

Private Security Companies and the Israeli Occupation

Report by
Who Profits Research Center

January 2016

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Who Profits from the Occupation is a research center dedicated to exposing the commercial involvement of Israeli and international companies in the continued Israeli control over Palestinian and Syrian land. Currently, we focus on three main areas of corporate involvement in the occupation: the settlement industry, economic exploitation and control over population. Who Profits operates an online database which includes information concerning companies that are commercially complicit in the occupation. Moreover, the center publishes in-depth reports and flash reports about industries, projects and specific companies. Who Profits also serves as an information center for queries regarding corporate involvement in the occupation – from individuals and civil society organizations working to end the Israeli occupation and to promote international law, corporate social responsibility, social justice and labor rights.

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NOVACT-International Institute for Nonviolent Action promotes international peace-building actions in conflict situations. The Institute has been created through the collective effort of those active in international civil society to contribute to a peaceful, just and dignified world. Understanding nonviolence as a transformation strategy, NOVACT strives to achieve a society based on human security and real democracy, free of armed conflicts and violence in all of its dimensions. NOVACT is part of the campaign Control PMSC (Private Military Security Companies - <http://controlpmsc.org/>) that calls for the adoption of binding international and national regulations to limit the privatization of warfare and security, to regulate the activities of private military and security companies and hold these companies accountable for their human rights abuses and violations of the law.



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Introduction

Under the severe military regime that has been in place in the occupied territories since 1967, some three and a half million Palestinians are denied basic rights and liberties and subjected to repressive violence by Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers, under the protection of different security bodies. The power of the Israeli authorities over the Palestinian people is imposed, among other means, by restrictions on the movement of Palestinians through various mechanisms, such as checkpoints, curfews and detentions.

In the West Bank, over two million Palestinians are divided between dozens of fragmented enclaves, which are surrounded by a system of roadblocks, walls and checkpoints, as well as by Israeli settlements and roads designated for the exclusive use of Israelis. The Palestinians who live in these enclaves are deprived of basic rights and needs, such as the right to have a home and a family and the right to work, acquire an education and have access to basic healthcare services. Large areas of the West Bank are either closed off to Palestinian movement altogether or require extremely rare entry permits.¹

The Israeli control over the occupied Palestinian territory (hereinafter: oPt) is implemented through various security and police forces. In recent decades, many military responsibilities were handed over to private civilian companies, turning the private security industry into one of the fastest growing industries in Israel.² Private security companies guard

1 United Nation, OCHA-oPt, "Five years after the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion", a summary, OHCHA-oPt, July 2009, p. 16, <http://bit.ly/1SH18Cx>.

2 Rela Mazali, 2009, "The Gun on the Kitchen Table: The Sexist Subtext of Private Policing in Israel."

settlements and construction sites in the oPt, and some are also in charge of the day-to-day operation, security and maintenance of Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza.

This report aims to expose and describe the involvement of private security companies in West Bank and East Jerusalem checkpoints and settlements. The report analyzes the privatization of the checkpoints, mainly along the Separation Wall, the operation of checkpoints and the outsourcing process in West Bank settlements. It highlights the role of private security guards in the systematic oppression of the Palestinian population.

Our methodology included desk research based on public sources, governmental databases, protocols of Knesset committees and settlement council meetings and Freedom of Information requests. In addition, we conducted field research in different sites in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in order to gather evidence on the involvement of private security companies in the apparatus of occupation. All sources for the information about companies in this report are on file with Who Profits. Who Profits requested the response of all the companies that are mentioned in this report. Only Galshan Shvakin replied to the Who Profits letter - the response letter is attached in the annex at the end of this report.

In: Gender Perspectives on Small Arms and Light Weapons., eds. Vanessa Farr, Albrecht Schnabel. New York: UN University Press.

Private Security Companies in the Checkpoints

The Israeli checkpoints are part of the control and surveillance mechanism imposed over the Palestinian population, and they are a significant element in the daily reality of the occupation. Furthermore, as part of the Separation Wall apparatus, the checkpoints prevent the expansion and development of the Palestinian society.

The system of Israeli checkpoints and permits has undergone several changes over the years that followed the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967. Initially, there were no permanent border barriers between Israel proper and the oPt. The state of Israel benefited from having a cheap labor force in years of inflation, and enabled Palestinians with a general permit (authorized by the Israeli General Security Service in Israel – the GSS or the Shabak) to enter Israel. A general crossing permit enabled Palestinians to enter Israel without any major considerable limitations. The change in the function of the checkpoints began between the years 1991-1993, when the general crossing permit was cancelled and Israel initiated a policy that included long closures on the oPt and distribution/issuance of specific permits under strict conditions.³

In the years following the Second Intifada, between 2001-2003, the Israeli government initiated a separation project that included the construction of “border checkpoints”⁴ along the route of the Separation Wall. Dozens of checkpoints were established between Israel and the West Bank and

3 Van Leer Institute, Policy Paper: The Privatization of Checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Hebrew), 2014, <http://bit.ly/1G9Y18r>.

