaport security, the guarding of buildings, monuments and events, as well as money-deliveries to banks and ATMs.

The current shareholding makeup of the company is the result of a merger between the British Securicor company

and the Danish Group 4 Falck, which took place in 2004, establishing G4S, which is now worth more than 1 billion dollars. The company is traded on the London Stock Exchange and the Nordic Nasdaq-OMX. Major shareholders are Skagen Stichting Administratiekantoor (Jørgen Philip-Sørensen) (12.19%), BlackRock (6.49%) and Legal and General Group (3.68%).²

In 2002, the Danish security company Group 4 Falck bought one of Israel's biggest providers of security services: Hashmira. G4S now holds 90% of the shares of its Israeli subsidiary, G4S Israel.³

In September 2010, Hashmira applied to the UN Global Compact program as a subsidiary of G4S.⁴ In the application letter, the company stated that it supported the 10 principles of the platform, including the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights and that they are not complicit in human rights abuses. The following pages cast doubt on the accuracy of this claim.



G4S logo.

² G4S Annual Report 2009, available at <http://bit.ly/hKOhRm>.

³ Source: G4S Israel website (www.g4s.co.il), see: <http://bit.ly/dWio9s>. For more information about the company, see the company pages on the Who Profits website: <http://www.whoprofits.org/Company%20Info.php?id=596> and <http://www.whoprofits.org/Company%20Info.php?id=595>.

⁴ <http://bit.ly/f0aF9Z>

2. Involvement in the Occupation

2.1 Providing security systems to incarceration facilities for Palestinian political prisoners

According to the company's own publications, in July of 2007 the technological department of G4S Israel signed a contract with the Israel Prison Authority (IPA) to provide security systems for the major IPA facilities.⁵ Specifically, the company declared that it provided systems for the Ofer facility in the occupied territory, and for different facilities inside Israel, including the Ketziot, Megiddo and Damon prisons as well as for the Kishon ("Jalameh") and Jerusalem ("Russian Compound")⁶ detention facilities.

In these prisons the company installed computerized control and monitoring systems, entrance and visitation control systems, control rooms with touch screens, internal and external CCTV monitoring and recording systems and optic fibre communication lines. The company also installed fire and smoke detection

systems and metal detector gates in these prisons. In the Ofer prison the company also installed a central command room from which the entire facility can be controlled and a circumferential monitoring system on the prison walls.

In this section we review the operation of each of these facilities which are used for the interrogation and incarceration of Palestinian political prisoners. We show that the operation of these facilities is not only in contradiction to many aspects of international law, but that there is also evidence indicating that Palestinian prisoners undergo torture and abuse in these detention facilities.

In the oPt, Israel operates a system of discriminatory separation, by law. In a single occupied territory, Israel applies one set of laws to Palestinians and another set of laws to Israelis. Being subject to the Israeli judicial system, settlers, as well as other Israeli citizens, enjoy liberties and legal guarantees that are denied to Palestinian defendants in the occupied territory

⁵ <http://bit.ly/fS19BE>

⁶ <http://bit.ly/fS19BE>

who are charged with similar offenses. For example, an Israeli citizen arrested in the West Bank must be brought before a judge within 24 hours (or 48 hours in severe cases); however, a Palestinian can be held for 8 days before his or her arrest is brought in front of a military judge.

In addition, the substantive law that applies to Israeli and Palestinian suspects is substantially different: Israelis are tried according to Israeli law, and Palestinians face charges based on military and security law, which includes many offenses that are not considered offenses in the Israeli legal codex and which stipulates graver penalties. For example, under the applicable military law, incitement is defined as “the attempt, verbally or otherwise, to influence public opinion in the Area in a way that may disturb the public peace or public order” (section 7(a) of the Order Concerning Prohibition of Activities of Incitement and Hostile Propaganda (no.101), 1967), and carries a 10 year maximum sentence (See section 4.2 below for more on this issue).

Consequently, Palestinians are defined as ‘security’ prisoners, not only when found guilty of committing militant acts, but

also when they are associated with any felony of a political character, such as belonging to an unauthorized political organization, participating in nonviolent demonstrations and the like. Thus, Palestinians can be arrested and imprisoned for practically any form of public activity regardless of whether they present a legitimate security threat to the State of Israel. According to Addameer, The Palestinian prisoner support and human rights organization, Israel arrests and detains Palestinians as a means of repressing the national movement for liberation and self-determination.⁷ Addameer reports that at the end of 2010 there were 5,935 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails. 207 of them were administrative detainees who are held without charge, 209 child prisoners, including 29 under the age of 16 and 10 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council.⁸

Prisoners in these prisons are deprived of many of the basic rights that other prisoners enjoy, such as access to a telephone,⁹ there are serious limitations on reading materials, on receiving and sending letters and, as mentioned above, on the visitation rights of family members. As explicated in length below, political prisoners

⁷ See Addameer website at: <http://addameer.info>

⁸ <http://bit.ly/eQ6BTe>

⁹ See, for instance, Civil Petition (Beer Sheva) 54251-08-10 Amad Srag (Prisoner) v. State of Israel - Prison Services December 14, 2010, available online at http://www.nevo.co.il/psika_html/minhali/MM-10-08-52451-562.htm

are also more likely to undergo torture.¹⁰

2.1.1 The Ofer Camp – a prison in occupied territory

G4S Technologies provided a perimeter defense system for the walls of the Ofer facility and installed a central command room inside, from which the entire facility could be monitored. The Ofer compound includes a prison, an army camp and a military court. This Israeli prison is specifically dedicated to Palestinian political detainees and prisoners.

