

Is Wiltshire Council Involved in the Genocide of the Palestinians?



The State of Israel has been engaged in a genocidal war against the civilian population of Gaza for over 20 months. Gaza is one of the most densely populated areas on earth but is no bigger than the Salisbury Plain Training Area. Tens of thousands of people have been massacred including women and children. Over 17,400 children are confirmed dead¹, with many more under the rubble or unaccounted for. Presently Gaza is under siege with humanitarian aid prevented from entering and hundreds are being murdered daily. More recent data suggests that upto 377,000 Palestinians have been killed². This number is equivalent to 50% of the population of Wiltshire and Swindon.

Israel is under investigation by the International Court of Justice for the crime of genocide. It's prime minister and former defence minister have arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court. It's a horrific situation which has to stop.

Are our local councils involved? The Wiltshire Pension Fund (WPF) has nearly £6million investment in a number of businesses who are directly involved in Israel's massacres. The list includes weapons manufacturers, companies providing intelligence services and those stealing energy from colonised lands.

WPF invests money deducted from employees as their pension contributions in order to provide a defined benefit scheme for its members. There are tens of thousands of members of this scheme.

Some of WPF's investments are part of a pooled investment scheme involving other pension funds. In WPF's case, the pooled investment firm is Brunel Pension Partnership Limited.

We believe that WPF's investments need to be critically evaluated in the light of the present crisis in the Middle East. WPF should not be investing in companies which are profiting from war crimes. It is against WPF's own strategic goals of responsible ownership and stewardship and a commitment to minimise negative impacts on society. WPF has made significant efforts in finding environmentally sustainable investments. Its needs to urgently divest from businesses which are profiting from killing people.

In the longer term WPF will have to assess the role of Google, Microsoft, and Amazon as key providers of services to the Israeli regime. All three have provided assistance to the Israeli Occupation Forces in providing AI assistance in targeting civilians in Palestine and other numerous human rights violations. WPF has over £126m invested in all three. However, WPF also has investments in specific companies which are involved in the physical destruction in Gaza and the West Bank.

We have identified 10 companies that we suggest WPF should urgently divest from, which totals about £6m of investment directly involved in producing weapons or invested in Israeli companies. This is the A-List of divestment targets and is relatively painless for WPF to insist upon.

A LIST DIVESTMENT TARGETS

BAE Systems PLC

£736,835 Invested by WPF

The world's seventh largest weapons manufacturer, U.K. company BAE Systems manufactures the M109

1 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/3/18/gaza-tracker>

2 <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi%3A10.7910%2FDVN%2FQB75LB>

howitzer, a 155mm mobile artillery system that the Israeli military has been using extensively, firing tens of thousands of 155mm shells into the Gaza Strip. Some of these shells are white phosphorus bombs, the use of which is forbidden in densely populated civilian areas and potentially amounts to a war crime.

Israel's M109 were made by BAE in the U.S. decades ago and went through multiple rounds of improvements in Israel. They are slated to gradually be replaced by the 155mm Ro'em/Sigma, "the world's first fully automatic howitzer," made in Israel by Elbit Systems. BAE also manufactures electronic missile launching kits and other components for Israel's F-15, F-16, and F-35 fighter jets, which the Israeli Air Force has used extensively in all of its attacks on Gaza.

GE Aerospace

£50,517 Invested by WPF

The world's 31st largest weapons manufacturer, General Electric manufactures T700 Turboshaft engines for Boeing's Apache helicopters. General Electric engines, electric power and mechanical systems, and components are integrated into the Israeli military's fighter jets, attack helicopters, and surveillance aircraft.