4 Border checkpoints are defined as the last checkpoint before entering Israel.

in the Jerusalem envelope:⁵ checkpoints for pedestrians, vehicles and merchandise, agricultural checkpoints and “fabric of life” checkpoints, a term that mostly refers to checkpoints for settlers only.⁶

During those years, the interest in the checkpoints grew and their operation was reviewed by Israeli security forces, Israeli and international civil society organizations and foreign governments. Among those was the Israeli women’s organization MachsomWatch, which was established in 2001 and is dedicated to documenting the activity in the checkpoints.⁷ MachsomWatch was included in the research for this report, and their perspective and data will be presented below.

According to B’Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, by April 2015 there were 96 fixed checkpoints in the West Bank. These include 57 internal checkpoints, located well within the West Bank, and 39 checkpoints that are the last inspection point before entering Israel, although most are located several kilometers east of the Green Line, or just outside the entrance to Jerusalem. These checkpoints will be referred to in these paper as “border checkpoints”. In addition, the military erects hundreds of surprise “flying checkpoints” along West Bank roads.⁸

5 The area of the Separation Wall in Jerusalem and its surroundings.

6 State Comptroller, “The Operation of the Crossings between Israel and the Judea and Samaria Area” June 2010 (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1MOZnhn>.

7 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

8 B’Tselem, Checkpoints, Physical Obstructions, and Forbidden Roads, 20 May 2015, <http://bit.ly/1qW4Dlk>.

The Privatization Process in “Border Checkpoints”

The privatization of the checkpoints is a national project,⁹ derived from the Israeli government’s decision 43/b,¹⁰ taken by the Ministers’ committee of national security in December 2005.¹¹ This decision establishes the operation of checkpoints, the institutions responsible for professional security training, the process of luggage and body searches and the bodies responsible for operating the checkpoints.¹² According to this decision, the soldiers in 34 “border checkpoints”, including the Jerusalem envelope, will be replaced with police officers and civilians.¹³ Regarding the operation of “internal checkpoints”, there is no formal procedure.¹⁴

The border checkpoints reform, or the privatization process was meant to change the management method of the checkpoints through the following measures: transferring the de-facto management and operation of the checkpoints to private security companies; establishing fixed and organized infrastructure instead of the improvised military facilities that existed; and implementing technological equipment in the checkpoints

9 The state comptroller, June 2010 (Hebrew)

10 Government Decision 43/b (43/ב החלטת ממשלה)

11 The state comptroller, June 2010 (Hebrew); The crossings Authority website (Hebrew): <http://bit.ly/1PO3gdq>.

12 State Comptroller, June 2010.

13 Sara Tzwevner, Background document about the border crossings from Gaza and the West Bank (Hebrew), The Knesset research and information center, Jerusalem, November 2005, p. 3, <http://bit.ly/1lacHBu>; Protocol no. 495 of the internal and environment committee in the Knesset (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1QHHc4I>; A Freedom of Information report of the Ministry of Defense, 2013 (Hebrew), p. 35, <http://bit.ly/1R6dZzj>.

14 The state comptroller, June 2010 (Hebrew).

for the “quick passage of merchandize and pedestrians.”¹⁵ The main criticism among Israeli authorities regarding the operation of checkpoints was the lack of professionalism among soldiers, the lack of procedural clarity and the arbitrariness of the checkpoints’ operation.¹⁶ According to the information and research center of the Knesset, the declared purpose of the privatization process was “to reduce the friction that exists today in crossings and to improve the level of service without hindering the level of security checks.” The checkpoints, as it was written, “will be defined as borders in all senses. Visually resemble customary terminals in the world.”¹⁷

Gaza Checkpoints

In the Gaza Strip, almost two million people live in extremely crowded conditions, completely surrounded by fences and walls, constantly controlled by Israeli military forces from the air, land and sea. Movement of people, goods and services in or out of Gaza is almost completely blocked; on-going military attacks cause mounting destruction and casualties; the trade, utilities and financial embargo of the Hamas regime has added to the economic collapse and the resulting humanitarian crisis.