The Judea Military Court functions from

within the Ofer facility. This military court is dedicated to legal procedures against Palestinian residents of the West Bank. The judges are military personnel appointed by the high military commander of the West Bank and the court operates according to the military codex which applies only to the Palestinian residents of the occupied territory.¹¹

Despite being in the West Bank, the compound is located in what Israel defines as the “Seam Zone”, on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road. Thus, access by West Bank Palestinians to this facility is highly restricted,



The Ofer Prison. Photo: Oren Ziv, activestills.org

¹⁰ A series of reports and publications about the torture of Palestinian prisoners in Israel are provided by the Public Committee against Torture in Israel, see: <http://www.stop-torture.org.il/en>

¹¹ For a detailed report on the Israeli military court system, see this report by the Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din: “Backyard Proceedings: The Implementation of Due Process Rights in the Military Courts in the Occupied Territories”, available online at <http://bit.ly/iHk88l>. For regular reports from the Ofer court, see Machsom Watch: <http://bitly/f6u1Wd>

both for family members of detainees and for their lawyers, and is dependent on the receipt of a special access permit. The fact that the court is located in this

facility severely limits the possibility that the public, and in particular the Palestinian public from the West Bank, may attend court sessions.



Photo: Oren Ziv, activstills.org

Abdullah Abu Rahmah in the Ofer Prison

Abdullah Abu Rahmah, the coordinator of the Bil'in Popular Committee Against the Wall and Settlements, was arrested last year¹² by soldiers who raided his home at the middle of the night, and was subsequently indicted before an Israeli military court¹³ on unsubstantiated charges, which included stone-throwing and arms possession. Abu Rahmah was cleared of both the stone-throwing and arms possession

charges, but was convicted¹⁴ of organizing illegal demonstrations and incitement.

The court did, however, find Abu Rahmah guilty of two of the most draconian articles in military legislation: incitement, and organizing and participat-

ing in illegal demonstrations. It did so based only on testimonies of minors who were arrested in the middle of the night and denied their right to legal counsel. Abu Rahmah's conviction was subject to harsh international criticism by The EU foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton,¹⁵ the Spanish Parliament,¹⁶ renowned South African human right activist, Archbishop Desmond Tutu,¹⁷ Amnesty International¹⁸ and Human Rights Watch.¹⁹

¹² <http://bit.ly/fqgOXg>

¹³ <http://bit.ly/gcp5Jt>

¹⁶ <http://bit.ly/g0nabp>

¹⁷ <http://bit.ly/dcUEUq>

¹⁴ <http://bit.ly/9onID0>

¹⁵ <http://bit.ly/967x7X>

¹⁸ <http://bit.ly/dci4QX>

¹⁹ <http://bit.ly/df3uC7>

2.1.2 Ketziot, Megiddo and Damon – “security prisons” inside Israel for Palestinian political prisoners

Additionally, the company reports that it has provided the entire security system for the Ketziot Prison, a central command room in the Megiddo Prison and security systems in the Damon Prison.²⁰ These prisons are defined as prisons for ‘security prisoners’, which, in fact, means that they hold Palestinian political prisoners from Israel and from the occupied territory. In a clear violation of international law, prisoners from the occupied territory are held in facilities inside Israel and not in the occupied territory. The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits any relocation of prisoners from occupied territory

to the occupying country. Art. 77 of the convention reads: “Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein.”²¹

The website of the Israeli Prison Authority (IPA) includes the following description of the Ketziot Prison: “Ketziot Prison was first opened in 1988 after the outbreak of the First Intifada [the Palestinian uprising] and was shut down during the implementation of the Oslo Accords and the release of the security prisoners. After operation “Defense Shield” in 2002 [during the second Palestinian uprising] the prison was renovated and reopened. [...] There are 2,200 security prisoners in this prison,

prisoners that are detained until the completion of legal proceedings and administrative prisoners. [...] Prisoners are transferred to this prison from other IPA facilities, from interrogation facilities of the General Security Service



The Damon Prison. According to the Israel Prison Authority, Damon Prison is populated by 500 prisoners and detainees, all are Palestinian residents of the West Bank. Photo: Hanay.

²⁰ <http://bit.ly/gSC4Y2>

²¹ See: <http://bit.ly/9hAslt>. In addition, Art. 66 states that courts should sit in the occupied country. Courts of appeal shall preferably sit in the occupied country. For an extensive overview, from a legal perspective, on prisons for Palestinian

political prisoners inside Israel see: Michael Sfar, “Devil’s Island: Transfer of Palestinian Detainees to Prisons within Israel” in Abeer Baker and Anat Matar (eds), *Threat - Palestinian Political Prisoners in Israel*, London: Pluto Press, forthcoming on May 2010.



(the Shabak) and from detention facilities of the Israeli Army.”²² Similarly, the IPA website includes the following information about the Damon Prison: “The prison is populated by 500 prisoners and detainees, Palestinian illegal aliens,²³ residents of the West Bank.”²⁴

Moreover, the location of these prisons makes visitation arrangements for family members living in the West Bank dependent on the receipt of special permits, which is extremely complicated and almost impossible for some. Only immediate family members can apply for these permits, and they are refused many times due to ‘security considerations.’²⁵ There are many prisoners who have not seen their parents, children or spouses for the entire duration of their imprisonment. In particular, in these two prisons, prisoners are only entitled to one visit per month, by immediate family members. Prisoners whose families live in the Gaza Strip have not been able to see any of their family members since 2007.²⁶

The location of Israeli prisons and detention facilities for Palestinian political prisoners from the occupied territory for which G4S provided equipment. In a clear violation of international law, prisoners from the occupied territory are held in facilities inside Israel and not in the occupied territory. *Source: Who Profits*

²² <http://www.ips.gov.il/NR/exeres/9529905B-2595-41C9-A6BE-1FB9F991F050.htm>

²³ “Palestinian illegal aliens” is a term used by the Israeli authorities to describe Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza who were caught inside Israel without the necessary permits. These are most often people who entered Israel in search of work, despite not having work permits, which are extremely hard to obtain. For more on the permit regime that determines who can receive the permits to enter Israel see the “Invisible Prisoners” report by MACHSOM WATCH, available online at archive.machsomwatch.org/docs/InvisiblePrisoners-English.pdf.

