



Caterpillar, Inc. continues to sell its D9 and D10 bulldozers to Israel where they are militarized and used to bulldoze homes, uproot olive trees, build the Apartheid Wall, and kill civilians. In addition to constituting violations of international law, of the US Arms Export Control Act and of its own corporate code of conduct, Caterpillar is playing a special role in strengthening Israeli Apartheid and perpetuating injustice against Palestinians.

Caterpillar Destroys Palestine, Builds Apartheid

STRENGTHENING APARTHEID POLICIES IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

“APARTHEID” ACCURATELY DESCRIBES ISRAELI POLICIES

The UN defines the crime of apartheid as “inhuman acts” designed to impose racial segregation and discrimination on a targeted group, including creating separate reserves or ghettos for the members of the racial group or groups and the expropriation of landed property. Notwithstanding the historical and political differences between South African and Israeli discriminatory practices, one of the most significant parallels exists between the two cases—the control of land. South African legislation such as the Group Areas Act reserved 87 percent of the

land for the minority white population and confined Black workers to urban townships, labor camps or distant “bantustans.” Their movement was controlled through a pass

7 percent of the land in 1948, claimed control of 78 percent of historic Palestine for the State of Israel. Within Israel proper, land expropriated from

STOP CATERPILLAR



END THE OCCUPATION

US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION

The US Campaign is a diverse coalition of over 200 groups working for freedom from occupation and equal rights for all by challenging US policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Campaign is based on human rights and international law, providing a non-sectarian framework for everyone who supports its *Call to Action*. Its strategy is to inform, educate, and mobilize the public so as to change the US role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

system, similar to that used to monitor the movement of Palestinians.

In Palestine, the Zionist goal of controlling as much land as possible without Palestinians led to the large-scale expulsions of 1947-48 and 1967. Jews, only a third of the overall population legally owning approximately

Palestinians was reserved for the exclusive use of Jews — not for all Israeli citizens. Today, 92 percent of Israel’s land is defined as the “inalienable property of the Jewish people.” Jews anywhere in the world have a “right to return” and claim citizenship, while Palestinians who were expelled from their

homes are denied the “right to return” guaranteed by international law.

OCCUPATION AS A SYMPTOM OF APARTHEID

Apartheid is the framework which refers to the institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians within Israel Proper and the Occupied Territories. Military occupation in East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank is one manifestation of Israel’s Apartheid policies.

For 40 years, Israel has built settlements, available only for Jewish Israelis, and now the West Bank’s Apartheid Wall, all on huge swathes of stolen Palestinian land. There is a dual legal system in the territories. Palestinians who live in the West Bank are controlled by Israeli military law; the 220,000 Israeli settlers there are governed by Israeli civil laws. In occupied East Jerusalem, Palestinians are only considered “residents” who can vote in municipal, but not national elections; the 200,000 Israeli settlers in occupied East Jerusalem, like the West Bank settlers, are citizens of Israel, with the right to vote, run for office, and seek redress in Israeli courts. Israeli military authorities control virtually all the land and water of the West Bank, and keep the entire Gaza Strip in a permanent state of siege. Palestinians under occupation meanwhile live completely separate lives from the Israeli settlers in the same territories.

HOW CAT HELPS TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THIS SYSTEM

Caterpillar bulldozers play a crucial role in building and strengthening Apartheid in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

HOME DEMOLITIONS

Unlike other military equipment which Israel might argue they use for legitimate self-defense, CAT equipment is almost exclusively used to harm Palestinian civilians and serve Jewish Israelis. Israeli Human Rights group Beit Selem found that Israel has destroyed over 15,000 Palestinian homes since 1967, 99% of which had nothing to do with Palestinian armed resistance. In 25 percent of the cases, Israel claimed

the destroyed houses were built without permits. Since Israel generally refuses to issue construction permits to Palestinians, most Palestinian homes are necessarily built without permits. Some 60 percent of the demolitions were carried out as part of Israeli “clearance operations”—i.e., simply to remove Palestinian homes from land Israel wanted, for whatever purpose. The vast majority of these homes have been destroyed with bulldozers supplied to Israel by Caterpillar.

EXPROPRIATING LAND: DESTROYING AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Olive trees, which have grown in the Holy Land since time immemorial, are the foundation of the Palestinian economy and a symbol of the Palestinian people’s attachment to their land. They are also a prime target of the Israeli Army, which regularly uproot them to punish and humiliate their Palestinian owners or to clear confiscated from Palestinians for illegal settlements, Jewish-only roads, as well as the Israeli military bases, checkpoints, guard towers, fences and walls that brutally maintain this strict segregation. No one knows exactly how many trees the Israelis have destroyed, but one respected Palestinian organization put the figure at 1,085,063—just for the period between Sept. 2000 and April 2005.

APARTHEID WALL

Caterpillar equipment has also played a central role in clearing land for the 450-mile-long Wall Israel is building through the West Bank. Though justified as protection for Israeli citizens, less than 20 percent of it is actually on the “Green Line,” which most of the world recognizes as Israel’s border; in most places the route of the Wall cuts deeply into Palestinian land, where it cuts off farmers from their groves and fields, students and teachers from their schools, and the sick and elderly from medical care.

KILLING CIVILIANS

Caterpillar bulldozers don’t just destroy property in Palestine—they also kill people. In April 2002, seven Palestinian civilians, including an 85-year-old

DIVEST FROM AND BOYCOTT CAT

International divestment played a key role in ending Apartheid in South Africa, and it began by targeting specific companies that played a unique role in furthering the oppression of black South Africans. Palestinians have called for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against companies that profit from Israeli occupation and apartheid, and CAT has been a target of this call since 2003.

If and when CAT bends to international pressure and ceases sales to Israel, it will send a strong message to other companies that profiting from apartheid is not acceptable. It would also make it more difficult for Israel to get new equipment and parts it needs to continue destroying Palestine, and building Apartheid.

man, a pregnant woman, and children aged 4, 7, and 9, were killed when Israel used Caterpillar bulldozers to demolish their family home and they were not given sufficient time to leave. In 2003 a Caterpillar bulldozer ran over and killed Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old American peace activist who was trying to protect a Palestinian home from destruction.