For years, weapons comprised of these components have repeatedly been used against Palestinian civilians, resulting in numerous casualties as well as mass destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and water and electric systems. These attacks include war crimes that Israel has committed during several major military offensives against the Gaza Strip, which has been illegally blockaded since 2007

Honeywell International Inc

£2,079,555 Invested by WPF

The company's HG1700 IMU is described as "the heart" of Boeing's **Joint Direct Attack Munitions** (JDAM) kits, which turn unguided bombs into GPS-guided munitions. Israel use Boeing's JDAM kits extensively, including in all its massive attacks on the Gaza Strip and elsewhere in the last couple of decades, including the 2023–2024 genocidal attacks on Gaza.

Honeywell's HG1930 IMU is similarly an integral part of Boeing's GBU-39 Small Diameter Bombs. These have become Israel's "weapon of choice" in its 2023–2024 genocidal attacks on Gaza, following pressure by the U.S. government to prioritize their use over that of larger bombs.

While these components typically leave no trace at the site of a bombing, one Honeywell component was found intact following a June 6, 2024, Israeli airstrike on the U.N.-run al-Sardi school in central Gaza. The attack killed at least 40 Palestinians, including 14 children, and wounded at least 74 others. The component was identified as a Honeywell HG1930 IMU, and its markings indicate that it was manufactured in 2022.

L3Harris Technologies Inc

£542,114 Invested by WPF

L3Harris components are integrated into multiple weapon systems used by the Israeli military, including Israel's air-to-ground bombs as well as its main warplanes, battle tanks, and warships. These weapons have been used repeatedly in attacks on densely populated civilian areas, resulting in thousands of civilian casualties in Gaza and Lebanon, in what at times amounts to war crimes.

L3Harris makes components for the **Joint Direct Attack Munitions** (JDAM) guidance kit, a Boeing product which converts unguided air-to-ground bombs into precision "smart" bombs. In 2012, L3 subsidiary KDI Precision Products participated in a \$647 million contract to sell at least 11,500 JDAM bomb fuses to Israel through the U.S. foreign military sales program.

Israel has repeatedly used JDAM-guided bombs against civilians in Gaza. During Israel's 2014 assault on Gaza, these bombs killed at least 166 people, including 89 children, in what the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted as potential war crimes.

During Israel's May 2021 assault on Gaza, JDAM-guided bombs were one of the main weapons used, and were directly linked to the killing of at least 44 civilians in the bombing of al-Wahda street. Israel also used JDAM-guided bombs to destroy a high-rise that housed several media headquarters, including the offices of the Associated Press and Al Jazeera, in addition to residential apartments. Several of Israel's attacks during this assault amounted to war crimes according to Human Rights Watch.

L3Harris claims to be one of the top five suppliers for Lockheed Martin's F-35 aircraft, one of Israel's primary warplanes. The F-35 was used for the first time in a major assault on Gaza in May 2021, in which Israeli airstrikes were the principal cause of killing. L3Harris manufactures over 1600 components for each F-35 plane, including weapon release systems

Motorola Solutions Inc

£510,135 Invested by WPF

Motorola Solutions' surveillance equipment has been installed in illegal Israeli settlements and along the separation wall in the occupied West Bank, in Gaza, and at Israeli military bases. In 2005, Israel's Ministry of Defense (IMOD) awarded the company a contract to provide a "virtual fence system," called the MotoEagle Wide Area Surveillance System, to dozens of illegal settlements. The system includes radars and cameras that can detect movement outside settlements. It was installed as part of Israel's "Special Security Area" plan, under which Palestinians are prevented access to areas around certain illegal settlements, even if it is their land. In some cases, Motorola's radar stations were erected on privately owned Palestinian land. The MotoEagle system is installed in at least 25 settlements as of 2016, according to Who Profits.

In addition to its business in the occupied Palestinian territory, Motorola Solutions is the sole supplier of the Israeli military's 4G cellular network, according to Who Profits. In 2014, it developed a customized encrypted cellular communication system for Israel's security forces. In 2014, Motorola signed a 15-year, \$100 million contract with the Israeli Defence Ministry for developing an encrypted smartphone system for the Israeli military and security forces. Half of this contract is funded using the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. Based on Motorola's Lex M20 smartphone, the system became operational in 2016 and works on a private LTE (4G) cellular network provided by Motorola, in partnership with Ericsson and Partner Communications. It replaced the Israeli military's Mountain Rose communications system, which was also provided by Motorola since 2002.