²⁴ <http://www.ips.gov.il/NR/exeres/0B230C72-16EA-4E59-B51F-D4ABDEEF58D1,frameless.htm>

²⁵ Further information on the conditions of detention of Palestinian Prisoners, including prevention of family visits and communication see <http://www.addameer.org/detention/background.html>

²⁶ See: “On the Anniversary of the Israeli Offensive on Gaza, Addameer Calls Attention to the 686 Gazans Detained in Israeli Prisons”, 27 December 2010, available online at <http://addameer.info/?p=1844>

It is also important to note that these are the three prisons in which Palestinian administrative detainees are held. Currently, there are more than 200 such prisoners in these prisons. Administrative detainees are held without being charged with any crime or violation and are imprisoned for months and even years without release or even a trial date. The incarceration of administrative detainees is in violation of international human rights law.²⁷



Activists protest in front of Kishon Prison on February 21, 2009, calling for the immediate release of political prisoners. Photo: Oren Ziv, *activestills.org*

abuse of Palestinian prisoners in both of these detention facilities. According to these organizations, Palestinian detainees who are interrogated in these detention facilities report being shackled in

2.1.3 The Kishon and Jerusalem Interrogation and Detention Centers – torture and abuse of Palestinian prisoners

The technological division of G4S Israel provided security systems for the Kishon (also called “Jalameh” or “Al Jalame”) and Jerusalem (“Russian Compound”) detention facilities.²⁸ Data that was accumulated by human rights and prisoner rights organizations in Israel show that there have been many cases of torture and

painful positions for days, being deprived of sleep, denied medical care, beaten and exposed to extreme temperatures for long periods of time. Additionally, detainees report undergoing psychological torture, including being threatened that if they do not confess, close family members will be brought in for interrogation and torture, will be imprisoned for long periods of time and their homes demolished.

²⁷ For more information about administrative detainees see: http://www.btselem.org/english/Administrative_Detention/ and http://www.addameer.org/detention/admin_deten.html

²⁸ See press releases by G4S Israel: <http://bit.ly/hfuDZL> and <http://bit.ly/fs19BE>.

According to the company publications, company systems were installed in the Kishon Detention Facility during 2007. Reports by human rights organizations show that while there is ample evidence of torture incidents from the time before the systems were installed, there is a considerable amount of evidence of such incidents which have happened since.

For instance, in March, 2011, The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, The Association For Civil Rights In Israel, Yesh Din, HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual, Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, and Physicians for Human Rights – Israel submitted a petition to the Israeli High Court of Justice (HCJ) on behalf of ten Palestinian plaintiffs, all of whom testify that they underwent torture during their interrogations by the GSS. The petition includes the testimony of a resident of Tul Karm in the West Bank who was arrested on June 26, 2008 and held in the Kishon facility. He reported that he was exposed to repeated abuse during his three months of interrogation there.²⁹

In a different petition submitted to the HCJ, a Palestinian from the West Bank city of Jenin reported that as a result of undergoing torture during his interrogation in the Kishon facility after being arrested in February of 2008 he lost all sensation in his feet and is still suffering from a difficulty in walking. His parents, who were brought to see him while he was incarcerated there, reported that when they met him his body was severely bruised, his hands were swollen, he could not walk without support and he was in acute mental distress.³⁰

In another case, which was reported in the Israeli Ha'aretz daily newspaper, a 19 year old Palestinian was severely beaten by his interrogators while detained in the Kishon facility after his arrest in April of 2008. He was transferred to a hospital for medical care during his interrogation, suffering from bleeding from multiple cuts in his head and from respiratory distress. He reported that during his interrogation he had been tortured and severely humiliated by GSS interrogators.³¹

²⁹ <http://www.acri.org.il/he/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/hit1265.pdf>

³⁰ <http://bit.ly/eU29IB>

³¹ "Suspicion: in violation of the ethical code, doctors did not report a Palestinian detainee who was tortured by GSS interrogators", Dan Even, Ha'aretz, March 14, 2010, available online (in Hebrew) at: <http://www.haaretz.co.il/hasite/spages/1156226.html>

2.1.4 Palestinian children in Israeli incarceration facilities

Children prisoners are another major issue which raises concern in the examination of the treatment of Palestinians in the Israeli incarceration facilities. A recent report by Defence for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI-



On average, 700 Palestinian children from the occupied West Bank are prosecuted each year in the Israeli military court system after being arrested, interrogated and detained by Israeli security forces. Palestinian children from the age of 16 are prosecuted and judged as adults. *Photo: Husam Abu Allan*

Palestine), which was submitted to the European Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights on March 9, 2011, sheds light on this issue. The report exposes

that approximately 700 Palestinian children from the occupied West Bank are prosecuted each year in the Israeli military court system after being arrested, interrogated and detained by Israeli security forces. For instance, on 31 January 2011 there were 8 children between the ages of 12-15 held in the Ofer prison, and

another two held in the Megiddo prison. At the same time, there were 85 children between the ages of 16-17 in Ofer, 66 in Megiddo and another 3 incarcerated in the Kishon facility.³²

In particular, the report exposes that after being arrested children are interrogated without the pres-

ence of a lawyer or a family member, and the interrogations are not recorded using audio or visual means, so there cannot be an independent oversight of the pro-

³² "Palestinian Child Prisoners", submitted to European Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights on 9 March, 2011 by Defence for Children International – Palestine Section, p. 8. Available online at: <http://bit.ly/hFt16N>, p. 8. An-

other 24 Palestinian children from the West Bank between the ages of 12-15 and 33 children between the ages of 16-17 are held in the Rimonim Prison.

ceedings. Additionally, the report states that “children are frequently threatened and physically assaulted during interrogation often resulting in the provision of a coerced confession, or the signing of documents which the child has not had a chance to read or understand.”³³

The Kishon facility is where many of the interrogations of children take place. The DCI-Palestine exposes ill-treatment of children in this facility:

*Since February 2008, DCI-Palestine has documented a number of highly disturbing cases involving the ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian children at Al Jalame [Kishon] Interrogation and Detention Centre, outside Haifa, in Israel. The reports indicate that children are being held in solitary confinement, in one case for 65 days, in small, filthy cells in which the light is left on 24 hours a day. The children also report being interrogated at Al Jalame in extreme circumstances.*³⁴

Children as young as 12 are brought in front of the military court system; many of these trials take place in the Ofer facility. While in the Israeli civilian legal system the age of adulthood is defined as 18, in the military court system, which the Palestinian from the occupied territory are subjected to, children from the age of 16 are prosecuted and judged as adults.³⁵

During their incarceration in the Ofer, Megiddo and Kishon prisons children are many times held together with adults, without separation or proper arrangements. The report has found that these children are not provided with the adequate food, water or shelter, have no telephone communication with their families and receive inadequate medical care. Additionally, children in the incarceration facilities receive inadequate education services and in some cases, no education at all.³⁶

³³ Ibid, p. 4. These “confessions” are not only used for the incrimination of the child, but is often used as evidence in the legal procedures against others. See, for instance the case of Abdallah Abu Rachma as detailed in section 2.1.1 above.