The Erez checkpoint – the largest checkpoint for the crossing of Palestinian pedestrians – was among the first checkpoints that underwent a comprehensive reform. Unlike the rest of the checkpoints, the Erez “terminal” was rebuilt as a permanent structure. Several months after it had been opened, Israel declared a general closure on the Gaza Strip, which was accompanied by severe limitations on the import and export of products. Since the deterioration of the situation in Gaza, the terminal that was operated by private security guards from the company Sheleg Lavan (see below), is not active. During the long periods of closure, there was a decline in the activity of the the Karni checkpoint, which is used for merchandise; the Sufa checkpoint, which is designated for construction materials; and the Kerem Shalom checkpoint, which is used for humanitarian purposes.

See: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Occupied Palestinian Territory, Gaza Crisis, <http://www.ochaopt.org/content.aspx?id=1010361>; Van Leer, Policy Paper.

15 The Crossing Authority website (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1PO3gdq>; The Knesset research and information center, 2005, p. 3.

16 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

17 The Knesset research and information center, 2005, p. 3.

The first checkpoints privatized in January 2006 were Sha'ar Efraim (near Tulkarem) and Erez (the northern entrance to the Gaza Strip).¹⁸ Currently, 14 checkpoints have been privatized and transferred to the responsibility of the Crossing Points Authority: 12 checkpoints in the West Bank (Eyal, Eliyahu, Gilboa, Habik'a, Hotze Shomron, Hashmonaim, Meytar, Maccabim, Metzudot Yehuda, Reihan, Sha'ar Efraim and Tarqumia); and 2 checkpoints between Gaza and Israel (Erez and Kerem Shalom).¹⁹ The rest of the 22 checkpoints that are defined as the last checkpoint before entering Israel, or "border checkpoints," are due to be privatized in the coming years.²⁰

The first week of the privatization of the Eyal checkpoint, in July 2009, was documented by MachsomWatch. Palestinians who passed through the checkpoint noted that the security checks have become more meticulous, causing further delays: "The younger workers were gathered in one room [...] and their ID cards were taken. [...] When they came out they said that they were inside for more than 50 minutes or even more than an hour."²¹



Eyal checkpoint | 30 August 2009 | Photo by Merav Amir, MachsomWatch

According to the security budget for 2007, the cost of the privatized checkpoints in the Seam Zone is about NIS 145 million per year. A higher figure appeared in the military newspaper BaMahane, in an article from

18 The Crossing Points Authority website; Protocol of meeting no. 495.

19 Ministry of Defense, Report for 2013, p. 152; The Crossing Points Authority website.

20 The Crossing Points Authority website; Van Leer, Policy Paper.

21 Hagar L. and Miki P., "Eyal Checkpoint (North Qalqilya) Wednesday, 1.7.09 Morning" MachsomWatch, 1 July 2009. Saved on file with Who Profits.

July 2009 (after the privatization of more checkpoints in the West Bank), according to which the annual cost of this process is NIS 200 million and it is expected to rise to NIS 270 million. This figure does not take into account additional bodies involved in this process, such as the police, the Israeli army and the GSS. The largest budgets were allocated to reconstructing the checkpoints to resemble international border terminals. Most of this amount comes from the Ministry of Defense (hereinafter: MOD) budget for the Seam Zone,²² after the World Bank refused to fund the construction of the checkpoints in the West Bank since they are located beyond the Green Line.²³

The Crossing Points Authority

The Knesset decision to “civilianize” the checkpoints was accompanied by a comprehensive organizational change, mainly, the establishment of a new civilian (governmental) management body: the Crossing Points Directorate/Authority.²⁴ The authority operates according to the instructions of the Ministry of Defense and under the guidance of the Israel Police and the General Security Service (Hereinafter: GSS), which were appointed as advisory institutions on security issues.²⁵ The Crossing Points Authority is responsible for the planning, establishment, operation, security, maintenance, supervision and management of activities in the border checkpoints, as well as for supervision over the training of employees of the private security companies. This, in addition to purchase requisition of infrastructure equipment and accompanying services.²⁶ The police and GSS participate in devising security regulations, establishing inspection procedures and making decisions regarding

22 The Seam Zone is a term used to refer to a land area in the West Bank located east of the Green Line and west of Israel's separation wall, populated largely by Israelis in settlements such as Alfei Menashe, Ariel, Modi'in Illit, Giv'at Ze'ev and Ma'ale Adumim. See: Human Rights Watch (HRW), “Human rights concerns for the 61st Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights”, 10 March 2005, <http://bit.ly/1VB4AAAd>.

23 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

24 Ibid. Only one border checkpoints, the Karni checkpoint in the Gaza Strip, is under the responsibility of Israel's Airport Authority. See : The Knesset research and information center, 2005

25 Ori Tal, “Border Crossings,” State Comptroller, June 2010; The Crossing Points Authority website; Van Leer, Policy Paper.