Northrop Grumman Corp

£625,180 Invested by WPF

Northrop Grumman Corp, headquartered in the USA, designs, manufactures, and sells weapons systems, including missiles and guided projectiles, electronic warfare systems, ammunition, military aviation systems, cybersecurity systems, and surveillance technologies. As of 2022, it is the third-largest military contractor in the world.

Northrop Grumman supplies the Israeli military with a wide variety of weapons, including various missile systems. The company's technologies are also integrated into Israel's main weapon systems, including its fighter jets, missile ships, and trainer aircraft. These weapons are often gifted to Israel through the U.S. government's Foreign Military Financing program.

For years, these weapons have repeatedly been used against Palestinian civilians, resulting in numerous casualties as well as mass destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and water and electric systems. These attacks include war crimes that Israel has committed during several major military offensives against the Gaza Strip, which has been illegally blockaded since 2007:

Northrop Grumman "plays a critical role" in developing and manufacturing components for Lockheed Martin's F-35 warplane and has an agreement with Israel's largest military contractor, Elbit Systems, to provide components for the Israeli Air Force's F-35 aircraft.

Since the early 1980s, Northrop Grumman has supplied the Israeli Navy with Sa'ar 5 Class corvettes, a heavily armed missile ship. The Israeli Navy routinely uses these ships to enforce Israel's illegal naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. A Sa'ar 5 missile ship was also used by the Israeli Navy during its 2010 assault on the *Mavi Marmara*—or Free Gaza Flotilla—an unarmed Turkish aid ship that was attempting to deliver supplies to Gaza. In what the International Criminal Court has labeled as war crimes, Israeli commandos raided the ship and killed nine activists.

Palantir Technologies

£109,649 Invested by WPF

CEO Alex Karp has been a vocal supporter of Israel. In November 2023, he stated, "I am proud that we are supporting Israel in every way we can."

After October 2023, Palantir has provided Israel with multiple AI-powered data analytics tools for military and intelligence purposes.

In January 2024, Palantir held its board meeting in Israel and entered into a "strategic partnership" with Israel's Ministry of Defense to help Israel's "war effort."

In October 2024, Norway's largest asset manager, Storebrand, divested its Palantir shares, worth \$24 million, due to concerns that Palantir's work for Israel might implicate Storebrand in violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.

Textron Inc

£96,426 Invested by WPF

A US-based military contractor known for its Bell, Beechcraft, Cessna, and Hawker aircraft brands.

The Israeli Air Force 100 Squadron, which has supported Israel's military ground troops in Gaza, uses multiple Textron aircraft, including the Beechcraft King Air, Queen Air, RC12-D Guardrail, and Bonanza A-36.

Enlight Renewable Energy Ltd

£47,328 Invested by WPF

Israel based Enlight is in the solar energy business exploiting the resources and land of impoverished countries and communities to generate energy for their own use and benefit. As an Israeli business it will pay taxes to the Israeli government.

Enlight is been involved in projects that reinforce the Israeli occupation and apartheid. Enlight has two wind farm projects in the occupied and annexed Golan Heights and is developing another wind energy project in the northern part of the Naqab desert and the southern part of the occupied West Bank, in partnership with several illegal Israeli settlements.

NICE LTD

£45,377 Invested by WPF

NICE Ltd. (Neptune Intelligence Computer Engineering) is an Israeli surveillance technology company that specializes in phone, video, and internet monitoring. The company serves corporate and government clients in over 150 countries and has several U.S.-based subsidiaries, including NICE Systems Inc., headquartered in Hoboken, N.J. As an Israeli business it will pay taxes to the Israeli government.