³⁴ Ibid, p. 15.

³⁵ Military Order 1651 – Sections 1, 136 and 168.

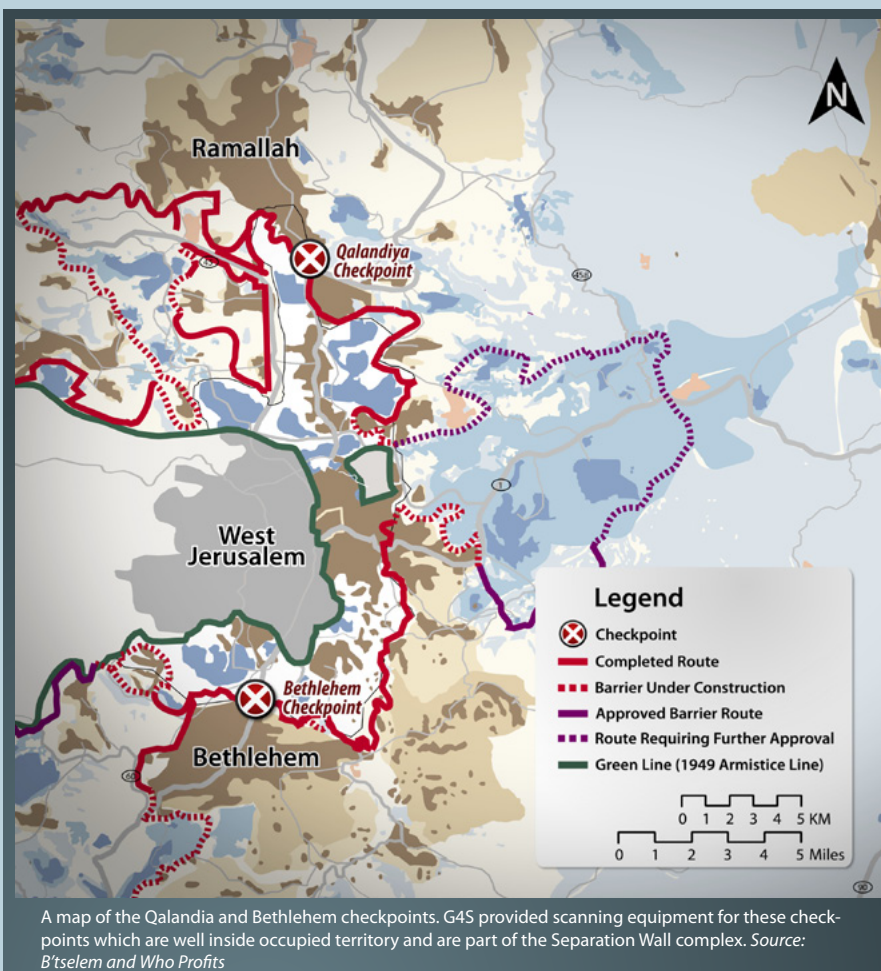
³⁶ For more information about Palestinian minors in Israeli incarceration facilities see: <http://www.addameer.org/detention/children.html>. See also article J(5) in the European Parliament resolution of 4 September 2008 on the situation of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, available at: <http://bit.ly/gxeMXP>

2.2 Providing equipment and maintenance services to Israeli military checkpoints in the West Bank

A complicated system of movement-restricting mechanisms is imposed by Israel on Palestinian residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A matrix of checkpoints, roadblocks and the Separation Wall, inflicts severe limitations on movement both internally and between the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Israel. Checkpoints are military or police facilities (depending on location) in which inspection and surveillance of the Palestinian population take place, through extensive body and baggage searches. The checkpoints impede access to work, to private property and land, to education and to medical treatment. Even if the wall and checkpoints serve legitimate security interests, the wall is illegally located within the

West Bank, de facto annexing territory to Israel.³⁷

G4S Israel supplied luggage scanning equipment and full body scanners to several checkpoints in the West Bank, including the Qalandia checkpoint, the Bethlehem checkpoint and the Irtah (Sha'ar Efraim) checkpoint. Additionally, the company provided full body scanners to the Erez checkpoint in Gaza.



³⁷ ICJ Advisory Opinion 2004/28. Full text of the decision available at: <http://bit.ly/8XinJT>



A luggage scanning machine by Rapiscan which was installed by G4S at the Qalandia checkpoint. *Photo: Who Profits.*

Who Profits field research is supported by G4S statement in a letter to the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, which confirms that the company sells security equipment, including X-ray machines and body scanners, “with associated maintenance services”, to the Israeli police, prison service and Ministry of Defense. All of these West Bank checkpoints are

built as part of the Separation Wall, whose route was declared illegal by the International Court of Justice, in its Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004.³⁸

The Qalandia and Bethlehem checkpoints are part of the Israeli system of control that sustains its annexation of East Jerusalem, since they prevent Palestinian residents of the West Bank from entering vast areas of occupied land around the city of Jerusalem and from entering occupied East Jerusalem itself. The Erez checkpoint serves as part of the Israeli closure policy over the Gaza Strip. The Barcelona session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine defined the closure of the borders of the Gaza Strip as an act that may be characterized as Apartheid; the annexation of East Jerusalem was found to be one of the grave breaches of international law against the Palestinian people.³⁹

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ <http://www.russelltribunalonpalestine.com/en/sessions/barcelona-session>

Palestinians Workers and the Checkpoints

Palestinians who have work permits for working in East Jerusalem and inside Israel have to go through these checkpoints to get to work every day. Approximately 23,000 people cross these checkpoints along the Separation Wall on a daily basis.