26 Ministry of Defense, Report for 2013, p.22.

facility layouts and equipment in the privatized checkpoints.²⁷

Although the Crossing Points Authority was intended to centralize powers, its creation has in practice added an additional institution to an already complex web of state agencies in charge of checkpoints. The Crossing Points Authority works with the DCO,²⁸ Civil Administration, Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), police and border police. These bodies work alongside the Counter-Terrorism Headquarters, army central command, Ministry of Public Security, Israeli Customs Service and Ministry of Agriculture.²⁹ A report of the State Comptroller from 2010 determined that the cooperation between the various agencies is inadequate, especially between the Israeli Police and GSS.³⁰

It seems that the Crossing Points Authority is trying to portray itself as a civil service provider. Its website, Ma'avarim, is very detailed and full of information about the checkpoints: their descriptions, locations, opening hours, date of privatization, photos of each privatized checkpoint and statistical data about the people and products that pass through the checkpoints every year. However, all of this information is only available in Hebrew.



The Erez checkpoint in the north of the Gaza Strip | Ma'avarim website (screenshot) | 22 November 2015

27 Shira Havkin, "The Reform of Israeli Checkpoints."

28 The District Coordination Office (DCO, matak) was founded with the aim of assuming certain responsibilities of the Civil Administration after the Oslo Accords, especially the issuance of entrance and work permits. Following the deterioration of Israeli-Palestinian relations and the failure of the peace negotiations, this body is once again managed solely by the Civil Administration.

29 Chaim Levinson, "One body is supposed to operate the checkpoints – but in practice no less than 9 do this" (Hebrew), Haaretz, 12 November 2010, <http://bit.ly/1R6RBag>.

30 State Comptroller, June 2010, p. 15.

The operators of each privatized checkpoint include managers (checkpoint manager, security officer and operation manager), who are employees of the Crossing Points Administration or other public employees; and trained armed security guards and unarmed inspectors, who are both employees of private security companies (hereinafter: PSCs).³¹ The recruitment criteria for all employees of PSCs include the completion of military service, and armed security guards must also have combat experience.³² The managerial staff hired to operate the checkpoints must be experienced in this specific type of work.³³

During a Knesset committee discussion in 2005 on the privatization of checkpoints, Bezalel Traiber, head of the Crossing Points Directorate at the time, explained: “Companies will operate according to instructions determined by the Crossing Points Authority [...] Moreover, at the crossing points there will be a mix of people – civil servants, state officials and police officers [...] There are things that civilians cannot do and responsibilities that must be borne by the civil service.”³⁴

The checkpoints in East Jerusalem

The 19 checkpoints in the “Jerusalem envelope” (Otef Yerushalayim), which are situated in the area between occupied East Jerusalem and West Bank villages and cities, has remained in an intermediate state of partial privatization. In March 2005, it was decided to transfer the operation of Jerusalem checkpoints from the army to the police and not the Crossing Points Authority. According to Israeli authorities, the reason for that was the fact that most of the people passing through these checkpoints are residents of East Jerusalem. Despite the declared intention, the plan to privatize these checkpoints did not include a comprehensive plan with a budget and timetable.³⁵

The responsibility of the police in Jerusalem envelope checkpoints is specified in a decision of the Ministerial Committee on National

31 The Crossing Points Administration website; Law of Authorities to Protect Public Safety, 2005, article 10a: According to this law, a “checker” is one of the following: 1. Police officer 2. Authorized soldier 3. Public employee or a person who is not a public employee that was authorized to serve as a security guard in a check point according to this law.

32 Official tender for bids, 2005; Protocol of meeting no. 495; Crossing Points Authority website.

33 Shira Havkin, “The Reform of Israeli Checkpoints,” Van Leer, Policy Paper.

34 Protocol of meeting no. 495.

35 State Comptroller, June 2010; Ori Tal, “Border Crossings.”

Security from 20 June 1999³⁶ and in the Law for the Arrangement of Security in Public Bodies from 1998.³⁷ The body within the police that is responsible for the checkpoints is the Policing and Security Section.³⁸ This body is mainly responsible for professional training on security around checkpoints and on preventing weapons smuggling and for border control for people entering and exiting Israel.³⁹

The situation on the ground is that the Jerusalem area checkpoints, such as Qalandia, are operated by police officers, border police and employees of the private security company Modi'in Ezrachi. Police officers and border police officers are the commanders of the checkpoint, military police soldiers conduct security checks and private security company employees are charged with physical security.⁴⁰