NICE markets and sells voice recording and video surveillance tools. It also provides analytical software used to analyse and organize mass amounts of recorded data.

General Dynamics Corp

£996,567 Invested by WPF

The world's sixth largest weapons manufacturer, General Dynamics, supplies Israel with artillery ammunition and bombs for attack jets used in Israel's assault on Gaza.

General Dynamics is the only company in the U.S. that makes the metal bodies for the MK-80 bomb series, one of the primary aerial munitions Israel has used to bomb Gaza. The Israeli Air Force extensively uses 500-pound MK-82/BLU-111 bombs, 1,000-pound MK-83/BLU-110 bomb, and 2,000-lbs MK-84/BLU-109 bomb. Different designations (MK vs. BLU) indicate a different explosive filling. When converted into guided munitions using Boeing's JDAM kits (see above), these bombs' designation changes to GBU-38 (500 pounds), GBU-32 (1,000 pounds) or GBU-31 (2,000 pounds).

The largest of this bomb series, the 2,000-pound MK-84/BLU-109/GBU-31 bomb, is notorious for the damage it creates, and cannot be used in densely-populated urban areas without causing massive civilian casualties. The explosion of a 2,000-pound bomb means "instant death" for people within 100 feet, with lethal fragments extending for up to 1,200 feet. According to a CNN analysis, Israel dropped more than 500 such bombs in the Northern Gaza Strip until Nov. 6. These include, for example, the Nov. 1 bombing of Jabalia refugee camp, which killed hundreds of Palestinian civilians and could amount to a war crime, according to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

According to a New York Times analysis, by mid-November, Israel dropped over 208 2,000-pound bombs on the Southern Gaza Strip, in areas "where Israel had ordered civilians to move for safety." This includes, for example, an Oct. 10 bombing that killed 24 people of the al-Najjar family and potentially an Oct. 22 bombing that killed 19 people of the Abu Mu'eileq, both in Deir al-Balah. Amnesty International called both attacks unlawful air strikes on homes full of civilians "that could amount to a war crime."

Between Oct. 7 and Dec. 21, the U.S. reportedly sent Israel more than 5,000 MK-84 bombs. On March 29, it was reported that the U.S. had "quietly authorized" fulfilling a number of older Israeli munitions orders, including more than 1,800 MK84 2,000-pound bombs and 500 MK82 500-pound bombs. In early May, the U.S. government reportedly decided to hold up this shipment to pressure Israel not to conduct an attack on Rafah.

General Dynamics is also the only company in the U.S. that makes 155mm caliber artillery shells, which have been used extensively to attack Gaza. One source reported that, by Nov. 25, one Israeli brigade fired some 10,000 such shells using BAE's M109 howitzer.

155mm shells have been part of the U.S.'s recent weapons shipments to Israel. The U.S. is planning to send "tens of thousands of 155mm artillery shells that had been destined for Ukraine" to Israel. Their use by Israel, according to Oxfam, is "virtually assured to be indiscriminate, unlawful, and devastating to civilians in Gaza." On Nov. 13, more than 30 organizations issued a letter opposing the transfer.

On an Oct. 25 call with investors, General Dynamics CFO, Jason Aiken, said, "I think if you look at the incremental demand potential coming out of [the attacks on Gaza], the biggest one to highlight and that really sticks out is probably on the artillery side."

NOTES ON DATA

Data on companies is drawn from two primary sources, the American Friends Services Committee pages which are held at <https://afsc.org/> and Who Profits <https://www.whoprofits.org/>

Wiltshire Pension Fund provides information on its management, investment policies at <https://www.wiltshirepensionfund.org.uk/> and provides a breakdown of its investment holdings at <https://wiltshirepensionfund.org.uk/Fund-Investment-Holdings>. Information is correct as at the Q4 2024 spreadsheet provided in January 2025.