Long lines of workers, who are afraid of not getting to work on time be-

cause of delays at the checkpoints, form from as early as 3 o'clock in the morning. Many of these workers are day-laborers who will not be able to find employment if they do not get to the "Israeli" side before 6 am, others are at risk of losing their work places if they are late.⁴⁰ G4S Israel has supplied luggage scanning equipment and full-body scanners for checkpoints along the Separation Wall.



Lines of Palestinian workers waiting to go through the Bethlehem checkpoint at dawn.
Photo: delayed gratification

⁴⁰ For a video documentation of the thousands that are waiting to cross the Bethlehem checkpoint

every morning see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDpSQNJ7Ock>

2.3 Providing security services to businesses in settlements

In 2002, it was revealed that Group 4 Falck's subsidiary Hashmira had at least 100 armed guards in the settlement of Kedumim. Shortly after, Group 4 Falck announced they had decided to pull out of the settlements. Lars Nørby Johansen, the company's CEO at the time, stated that the company would withdraw from operating in the West Bank: "In some situations there are other criteria that we must consider. And to avoid any doubt that Group 4 Falck respect international conventions and human rights, we have decided to leave the West Bank."⁴¹

All of the company's activities regarding guarding the settlements were then transferred to a newly-established company called Shalhevet. Shalhevet was then owned by the minority shareholder of G4S Israel, Yig'al Shermiester, the grandson of the founder of Hashmira, who was the CEO of

Hashmira at the time.⁴²

However, recent company publications and findings of the group "DanWatch" affirm that G4S still offers its security services to businesses in the illegal settlements in the West Bank and in the settlement neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. These include providing security equipment and personnel to shops and supermarkets in settlements, including in the settlements of Modi'in Illit, Ma'ale Adumim, Har Adar and the settlement neighborhoods of East Jerusalem.⁴³ In addition, In July 2010, G4S Israel announced its take-over of Aminut Moked Artzi, one of



Systems of G4S installed in a supermarket in the West Bank settlement of Modi'in Illit. Photo: DanWatch

⁴¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/oct/09/israel>

⁴² <http://politiken.dk/erhverv/ECES4474/falck-forlader-vestbredden/> (in Danish), <http://bit.ly/hm6nbw> (in

Hebrew).

⁴³ See DanWatch report at <http://bit.ly/ex2w9C>

the oldest private security companies in Israel. Aminut, which provided security services to businesses in the Barkan industrial zone, was sold to Hashmira, G4S's subsidiary, for 9.4 million NIS and G4S stated that it would continue the Aminut business operations.⁴⁴

In a letter recently sent by the company to the Business & Human Rights Resource

Centre, G4S confirmed its involvement in the Israeli occupation and violations of international law. G4S confirmed that it had withdrawn from contracts providing security officers to residential settlements in the West Bank in 2002. "However, we continue to serve major commercial customers, for instance, supermarket chains, whose operations include the West Bank".⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Announced by G4S Israel on the company website: <http://bit.ly/dLahZV> and confirmed in a phone conversation with Who Profits researcher on January 19, 2011 (notes from conversation on file).

⁴⁵ See section 4 below. Also available online at: <http://bit.ly/fDqs0l>

2.4 Providing security systems for the Israeli police headquarters in the West Bank

G4S Israel provided security equipment for the Israeli police headquarters in the West Bank, which is located in the E-1 area, near the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. This is the headquarters of the Judea and Samaria Police Department ("Machoz Shai"). The Judea and Samaria Police Department was established in 1994 as a result of the Oslo Accords and the Massacre in the Cave of Machpela in Hebron (the Tomb of the Patriarchs), an incident in which a settler opened fire on Moslem worshipers, killing 29 people and wounding 125 others. The establishment of the police department was explained by Israeli officials as an attempt to maintain the rule of law in the territories and it was assigned the role of investigating crimes committed by Israeli citizens, mainly settlers, in the West Bank.⁴⁶ The establishment of a "Jewish" police department normalizes the current status quo of a large settler population in the West Bank and institutionalizes the separation between the two legal systems – one for

Israelis and one for Palestinians, who reside in the same territory. Moreover, accumulated data on the operation of the Judea and Samaria Police Department raise concerns regarding its ability to perform impartial and thorough investigations. According to a recent report by the Israeli human rights organization "Yesh Din", the vast majority of investigations conducted by this police department are closed on grounds that suggest that the investigation has failed. The percentage of investigations that do not reach a conclusion is particularly high when these relate to offenses of violence against Palestinians and damage to their property. 78% of incidents of violence and 93% of cases of damage to property have been closed on grounds that suggest that those investigations were never completed.⁴⁷

The E-1 construction project was aimed at ensuring the contiguity of Israeli settlements, between the settlement neighborhoods of East Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim, cutting off the south of the West Bank (Bethlehem and Hebron) from the central and northern areas (Ramallah,

⁴⁶ It is important to note that contrary to the role of police in most modern democracies, in the oPt the police force does not monopolize the use of force against the civilian population and is not ultimately responsible for homeland security. These policing functions are shared by the Israeli army, security service (Shin Beit or "Shabak") and, recently, also by PSCs. In this complex matrix, the role of

