



**Israelis and Palestinians.
Two Peoples, One Future.
www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org**

**Sacramento Region Chapter
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August 10, 2014

Mayor Johnson
Sacramento City Council
City Hall
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mayor Johnson and Sacramento City Council members:

Representing the Sacramento chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, I write also on behalf of the 19 other local grassroots organizations and numerous individuals who make up the Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights.

It has come to our attention that Item 16 on Tuesday's City Council agenda is an agreement to purchase portable and mobile radio equipment from Motorola Solutions (MS) through the county's existing agreement with the corporation. We urge the city of Sacramento to reject this proposal and to seek alternative products in light of MS's complicity in flagrant violation of human rights and international law.

MS has over the past several years become a prime object of boycotts and divestment campaigns by human rights advocates due to its provision of surveillance systems around illegal Israeli settlements, checkpoints and military bases in the occupied West Bank. It also supplies communications systems to Israel's military, which is currently under intense worldwide criticism for mass killing of civilians and destruction of property and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. Attached please find a fact sheet with more detail from the Israeli human rights NGO, Who Profits? It is available online at <http://whoprofits.org/company/motorola-solutions-israel>.

According to the pre-eminent international human rights organizations Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, plus Israel's B'Tselem, Israel's government and military actions constitute war crimes, and possibly even more serious crimes against humanity, including genocide. If UN and other investigations in the coming months lead to such conclusions, as we believe they must, then corporations complicit in such grave offenses could be found liable, under an evolving set of international law provisions, such as the UN Global Compact and the UN Guiding Principles on Businesses and Human Rights. In late 2012, the (now outgoing) UN special rapporteur for human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, Professor Richard Falk, named MS as one of 13 companies severely complicit with Israel's violations and called on governments to boycott them until they cease. "Businesses should not breach international humanitarian law provisions. Nor should they be complicit in any breaches. If they do, they may be subject to criminal or civil liability. And this liability can be extended to individual employees of such businesses," Falk wrote in his report.

Ultimately, public agencies that contract with such corporations while aware of their severe

violations of international law could also be found responsible.

For all these reasons, MS is one of six corporations spotlighted for divestment in the “We Divest” campaign (www.wedivest.org), initiated several years ago by Jewish Voice for Peace and since joined by several major national partners. It has focused on the huge pension fund TIAA-CREF, which has been partially responsive. A huge moral victory was achieved this summer when the Presbyterian Church USA voted at its General Assembly to divest its pension fund from stock in three of the recognized worst offenders as far as complicity with Israel’s occupation is concerned. One of the three is Motorola Solutions.

MS has been utterly unresponsive to concerted pressure by human rights and faith-based organizations – the Presbyterians had tried persuasion through “engagement” for years before voting to divest. It is not only the right thing to do for Sacramento to take a moral stand by refraining from contracting with a corporation that is in flagrant violation of human rights. It will also avoid the risk of doing business with a company that could soon face serious financial trouble due to the escalating worldwide campaign against its behavior.

Therefore, we urge City Council to follow the lead of churches and other ethical investors by taking the ethical and fiscally responsible decision to reject contracting with Motorola Solutions and to work with Sacramento County to find alternative products for its communications equipment needs.

Please feel free to contact us at the above number if we can answer any questions or provide more information.

Again, we ask that our city not do business with Motorola Solutions. Please contact us with the action you will be taking.

Sincerely,

Jewish Voice Chapter, Sacramento Region Chapter