The Sheikh Sa'ad pedestrian checkpoint in East Jerusalem sits on the Separation Wall at the entrance to the Sheikh Sa'ad village, separating it from the neighborhood of Jabel Mukkabar. It is manned by Border Police soldiers and private security companies. Only Palestinian residents of Jabel Mukkabar or Sheikh Sa'ad who have permits are allowed through. Residents of East Jerusalem who do not live in Jabel Mukkabar are also allowed to cross into Sheikh Sa'ad, but not in the opposite direction.⁴¹

36 Decision of the Ministerial Committee on National Security B/190 (Hebrew).

37 Law for the Arrangement of Security in Public Bodies, 1998 (Hebrew).

38 Israel Police website, "Policing and Security Section: Mission and Roles" (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1SuSQQ0>.

39 Ori Tal, "Border Crossings."

40 Levinson, 2010; State Comptroller, June 2010.

41 MachsomWatch, "Sheikh Sa'ad", saved on file with Who Profits.

The Authority of Private Security Guards

In the privatization process, the authorities of security guards were extended and state employees were placed in management and supervision positions. The authorities of security guards are determined by the Minister of Public Security and by the Minister of Defense.⁴²

The Law of Authorities for the Protection of Public Security (2005) extends the powers of security guards in border checkpoints to include the authority to delay a person, conduct body searches, search belongings for arms and explosives, demand identification and even forcefully delay a person until the arrival of a police officer.⁴³ In case of measures such as the prohibition of crossing or a body search, the presence of a state Crossing Points Authority employee or a member of state security forces (military or police) is required.⁴⁴

The representatives of security authorities are afforded special protection and permitted to use force or even violence if their job requires it. Nevertheless, there are special supervising bodies meant to prevent them from using unnecessary or extensive force or acting in a negligent manner. The internal bodies designated to investigate security forces' activity in the checkpoints are not very effective, but in principle, their existence is necessary and important. There are no similar supervising mechanisms in place for private security guards.⁴⁵

42 Protocol of meeting no. 495.

43 Law of Authorities for Protecting Public Security, 2005 (Hebrew); Military order no. 1665, 2010 (Hebrew).

44 Protocol of meeting no. 495.

45 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

The Process of Passing Through a Checkpoint

The process of passing through a checkpoint is very different for Israelis and Palestinians. According to a letter written in 2005 by the organization and supervision administration in the Crossing Points Authority, “Israeli residents are supposed to go through the border checkpoints directly, without registration or examination (except for unusual or suspicious cases) [...] Advanced technological equipment enables the examination of a vehicle without stopping it [...] The transfer of Israeli goods will also be conducted without stopping or checking it (except for unusual cases).”⁴⁶

By contrast, every Palestinian person and every commodity that comes in from the oPt must undergo a security check and a border control check. According to the aforementioned letter, “Palestinian residents are supposed to go through the border checkpoints with licenses and permits issued by the Civil Administration. A person will arrive at a checkpoint, be identified by the card/permit in his/her hand, go through a security check with advanced technology that will shorten the stay in the checkpoint and avoid unnecessary friction with checkpoint workers. Suspects and people who are prevented entry will return to the West Bank, people who are allowed in will pass through the border control counter and after registration and inspection will continue to the Israeli territory. Palestinian goods will arrive with the proper certificates, and pursuant to the registration in the commodities checkpoints, the merchandise will be dismantled on the back-to-back pallet, while undergoing a security

⁴⁶ Ori Tal, “Border Crossings.”

check, and from there [...] loaded on Israeli trucks.”⁴⁷

The new procedure reinforces the different treatment of Israelis and Palestinians: Palestinians undergo a long series of strict inspections, while the vehicles of Israeli settlers, visitors and traders pass quickly and with hardly any inspection. The decisions as to opening or closing the checkpoints, conditions for receiving a crossing permit and activity hours – have all remained in the hands of Israeli authorities. A great sum of money was invested in advanced technological equipment in the checkpoints, provided by international bodies and foreign governments. For example, a biometric identification system, one of the most sophisticated in the world, has been incorporated into the checkpoint inspection system.⁴⁸

HP's Basel Biometric Identification System

The Basel Biometric Identification System is an automated biometric access control system, which includes a permit mechanism for Palestinian workers, with fingerprint and facial recognition, installed in checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza. The system was financed by the US government following the Wye River Memorandum. Hewlett Packard (HP), a global technology, computing and IT services provider, has provided the Basel System to the Israeli Ministry of Defense (MOD) – including development, installation, maintenance and ongoing field support. Who Profits submitted a freedom of information inquiry to the MOD regarding the operation of the Basel System. According to the response of the MOD from 12 September 2011, HP was contracted by the MOD to operate and maintain the Basel System until 31 December 31 2012. The MOD indicated that the system is installed at the following checkpoints in the West Bank: Jericho, Bethlehem (Ma'avar Rachel), Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Hebron, Abu Dis, Tarkumia and the Ephraim Gate (Irtach).