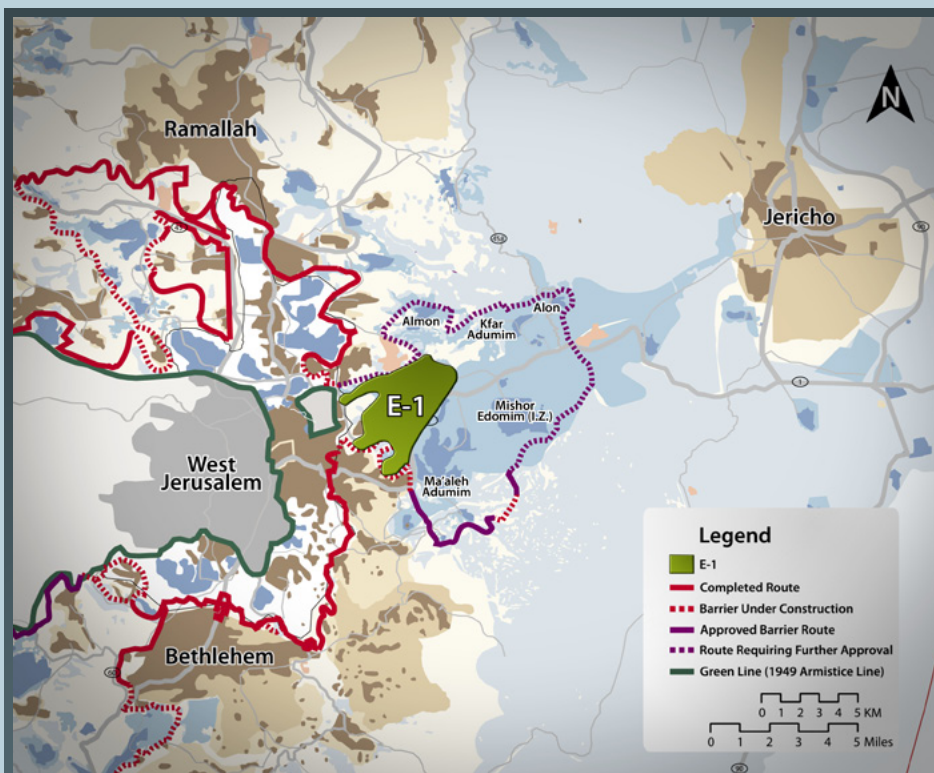
the police oftentimes becomes one of a mediator between these authorities and between them and the Israeli judicial system (state attorney and courts) which are supposed to prosecute offenders.

⁴⁷ For the full Yesh Din data-sheet see <http://bit.ly/guTKEt>.

Nablus and Jenin) to Palestinian movement and development. Due to U.S. objections, the construction of housing projects in the E-1 area was suspended, but a new building for the headquarters of

up land in Ras-al-Amud will be transferred to its original Jewish owners, from 60 years ago, represented by the Committee of Bukharan Jews in Israel. The area in Ras-al-Amud will be used to build a Jewish

enclave in the heart of what is now a Palestinian East Jerusalem neighborhood on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. In a contract signed between the Committee and the Police in July 2005, the Committee guaranteed allocation of land for the new police headquarters and undertook financing the planning and development efforts for the police station in



The E-1 area next to the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. The E-1 construction project was aimed at ensuring the contiguity of Israeli settlements, between the settlement neighborhoods of East Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim, cutting off the south of the West Bank (Bethlehem and Hebron) from the central and northern areas (Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin) to Palestinian movement and development. Source: *B'tselem and Who Profits*

the West Bank division of the Israeli police was built there. Currently, this is the only Israeli building in this area.⁴⁸

The new police station is part of a “land-laundering scheme” whereby the freed-

the E1 zone. This agreement enabled the police to obtain the necessary funding, without receiving government funds.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ <http://www.ir-amim.org.il/eng/?CategoryID=180>

Meron Rapoport, Ha'aretz, 26 April 2006. Available online at <http://bit.ly/huqMBS>

⁴⁹ “Settlers to get East Jerusalem Police Building in Swap”,

3. International Activity

G4S is the largest security-services provider in the world, with operations in more than 120 countries across six continents. The company employs over 625,000 employees, making it the largest employer on the London Stock Exchange and the second largest private employer in the world.⁵⁰ The company provides a wide range of services to both private and public sectors, including secure facilities management, security consultancy, event security, secure transport services and security systems.

According to the company's website, company services offered to governments include homeland security and border control, guarding and security services for public buildings and events, maintenance and security of energy facilities, gas and oil fields and even direct support of military operations of governments abroad. It also operates custody facilities (including prisons) and electronic security systems. In addition, it provides cash management and logistics services for the main British and European Banks. In addition, G4S provides guarding services at various airports

including Heathrow Airport, Oslo Airport, Schiphol Airport and OR Tambo Airport, as well as at various facilities belonging to the US, UK, Canadian and European governments.⁵¹

3.1 G4S operations in the Netherlands

G4S is the largest private security firm in the Netherlands.⁵² On its website the company states that the company provides services in the following areas:

- Border control, security of foreign embassies and "defense support" (private military).
- Guarding services to universities, schools, including but not limited to securing test forms and results.
- "Maintaining order in the street". As explained below, the company has an agreement, for instance, with Amsterdam police and municipality.
- Guarding and security services to ministries. The website only explicitly mentions providing such services to the Ministry of Finance, but this is meant to

⁵⁰ <http://bit.ly/g0MOAY>

⁵¹ <http://www.g4s.com/en/What%20we%20do/Sectors/>

Government/

⁵² <http://bit.ly/g1JH9x>

be an example and, thus, there may be more.

- Securing hospitals, airports and seaports.
- Providing security services for cultural events and conferences.

According to the company's own website, G4S provides security services for Schiphol airport in Amsterdam and to the Dutch Ministry of Finance. Both of these are given as examples of the scope of the company's operation in Holland.⁵³

In addition, G4S is one of the main part-

ners of The Amsterdam Collective Security Foundation (De Stichting Collectieve Beveiliging Amsterdam), a joint venture of the local police and the industry. 'Industry', here, should be understood as a two-fold party: one is G4S, who has a contract with the Amsterdam police, taking over some of the latter's security functions. The other industry-related party is the actual business clients, who need the security provided jointly by the police and the private security firms.

⁵³ <http://www.g4s.nl/nl-nl/oplossingen/sector/Publieke%20sector/>

4. Examining Company Responses

4.1 Company statements

Following publications in the press concerning the involvement of the company in the occupation, as detailed above, the company was invited by the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to issue a response.

