

Flash Report

**In Deep Water:
More Walls to Strangle Gaza**

December 2018

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Introduction

In this update, Who Profits investigates recent plans by the Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMOD) to build an additional hi-tech separation wall around the besieged Gaza Strip, to be completed in 2019. The update will focus on the role of the private sector, exposing some of the private corporations that amass profits as well as marketable experience from strengthening the Israeli apparatus of control over Gazans. These include four Israeli construction companies (Danya Cebus, Olizki Infrastructure, Solel Boneh, and Ariel Gabay Foundation) and the Israeli private manufacturer of weapons, Elbit Systems, a main provider to the IMOD. Research for this update was conducted through desk research and Freedom of Information requests to the IMOD. Who Profits requested a response from all the companies profiled in this flash report. Only Olizki Infrastructure replied to Who Profits' letter; the response is annexed to this report. All of the information on the companies involved is on file with Who Profits, and full company profiles can be found in the Annex section.

Gaza in Context

As a result of the Israeli occupation of Gaza in 1967, and the brutal blockade it has imposed since 2007, two million Palestinians have been living under inhumane conditions, deprived of their most basic rights, including the rights to health, work and education, and subjected to repeated military assaults. While electricity and water are considered necessities for any human being, both are denied to Palestinians in the besieged Gaza, where Israel controls every aspect of life. Gazans have access to only 4 hours of electricity per day, and 96% of the water in the taps is undrinkable.¹

1 ["11 Essential Facts about the Gaza Strip"](#).

Israel has control over all transfer of goods to Gaza, including food, medicine, fuel, construction material and more, and can ban and restrict any transfer or access of goods at any given time, thus keeping the Palestinians in Gaza in a perpetual humanitarian crisis. In addition, the restrictions on movement target people, who can be denied exit permits to leave the Strip for any purpose. These restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement are enforced through two main checkpoints: Erez (controlled by Israel), and Rafah (controlled by Egypt). Another checkpoint, Kerem Shalom, is a commercial crossing fully controlled by Israel. Along with these checkpoints, the new separation wall forms an integral part of Israel's enclosure apparatus around Gaza, destroying its economy and imprisoning its population.

The economic strangulation of Gaza is routinely complemented by Israeli military attacks that result in the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinians each time, and the destruction of homes and hospitals. Since March 2018, Palestinian civilians participating in the "Great March of Return"² have been met with lethal force by the Israeli occupying power, leading to killing of more than 150 and the injury of thousands.³ Israeli and multinational companies are constantly involved in these attacks through the provision of military equipment to the Israeli army. (See Who Profits' profiles of [Actuonix Motion Devices](#) and [DaJiang Innovation Technology](#)).

Gisha-Legal Center for Freedom of Movement. www.gisha.org May 2018.

2 The march started on March 30, 2018, when Palestinians in Gaza called for their right of return to their Palestinian villages, and protested against the blockade on the strip.

3 ["Gaza: Fears of Further Bloodshed as Israel Adopts 'Zero Tolerance' Policy"](#). Amnesty International www.amnesty.org 19 October 2018



Ariel Gabay equipment at the construction site. Photo: Who Profits. August 2018

Additional Barrier around Gaza: No Room to Breathe

In addition to the various checkpoints, the first separation wall around Gaza was built during the year 1994, and complemented in 2005 by an additional section that separates Gaza from Egypt. In 2016, in order to reach a degree of maximum control and to level up the military system around Gaza, the IMOD announced its new plan to build an additional separation wall, this time deepening the impact and control underwater. The actual construction of the wall started in 2017 and is expected to be finished in 2019.⁴ This new separation wall is composed of a six-meter aboveground fence, a 10-meter underground concrete wall, an underwater wall that is being constructed close to the border with Gaza.⁵ This barrier, estimated at 850 million USD

(3 billion NIS), is considered to be the first of its kind in the world, stretching over 60 kilometers and equipped with smart surveillance systems.⁵ According to available publications, Israeli military officials have claimed that “the new technological measures form a step forward not only in defense capabilities but also in the ability to gather information on the enemy on the Palestinian side.”⁶