In a response to a follow-up inquiry submitted by Who Profits in 2014, the MOD stated that HP was contracted to maintain the Basel System in West Bank and Gaza checkpoints until the end of 2015. The MOD further stated that the system is also installed in the following checkpoints: Jalame (Gilboa), Barta'a (Reihan), Tura (Shaked), Eyal, Eliyahu, Yoav, Hashmonaim (Ni'ilin), Maccabim (Beit Sira), Al-Jib (Givat Ze'ev), Qalandia (Atarot), Ras Abu-Sbitan (HaZeitim), HaLamed-Heh and Sansana (Meitar).

47 Ibid.

48 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

For the Palestinians, the security checking process includes a chain of stops that can be illustrated in a flow chart. This flow chart appears in the Official tender for bids for the management of crossing points, issued by the Israeli Ministry of Defense in 15 May, 2005 - which is not publically available.⁴⁹ In every station, the security check follows a routine procedure and each of the operators is responsible for one stop in the process. The Palestinians passing through the checkpoints undergo a metal detector scan and their belongings are put in the scanner. Depending on the decision of the inspector, they are either directed to the routine procedure of taking their fingerprints and examining their documents in the computerized system, or to a special procedure, which includes a scan by a “sniffer” that identifies gunpowder, a frisk search and further inspections and interrogations. The entry and exit and transition from one stop to the next in this process are through metal carrouseles that are operated from a special workstation.⁵⁰

The uniforms of the soldiers, police officers, border police officers and PSC employees are similar in appearance, which makes it difficult to distinguish between private security employees and other checkpoint operators. Most of the people who go through the checkpoints cannot distinguish between these two groups.⁵¹ According to MachsomWatch, the security guards wear uniforms without any identification badges.

In the privatized checkpoints the procedure is more organized and specified in written regulations. However, the regulations are very strict and they deal with every small detail such as the amount of food a Palestinian working in Israel is allowed to bring with him. The arbitrary allotment prohibits, for example, bringing in big bottles of water and oil or cooked meals.⁵²

Moreover, the formalization of the checking procedure turns the process into a mechanical one and reduces possible communication between the passing Palestinians and checkpoint operators. In the larger checkpoints that are designated for Palestinian pedestrians from the West Bank, the checking procedure takes place through armored glass windows and communication is conducted through a PA system that voices the operators’ instructions. Under these conditions, the Palestinians passing

49 This chart appears on p. 28 of the tender, but the tender is not publicly available: Van Leer, Policy Paper. Who Profits requested the tender from the MOD through a Freedom of Information request, but the request was denied.

50 Amira Hass, “Tulkarem checkpoint: Workers are only allowed to pass 5 pieces of pita bread” (Hebrew), Haaretz, 29 June 2009, <http://bit.ly/1SuSSHK>.

51 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

52 Ibid.

through the checkpoints are unable to explain complex circumstances or needs.⁵³

The checkpoint inspectors, who are employed by PSCs, screen the Palestinians' crossing permits using a computerized identification system, which alerts when police or security forces have determined that a person should be prohibited from entering Israel. The reason can be an open investigation against this person, a past conviction or intelligence information regarding this person. A person can also be denied entry if his/her relative was targeted in any way by Israeli security forces. In addition, the denial of entry into Israel is used as a pressure measure to recruit cooperators for the GSS, taking advantage of the fact that denying entry into Israeli often means loss of income.⁵⁴

Technical problems can also lead to an alert by the electronic identification system and the denial of entry. For example, sometimes there is an alert because of a need to renew the "smart card" – the magnetic card that contains the person's details and is required for those who regularly enter Israel. Manual laborers often need to renew their biometric fingerprints, since they are worn out by different materials, which makes it difficult for the devices to scan.⁵⁵

During a visit to the Tarkumia checkpoint with MACHSOMWATCH, a few Palestinians complained that even though they have been working in Israel for 30 years, they were denied entry and their permits were confiscated. The response of the checkpoint manager to this was that "the selectors in the checkpoints do not establish judgment, they see what comes up on the computer and there's nothing they can do about it." Indeed, the sources responsible for the denial of entry in the checkpoints are not physically present on the site. Therefore, Palestinians who are prohibited from entering Israel are unable to receive an immediate response regarding their situation. This could sometimes mean long days of waiting at the Israeli Civil Administration's coordination offices and loss of work days.⁵⁶