The following is the statement released by the company:

21 Dec 2010

G4S and its predecessor company, Group 4 Falck, have had operations in Israel for many years through our subsidiary G4S Hashmira. We provide a mixture of security officers and security technology, including access control systems, X-ray machines and body scanners, to commercial and governmental clients.

In 2002 we announced that we were withdrawing from several contracts providing security officers to residential settlements in the West Bank. Since then we have not performed such work, nor bid for any such contracts. However, we continue to serve major commercial customers, for instance supermarket chains, whose operations include the West Bank. Under these contracts we will provide security officers to protect the premises of these

commercial clients who serve the general public. The number of such officers deployed in the West Bank is generally less than 20 and currently stands at eight. Other G4S staff may also periodically travel through the West Bank in the course of their work.

Regarding the Israeli government, we do not carry out police or military-style patrols anywhere in the West Bank. We may from time to time provide officers to protect police facilities, but they do not perform any kind of law enforcement or public security role. We have also provided security equipment, including X-ray machines and body scanners, with associated maintenance services, to the Israeli police, prison service and Ministry of Defence. We do not control, nor are we necessarily aware, where this equipment is deployed as it may be moved around the country.

As is clear from this response, the company admits that it provides security services in settlements. However, this statement is misleading, since the company fails to mention that their activities in the settlements do not “serve the general public” as they state, but only the Jewish public, since the entrance of Palestinians into the settlements is severely restricted.⁵⁴ The settlements are, therefore,

⁵⁴ This restriction is according to the military law which applies in the West Bank. See IDF (1996). Decree Concerning

the Security Order (no. 873), 1970, Declaration Concerning the Closing-Off of an Area (Israeli Settlements).



A screenshot of G4S Israel website, November 2008. The text on the left hand side reads: "Personal luggage-scanning machines manufactured by Rapiscan USA were installed in the Seam-Zone crossings [checkpoints which are along the route of the Separation Wall], including: the Qalandia Crossing, the Bethlehem Crossing, the Sha'ar Efraim crossing and more".
 Source: www.hashmira.com/index_heb.asp

off-limits for almost all Palestinians, for all intents and purposes. Consequently, Palestinians cannot use the services these businesses offer in settlements. By stating that businesses in settlements "serve the general public", the company ignores the regime of separation and segregation that is applied in West Bank settlements, and the ways in which businesses that operate there implicitly take part in this segregation.

Moreover, the statement of the company concerning the X-ray machines and body scanners that are provided by the company seems to be less than accurate, since in the companies' own publications, the company specifically advertizes that its X-ray machines and body scanners are installed in the Israeli military checkpoints in the West Bank. For instance, the image below is a screenshot of the company website, as captured by our re-

searchers in 2008.⁵⁵ Under the title 'News', the rubric on the bottom left-hand side states: "Personal luggage-scanning machines manufactured by Rapiscan USA were installed in the Seam-Zone crossings [checkpoints which are along the route of the Separation Wall], including: the Qalandia Crossing, the Bethlehem Crossing, the Sha'ar Efraim crossing and more".

Similarly, the website included information about full-body scanners provided by the company to the Erez Checkpoint.

In the screenshot of the company website from 2008 presented below, the company states: "Systems for checking persons manufactured by Safeview USA, first of their kind, were installed at the Erez Checkpoint. The systems are in operational use by the army and enable performing full scans of the human body".

This information was originally only published in Hebrew. It is interesting to note that this information has since been removed from the website of the company.



⁵⁵ Source: http://www.hashmira.com/index_heb.asp, accessed November 18, 2008.

4.2 The legal opinion of Prof. Hjalte Rasmussen

Facing increasing criticism of activity by its Israeli subsidiary, G4S also commissioned an expert legal opinion, on January 27, 2011, from Hjalte Rasmussen, professor of international law at Copenhagen University, concerning its occupation-related involvement.⁵⁶ According to Professor Rasmussen, the activities of the company in the West Bank and in relation to the Israeli occupation do not contradict international law.

In this report we do not examine the legal considerations and interpretation of international law that led Prof. Rasmussen to reach this conclusion. However, on reading this opinion, it becomes obvious that there are some factual inaccuracies behind Prof. Rasmussen's analysis.

For instance, Prof. Rasmussen writes that "it is worth noting that G4S has not only Israeli clients, but also Palestinian, and that the concern [G4S] does not discriminate between them. In other words, all citizens in the occupied territories enjoy G4S's services [...] G4S's services to these private companies and citizens in the occupied

territories counteract criminal activity, which serves both Israeli and Palestinian citizens."⁵⁷

This statement is puzzling, since, as mentioned above, on all but rare occasions, Palestinians from the West Bank cannot enter the settlements and definitely cannot use the private companies that operate there. Even the entrance of Palestinians from inside Israel is highly restricted. Thus, it is inaccurate to say that "all citizens in the occupied territories enjoy G4S's services", since the security services provided by G4S to businesses in settlements serve only the Jewish residents of the occupied territory.

In addition, the legal opinion states that "G4S has also not only Israeli but Palestinian customers, and the group does not discriminate among its customers."⁵⁸ This may be true in the activity of the company in Israel, but not in its activity in the West Bank settlements.

When discussing the fact that G4S provided security systems for the headquarters of the Judea and Samaria Police Department, Prof. Rasmussen claims that "it must be emphasized that G4S has no

⁵⁶ The full legal opinion can be found at <http://bit.ly/emLUfJ> (in Danish).

⁵⁷ *Ibid*, p. 40.

⁵⁸ *Ibid*, p. 41.

influence as to where its services are delivered; this is entirely in the hands of the Israeli authorities. Neither does G4S have any knowledge of how the services are used.”⁵⁹

While it may be true that G4S has no influence as to where its services are delivered, it is still interesting to note that the company is well aware of where its systems are installed. In particular, the company advertized in its own brochure that its systems were installed in the headquarters of the Judea and Samaria Police Department, as the scanned image from this brochure shows. Under the section entitled ‘Israeli Police’ this page specifies that their company’s systems were installed in several police stations inside Israel; the headquarters of the Judea and Samaria Police Department is listed at the bottom of the page, under the title “Additional Projects in this Field”.