The fact that this wall is the first of its kind in size and capabilities enables companies to create new marketable technologies. This is not the first time Gaza has been turned into a laboratory for the Israeli occupation and different corporations. The first separation wall built around Gaza became a prototype for other separation walls built by Israel, such as the separation wall in the West Bank that fragments entire Palestinian communities, enables the annexation of more lands and

4 [“Underground Barrier with Gaza to Extend to Sea”](#). The Jerusalem Post www.jpost.com, 10 August 2017

5 [“IDF Plans for an Obstacle in Gaza: Sensors and an Underground Wall”](#). (Hebrew) Ha’aretz. www.haaretz.com, 10 August 2017.

6 [“Expediting Construction Work on Strategic Obstacle in Gaza”](#). (Hebrew) www.walla.co.il 16 June 2018

suffocates the Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. As Israel gains power and control over the Palestinian population, different companies are taking advantage of the new marketable opportunities to generate more profits. One example is the tunnel detection system developed by Elbit Systems that is meant to intensify the siege on Gaza. In cooperation with the Israeli army, Elbit developed this technology and is urging the Israeli government to grant permission to export it. Another example is Elbit's Hermes 900 drones,⁷ that were used during the assault on Gaza in 2014. According to press reports, these drones were purchased by both the Swiss government⁸ and the Brazilian government, which uses the drones to suppress street protests,⁹ (see Who Profit's profile on [Elbit Systems](#)). The "Iron Dome" anti-rocket system, that enhances Israel's military capabilities, was developed during the assault on Gaza in 2012, and is exhibited in international arms fairs for the purpose of finding potential customers.¹⁰

Profiting from Strangulation

Through the construction of the new wall and with the help of local and multinational companies, Israel is intensifying its control over Gaza and the Palestinian people and is leaving no space for freedom.

Four Israeli companies are involved in the

7 ["IAF declares Hermes 900 drone fully operational"](#). Jeruslaem Post. [www.jpost.com](#) 24 August 2017

8 ["Israeli company wins \\$200m Swiss tender for drones"](#), Times of Israel [www.timesofisrael.com](#) 27 November 2015

9 ["Israel's Elbit System Wins Contract to Supply Brazil With Hermes 900 Drone"](#). Ha'aretz. [www.haaretz.com](#), 26 March 2014

10 ["Massive Israeli Presence at Singapore Airshow 2018. Israel Defense"](#), Israel Defense [www.israeldefense.co.il](#) 5 February 2018.

construction of the new separation wall: Solel Boneh, Ariel Gabay Foundation, Danya Cebus and Olizki Infrastructure. Solel Boneh, the operational arm of the public company Housing and Construction Corporation (Shikun & Binui), is involved in the construction of the barrier through its subsidiary Cementcal, in a contract valued at 220 million NIS. The company has also been involved in various construction projects in settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Another involved company, Ariel Gabay, is a private company that specializes in drilling and infrastructure. The third company, Danya Cebus, is involved in the construction of three sections of the wall, in a contract valued at 770 million NIS through its subsidiary Geo Danya. Danya Cebus, a subsidiary of the publicly traded Africa Israel Investments Ltd, is also involved in the occupation through construction works in settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The fourth company is Olizki Infrastructure, a private Israeli company which specializes in civil and marine engineering, open pit mining, and quarrying. The company responded to our letter by denying some of the claims and stating that "it is very proud of its engineering activity all over Israel, and sees great value in the building of the State of Israel and its economic advancement."¹¹ A Freedom of Information response received from the IMOD shows the involvement of a fifth construction company, Olenik Transportation, Earth Works and Road Construction, in the construction of the 170- meter long "breakwater" (the underwater part of the wall).¹²

The technological equipment on the new wall, that will be attached both to the fence and

11 For the full response, see the annex at the end of this report.

12 See response in the annex section.

to the concrete wall for detecting any underground movement, is manufactured by one of the main Israeli military manufacturers of defense electronics, the Israeli-based international company Elbit Systems. Elbit is deeply complicit in the Israeli occupation. It has been the main provider of the electronic detection fence system to the separation wall in the occupied West Bank, and as mentioned above, its Hermes 900 drone was used during the attack on Gaza in 2014, and the Skylark mini-UAV has been used in military campaigns in both Gaza and the West Bank. (See Who Profits' update on [Elbit Systems complicity in the assault on Gaza 2014](#)).