According to a report by the Israeli organization MACHSOMWATCH about the X-Ray Machine in the Eyal checkpoint, "People with food are the ones who are asked to pass through the machine. They describe it as a glass room over which a soldier supervises the entrance and exit by opening and closing the doors. The person going in stands in the middle of the room

53 Ibid.

54 Ibid.

55 Ibid.

56 Ibid.

at a designated place that is marked and according to them, a machine circles around their head and photographs them. They complained that the rays from the machine are dangerous to people's health and may harm their food as well. Workers who worked or are working in the hospital claimed that in hospitals people are not allowed to be exposed to rays from these machines. One of the workers complained that he had a heart condition and asked not to have to go through the machine. The soldier refused to exempt him and told him that he would be exempted from the machine inspection only if he brought a medical permit."⁵⁷

Currently, G4S Israel provides full body scanners and scanning machines by Rapiscan and L-3's Safeview to the Qalandia, Bethlehem and Sha'ar Efraim (Irtach) checkpoints in the West Bank and to the Erez checkpoint in Gaza. This company does not operate any checkpoint, but its equipment is used as part of the checkpoint security apparatus. In the checkpoints, every Palestinian is body-scanned by these machines, stripping him or her of their dignity. G4S Israel is a fully-owned subsidiary of the international corporation Group4Securior and will be discussed further in this report.

57 Hagar L. and Miki P., "Eyal Checkpoint."

Private Checkpoint Operators

The PSCs that provide checkpoint operators are chosen every few years through a tender for supplying security and inspection services to the MOD. The police and GSS participate in formulating the tender and the contract with the PSCs, and in decisions regarding procedures in checkpoints and supervision of their operation.⁵⁸ The MOD tender defines the rules, criteria and conditions for the PSCs that supply the service, including licensing, costs, professionalism, experience, responsibility and accountability.⁵⁹ Other prerequisites include a two-year revenue of NIS 100 million and the employment of over 500 workers. At least ten Israeli PSCs that specialize in security meet these prerequisites.⁶⁰

The MOD tender and contract with PSCs establishes criteria for the training of armed security guards and unarmed inspectors, the required training level and procedures for operating the checkpoint. The agreement requires private security guards to undergo lengthy training provided by private companies, regular training sessions and refreshment seminars.⁶¹ The private companies that conduct the training courses determine their cost. Since 2008, security guards are required to undergo training in order to be accepted to a job in any security company. Some are required to pay for the training themselves, although its against Israeli law.⁶²

58 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

59 Shira Havkin, "The Reform of Israeli Checkpoints;" Van Leer, Policy Paper.

60 Zohar Blumenkrantz, "Complaint to State Comptroller: Suspicion of diversion of NIS 450 million security tender for the land borders" (Hebrew), TheMarker, 5 August 2012, <http://bit.ly/1Z0vcLc>.

61 Shira Havkin, "The Reform of Israeli Checkpoints.;" ; Van Leer, Policy Paper.

62 Protocol no. 96. According to a ruling given on 19 January 2011 by the Regional Labor Court in Be'er Sheva, an employee of the company Sheleg Lavan, who worked as a security guard in the Erez checkpoint, had to pay for a three weeks training course for checkpoint guards, which was held in a training center run

The Crossing Points Authority commits to the regular presence of at least one public official at each of the checkpoints under its supervision, who directly represents the state and can delegate responsibilities to civilians. In practice, as is often the case, other criteria play a crucial role in the bidding process. The combination of large contracts; close ties between the political and security elites, both of which are heavily involved in the checkpoints; and the secrecy justified for reasons of security – foster all sorts of questionable arrangements.⁶³

According to estimates, there are about 135,000 security guards in Israel, approximately 50,000 of whom bare arms. Half of all security guards are new or old immigrants from the former USSR, who are paid minimum wage. The Crossing Points Authority directly employs several office workers, as well as checkpoint managers and security officers. However, the majority of the hundreds of employees who operate the checkpoints are employed as contractor workers by private security companies that are declared as service providers.⁶⁴

The security guards are not directly employed by the MOD, although according to all technical criteria, the MOD is their de facto employer: it is in charge of their training, working conditions, salary levels and employment termination; the PSCs are merely manpower contractors.⁶⁵ As temporary agencies, the private security companies area of activity is employment. However, they diminish the definition of employment to a minimum level. Except for the actual hiring, all other components of employment – e.g. supervision and physical training – are outsourced through a subcontracting chain.⁶⁶ This form of employment structurally weakens workers: You can fire an employee for almost any grounds and all of the responsibility remains in the hands of the contractor.⁶⁷ Moreover, most of the PSCs provide other subcontracted services, in addition to security and surveillance, including cleaning and maintenance.⁶⁸

At the end of 2005, following the first tender published by the Ministry of Defense for operators of border checkpoints, five private security companies were chosen to provide personnel to the operation and security of the checkpoints: Modi'in Ezrachi, Sheleg Lavan, Mikud Security,

by Illit Security Counseling and Training. See the following verdicts (Hebrew):

ס'ע 10-10-55472, אברמוב אברהם נ' שלג לבן (1986) בע"מ ותביעה נגדית; פסק הדין: זכויות עובדי אבטחה במעברי גבול.