Prof. Rasmussen also discusses the fact that G4S provided security systems to the Ofer prison for Palestinian prisoners in the occupied territory. Prof. Rasmussen states that in this prison “The prisoners are therefore regular prisoners, in the sense that they are sentenced by inde-

pendent, neutral and irremovable courts, for crimes, just like all other prisoners imprisoned on Israeli ground. They are either sentenced in the ordinary Israeli court system, or they are assigned to custody.”⁶⁰

As explicated at length in section 2.1.1 above, this statement is inaccurate. Prisoners and detainees in the Ofer prison are not sentenced in the general Israeli court system, but are sentenced in a military court system which is intended only for West Bank Palestinians.



A page from a brochure of the Technologies Division of G4S Israel. This page specifies police stations for which G4S provided security systems. Under the title “Additional Projects in this Field”, the second line from the bottom reads: The headquarters of the Judea and Samaria Police Department Ma’ale Adumim. Source: G4S Israel, Technologies Division brochure, 2009, p. 12.

⁵⁹ Ibid, p. 42.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

Notably, in this legal opinion there is no discussion of the fact that there are other prisons for Palestinian political prisoners, like Megiddo, Damon and Ktziot, that G4S provided systems for and that are inside Israel. As discussed in greater detail in section 2.1.2 above, the prisoners there were also sentenced in military courts that deal only with Palestinians and not in the general Israeli court system. Similarly, there is no mention of the fact that G4S also provided security systems for the Kishon and Jerusalem interrogation and detention facilities, or of the abundance of testimonies of incidents of torture which take place in these facilities, as described

in section 2.1.3.

Finally, the legal opinion refers to the checkpoints that G4S provided equipment for as “border crossings”.⁶¹ As explicated at length in section 2.2 above, these checkpoints are part of the Separation Wall and some of them, particularly the Qalandia and Bethlehem checkpoints, are well inside the occupied territory. Additionally, it is not clear how these crossings may be regarded as “border crossings”, since Israeli rule is applied on both sides of these checkpoints and, therefore, they are not on any border.

An article from “On the Safe Side” (“Al Batu’ach”), the G4S Israel newspaper, May 2008. The article is entitled “Secure Prison” and states that G4S technologies won the tenders for providing technologies for the Megiddo Prison, Ktziot Prison and “the Ofer Prison next to Ramallah”. The article emphasizes that these facilities hold thousands of “security prisoners”. The article also specifies that in these prisons the company installed computerized control and monitoring systems, entrance and visitation control systems, control rooms with touch screens, internal and external CCTV monitoring and recording systems and optic fibre communication lines. The company also installed fire and smoke detection systems and metal



detector gates in these prisons. Source: “On the Safe Side” the Hashmira Group newspaper, May 2008, vol. 13 p. 14.

⁶¹ Ibid, p. 44.

4.3 Company Response from March 11, 2011

In November of 2010, DanWatch launched a public campaign in Denmark which exposed the involvement of G4S in the Israeli occupation.⁶² This campaign

received significant press coverage and prompted calls to exclude G4S from receiving public contracts in Denmark.⁶³

As a result of mounting criticism of company activities, in March 2011 G4S published the following statement:

Statement

London and Copenhagen, March 11, 2011.

Following recent criticism in the Danish press and NGO's we have been conducting a review of our operations in the West Bank.

The issue of providing services in the West Bank is a complex one. On the one hand measures are said to restrict the free movement of Palestinians and therefore are considered to be a breach of their human rights and on the other, lives have been saved as the trend of suicide bombings has been curtailed.

The services from which the company withdrew in 2002 cannot be compared to those provided today. In 2002 Group 4 Falck withdrew from several contracts providing armed security officers to residential settlements in the West Bank. Since then we have not performed such work, nor bid for any such contracts.

In order to help us understand all of the issues and to come to a satisfactory conclusion regarding today's operations in the area, we have taken a number of steps:

⁶² DanWatch website at <http://danwatch.dk>. For example, see <http://bit.ly/g1S4Tq>

pation", Adri Nieuwhof, Electronic Intifada, 15 December 2010. Available online at: <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article11678.shtml>

⁶³ "Outcry in Denmark over firm's involvement in occu-

■ G4S engaged Professor Hjalte Rasmussen, from the University of Copenhagen, who is a well known and leading authority in international law, to review our business on the West Bank and provide a legal opinion. After visiting the region, Professor Rasmussen concluded that G4S does not violate any national or international law.

■ In addition to the legal opinion, we have been conducting a review of our business in the region against our own Business Ethics Policy and have sought input from a number of sources including customers and a number of socially responsible investment groups such as GES Investment Services.

After a thorough review, we have concluded that a number of our contracts with private enterprises in the area for traditional security and alarm monitoring services are not discriminatory or controversial and in fact help to provide safety and security for the general public no matter what their background.

However, we have also concluded that to ensure that our business practices remain in line with our own Business Ethics Policy, we will aim to exit a number of contracts which involve the servicing of security equipment at the barrier checkpoints, prisons and police stations in the West Bank.

We will aim to complete this exit as soon as possible, but also recognise that we have contractual obligations to our customers which we must take into consideration.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken the time to engage with us on this issue and for their support in helping us to reach a satisfactory decision.

This statement attests to the ability of civil society to put pressure on commercial companies whose activities vio-

late human rights and international law. However, it is important to note that in this statement G4S does not declare that

they will stop all of their occupation-related activities. Most importantly, provided that G4S does withdraw from its contracts to provide security equipment to Israeli facilities in the West Bank, the company will still continue providing their equipment to Israeli prisons which

hold Palestinian political prisoners inside Israel (see sections 2.1.2-2.1.4 above). Similarly, the company also did not state that it will stop providing security services and personnel to businesses in West Bank Israeli settlements (see section 2.3).