Photos published by the IMOD also reveal the involvement of international companies in providing equipment and heavy machinery that are being used for the implementation of the project. In one of the photos, three bulldozers are documented at the construction site of the underwater wall: a bulldozer manufactured by the multinational Japanese company, Hitachi; a bulldozer manufactured by the US multinational company Caterpillar; and a bulldozer manufactured by the South African-based company Bell Equipment.¹³ Another photo shows a bulldozer manufactured by the South Korean multinational company, Hyundai.¹⁴

Corporate Complicity

Shikun & Binui Solel Boneh Infrastructures

Profile: Shikun & Binui Solel Boneh Infrastructures is the operational arm of Shikun & Binui Ltd. in Israel. The company

¹³ ["Ministry of Defense Exposes: First Pictures of the Underwater Obstacle in Gaza"](#). (Hebrew) Mivzak live www.mivzaklive.co.il 5 August 2018

¹⁴ ["Watch: The Underwater Obstacle Between Israel and the Gaza Strip"](#) YNET. www.ynet.co.il 5 August 2018

operates in the fields of infrastructure and construction.

The Company was involved in construction works in Modiin Ilit, Ariel, Maaleh Adumim, Ramat Shlomo and Har Homa settlements. In 2003, Solel Boneh was involved in the construction of Road 90, one of Israel's largest roads, which goes through the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley region. The subsidiary was also involved in establishing the Merom Golan settlement, the first settlement built in the occupied Syrian Golan in 1974.

In 2015, the company was involved in building the National Police Academy in Beit Shemesh. In addition, in 1990, it was involved in the construction of the medical center in Ramle prison.

In 2017, Solel Boneh won an IMOD tender to build sections of a wall and an underground wall around the besieged Gaza Strip. The contract is valued at 220 million NIS. In 2018, it won another IMOD tender to re-build a military base (Emanuel Base) in the Naqab (Negev) region. The base is planned to be a high-tech "smart city" that serves 5,000 soldiers.

Ownership: The company is a fully owned subsidiary of the publicly traded Israeli company Housing and Construction Corporation (Shikun & Binui)

Directors: Yaron Krisi; Nir Zichlinski; Shnuel Segev Amit; Raz Tal Peretz; Moshe Lahmani; Meir Dottan

Revenues: 711.8 million USD in 2017

Traded in: Parent company publicly traded on Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

Subsidiaries: Solel Boneh – Cementcal of Shikun & Binui Group Ltd (100%)

Partners: the IMOD, the Israeli Ministry of Construction and Housing, the Israeli

National Roads Company, Derech Eretz

Global presence: The parent company and its different subsidiaries are active in the following countries: Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Czech Republic, Uganda, Canada, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Poland, USA, Guatemala, Columbia, Kenya

Head office: 1A Hayarden, Airport City 70100, Israel.

Website: www.sobindustry.shikunbinui.com

Ariel Gabay Foundation Ltd

Profile: A private Israeli company that specializes in drilling and infrastructure.

The company was contracted by the IMOD to carry out construction work for an underground wall being built around the besieged Gaza Strip.

In June 2018, WP team sent an FOI request to the IMOD, requesting the names of the companies that were contracted for the construction of the underground wall around Gaza. The ministry's response included "Ariel Gabay Foundation Ltd" as one of the contractors, as well as other companies.

Ownership: Ezra Gabay

Revenues: 400 million NIS in 2017

Subsidiaries: Ariel Gabay Drilling Ltd

Partners: Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection

Global presence: Germany

Head office: 21 Ha'arba'a St. Platinum Tower Tel-Aviv 64739, Israel

Website: www.arielgabay.co.il

Olizki Infrastructure Ltd

Profile: A private Israeli company specializing

in civil and marine engineering, open pit mining, environmental projects, quarrying, real estate development and land transportation.

