



Note Verbale

The Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, and has the honor to submit the following four working papers for consideration during the Working Group Meeting for CSP10:

1. Working Paper on Gender-Based Violence.
2. Working Paper on the Role of Industry in Responsible Arms Trade.
3. Working Paper on the Upholding Legal Obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty: The Case of the Palestinian People.
4. Working Paper on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) - Ad Hoc Discussions on Current and Emerging Implementation Issues - The Case of the Palestinian People.

Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, the assurances of its highest considerations.



Geneva, 23 Feb 2024



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates

Working paper on the role of industry in responsible arms trade

During (CSP9), the role of industry in responsible international arms transfers was a priority theme. States Parties were encouraged to ensure that industry and private sector entities conduct their business in line with the object and purpose of the ATT. Today, as we discuss the role of industry, we cannot turn a blind eye to the ongoing brutal aggression on Gaza.

Since October the 7th, Israel, the occupying power, has unleashed unprecedented aerial and ground attacks on Gaza resulting in the loss of tens of thousands of lives—men, women, children, journalists, patients, doctors, UN staff, the elderly—no one too small, too old or too sick to be spared--with the majority of the Gaza population displaced.

The staggering scale of destruction and war crimes witnessed in Gaza would not have been possible without the continued flow of weapons from several arms industrial companies. There are too many companies to list, but we will give a few examples:

Caterpillar has long supplied Israel, the occupying power, with the D9 armored bulldozer, which the Israeli occupation forces used in demolishing homes, infrastructure and clearing roads in its invasion on Gaza.

BAE, a UK-based company ranked as the world's seventh-largest manufacturer, produces the M109 howitzer, extensively used by Israeli forces to fire tens of thousands of shells, including those containing white phosphorus, forbidden for use in densely populated civilian areas, and potentially constituting war crimes. BAE also manufactures electronic missile launching kits and other components for Israel's F-15, F-16, and F-35 fighter jets, extensively used by the Israeli occupation forces in attacks on Gaza.

Following October 7th, **Boeing** expedited the delivery of 1,000 smart bombs and an additional 1,800 JDAM kits to Israel. Subsequently, the Israeli occupation forces conducted airstrikes using bombs equipped with these kits, resulting in what Amnesty International has labeled as "unlawful air strikes" on civilian homes in Gaza Strip.



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Lockheed Martin, the world's largest weapons manufacturer, supplies Israel, the occupying power, with F-16 and F-35 fighter jets, extensively utilized in the bombing of Gaza. In addition to these aircraft, Lockheed Martin manufactures a wide range of munitions and rocket launching systems used by Israeli forces during their aggression against Gaza. Notably, between October 7th and November 14th, approximately 2000 Hellfire missiles were delivered to Israel. On November 9th, an Israeli missile struck journalists near Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. It was reported that the missile used was a Lockheed Martin-made Hellfire R9X missile, which instead of exploding, it shreds its target using blades.

RTX, the world's second largest weapons manufacturer, supplies Israel with guided air-to-surface missiles for its F-16 fighter jets, as well as cluster bombs and bunker busters, which have been used against Gaza's civilian population and infrastructure.

General Dynamics, the world's sixth largest weapons manufacturer, supplies Israel with ammunition and bombs for attack jets used in Israel's assault on Gaza. Furthermore, General Dynamics is the only company in the U.S. that makes the metal bodies of the MK-80 bomb series, the primary weapon type Israeli occupying power uses to bomb Gaza.

Over the past four and a half months, Israel has also been using its killing spree as a business opportunity to test new weapons on the Palestinian civilians in Gaza. This includes the so-called "Iron Sting bomb" developed by Elbit Systems, "Spark drone" developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and its subsidiary Aeronautics, as well as AI-powered weapons systems. A number of eyewitnesses in Gaza have described seeing wounds inflicted by "unusual new weapons". This is no surprise. Israel is known to experiment its weapons on occupied Palestinians, to then market them as "battle-tested" in order to then sell them to countries across the globe for profit. This is not only morally repugnant, but also illegal and States have a legal obligation not import arms that have been tested in this way. Indeed, when States import Israeli arms, they are encouraging it to keep bombing Palestinian civilians and persist in its unlawful practices.

The complicity of these companies in human rights violations and potentially in international crimes, including war crimes and genocide, underscores the urgent need



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for enhanced accountability in the arms trade industry. States must take decisive action to ensure that industry practices align with international law and humanitarian principles, preventing further harm to civilian populations and upholding the objectives of the ATT.

Thank you