In 2018, the company was contracted by the IMOD to build an underground wall around the besieged Gaza Strip.

In 2012, the company's machinery was documented transferring quarried earth from the tunneling of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Fast Train (A1) to an illegal construction site near the Nili settlement in the occupied West Bank. Mateh Binyamin regional council (a regional council of settlements in the oPt) and Israel Railways reached an agreement that the quarried earth would be used to level the valley below the Nili settlement and build a park. The designated site is a 30-dunam area, half of which is owned by residents of the Palestinian village of Shabtin.

Ownership: Olizki Mining (1990) Ltd owns 99% of the shares. The remaining 1% is held by Olizki Engineering Equipment Ltd.

Directors: Ilan Olizki; Malaachi Olizki; Oren Olizki; Erez Olizki; Aviram Amit

Revenues: 225 million NIS in 2017

Subsidiaries: Oniram Enterprise Ltd (50%); O.Y. Fable Site Ltd (50%); Trodol Inversions S.L; Base Foundation Ltd (87%); Olizki Maintenance Ltd (50.2%)

Partners: Clients include: The IMOD; Israel Land Authority; Shomron Regional Council; Jewish National Fund; Israel's Antiquities Authority; Israel Railways.

Global presence: Spain

Head office: 10 Hagana St. Or Yehuda, Israel

Website: www.olizki.com

Danya Cebus Smart Construction

A Public Israeli construction and infrastructure company owned by Africa



The entrance to the construction site of Danya Cebus. June 2018

Israel Investments. The company specializes in residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

Profile: The company has been involved in several construction projects in settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

In 1999, the company won a tender to build 72 housing units in the settlement neighborhood of Har Homa in occupied East Jerusalem. In 2004, the company won a tender to build 2,500 housing units in “Green Park” neighborhood, located in Modi’in Ilit settlement.

In October 2010, in an official letter to Who Profits, Danya Cebus’ parent company Africa-Israel stated: “Neither the company nor any of its subsidiaries and/or other companies controlled by the company are presently involved in or has any plans for future

involvement in development, construction or building of real estate in settlements in the West Bank.” However, the company soon after received a 78 million NIS contract to construct the C-Jerusalem project in the settlement neighborhood of Gilo in East Jerusalem. Danya Cebus was the project’s contractor. The C-Jerusalem project includes 121 housing units and its construction was completed in 2014.

In addition, the company is involved in building the “Nofei Hasela” neighborhood in the settlement of Ma’ale Adumim.

The company is a contractor with the Israeli military and the IMOD. Its military projects include the construction of “Kiryat Hatikshuv” in Be’er Sheva, which will be a “smart” army base operated by the Israeli army. The subsidiary Alom-Danya is involved

in conducting aluminum works in a military base in the Naqab (Negev) area.

Company subsidiary Geo Danya is involved in the construction of three sections of an underground wall around the besieged Gaza Strip under an IMOD contract valued at 770 million NIS.

Another subsidiary, Cebus Rimon is involved in the construction of a military training city. This subsidiary was also involved in the construction of the Tel Aviv Jerusalem Fast Train (A1) route, which crosses into the occupied West Bank in two sections.

Ownership: The company is fully owned by Africa Israel Investments Ltd, an Israeli company publicly traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

CEO: Ronen Ginzburg

Revenues: 4,226 million NIS in 2017

Traded in: Parent company publicly traded on Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

Subsidiaries: Cebus Rimon (100%), Africa Israel Residences, GEO Danya (50%), Danya Cebus Romania, Danya USA (100%), TMDC Constructions (45%), Yuvalim Manpower, Danya Manpower Ltd, Alom-Danya (100%)

Partners: Clients include: the IMOD; the Israeli President's Office; the Israeli Population and Immigration Authority; Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection.

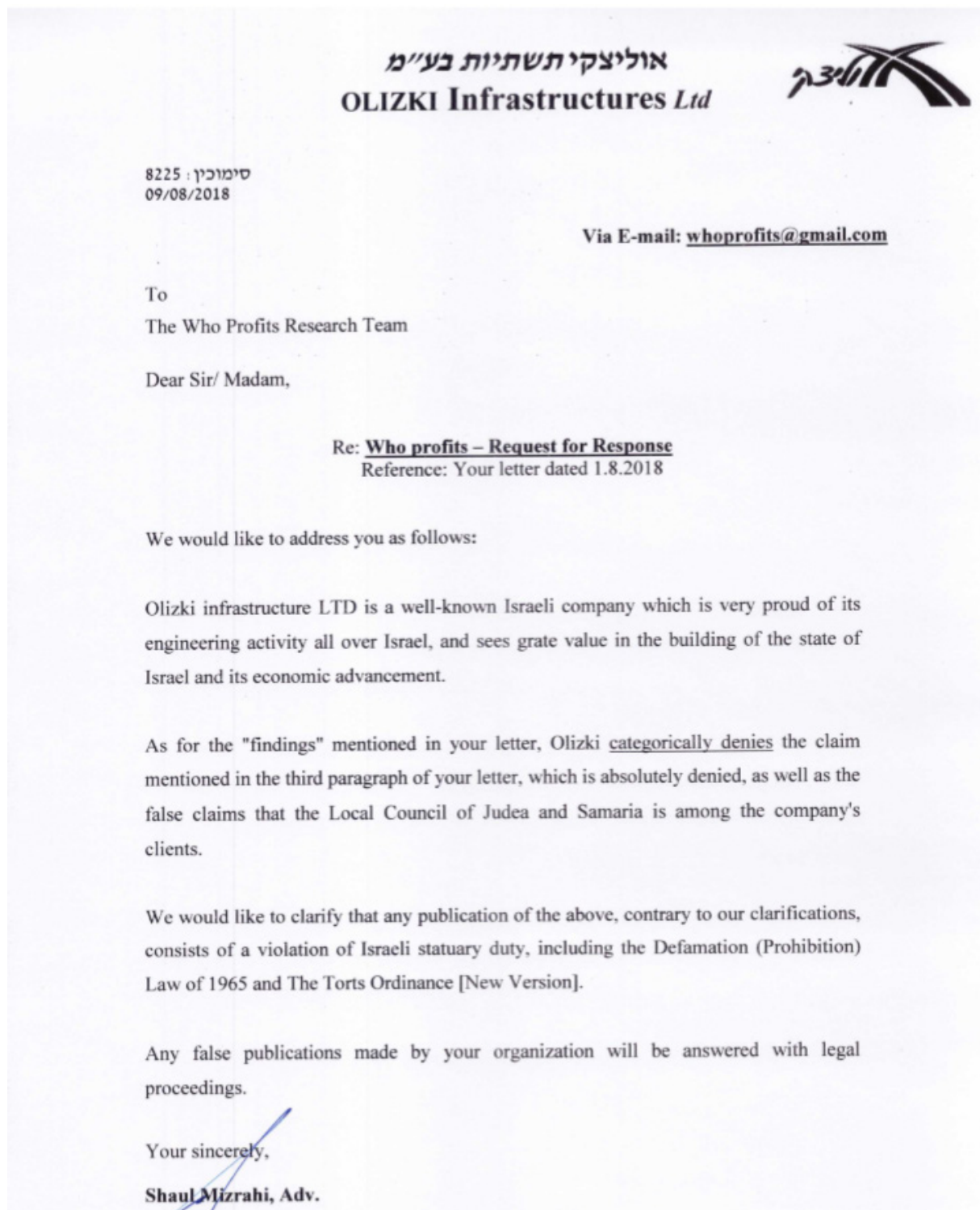
Global presence: Russia, Romania, USA, Thailand

Head office: Yoni Netanyahu 1c
Or Yehuda, Israel

Website: www.danya-cebus.co.il

Annex I

Olizki Infrastructures Ltd - Company Response (9 August 2018):



Annex II

Israel Ministry of Defense - Response to Who Profits' Freedom of Information request regarding contracts for underwater wall (9 December 2018)



מדינת ישראל / משרד הביטחון
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