63 Shira Havkin, "The Reform of Israeli Checkpoints."

64 Protocol no. 96 of the Knesset Committee on Immigration and the Diaspora, 2012 (Hebrew).

65 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

66 Following the second invitation to tender in 2008, only two companies were chosen and it is these two that currently handle security screening and surveillance at all of the checkpoints. See: Shira Havkin, "The Reform of Israeli Checkpoints."

67 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

68 Shira Havkin, "The Reform of Israeli Checkpoints."

Shin Bet and Security. Two of these companies currently operate in the checkpoints: Modi'in Ezrachi, which operates the checkpoints in the northern part of the West Bank; and Sheleg Lavan, which operates in the southern checkpoints of the West Bank and in the Gaza strip. Most of the West Bank checkpoints are operated by Modi'in Ezrachi.⁶⁹

Sheleg Lavan

A manpower company that is privately owned by Eliyahu and Hagit Orgad of E. Orgad Holdings and provides cleaning and security services. The company's revenues for 2013 was about USD 90,067,000. Sheleg Lavan was contracted by the MOD to operate the border checkpoints after the company won a NIS 230 million tender.

Sheleg Lavan previously operated the Erez checkpoint. Since the Israeli authorities declared a general closure on the Gaza Strip, the structured terminal is inactive and most of its operators were referred to work in other checkpoints in the south of the West Bank.

Currently, Sheleg Lavan provides guards and inspectors to at least seven checkpoints in the West Bank: Tarqumia, which was privatized in October 2007;⁷⁰ Meitar, in the South Hebron Hills, which was privatized in December 2007;⁷¹ Maccabim, which is semi-privatized and is also operated by Israeli soldiers;⁷² Habik'a, in the north of the occupied Jordan Valley, which was privatized in August 2008;⁷³ Eliyahu, south of Qalquilia, which was privatized in 2011;⁷⁴ and Hashmonaim, near the Modi'in Illit settlement, which was privatized in September 2013.⁷⁵

In addition, the company operates the Sha'ar Efraim checkpoint, which was privatized in January 2006.⁷⁶ In December 2014, Palestinian workers refused to pass through the Sha'ar Efraim checkpoint because of its harsh conditions and the maltreatment by Sheleg Lavan security guards operating it. Later that month, one worker died at the checkpoint due to these harsh conditions.⁷⁷

69 Van Leer, Policy Paper.

70 MOD, Crossing Points Authority website, <http://bit.ly/1IkKxtH>.

71 Crossing Points Authority website, "Meitar Crossing" (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1XT8ynv>.

72 Crossing Points Authority website, "Maccabim Crossing" (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1PMepMa>.

73 Crossing Points Authority website, "Habik'a Crossing" (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1INskjN>.

74 Crossing Points Authority website, "Eliyahu Crossing" (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1ObLFXc>.

75 Crossing Points Authority website, "Hashmonaim Crossing" (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1N4Rx6Z>.

76 Crossing Points Authority website, "Shaar Efraim" (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1GmUeM>.

77 Haggai Matar, "Worker dies at checkpoint, one week after workers strike to protest conditions" (Hebrew), Mekomit, 31 December 2014, <http://bit.ly/1K1k7on>.

Modi'in Eizrachi

A private security and manpower company, which employs thousands of people and is owned by Yechiel Dahan through Margalin Holdings and Mordechai Dahan through Ravid A.R. Holdings. The company's revenues for 2014 was USD 180,134,000.

Along with Sheleg Lavan, Modi'in Eizrachi was contracted by the MOD to operate privatized checkpoints.

Modi'in Eizrachi operates in the following checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: Jalameh (Gilboa), Reihan, Eyal and Hotze Shomron (on Road 5). In addition, the company operates checkpoints in the Jerusalem area, including Qalandia, Sheikh Sa'ad, Anata and Al-Jib (Givat Ze'ev).

For the role of security guards in the checkpoints, the company recruits only former combat soldiers who are eligible to carry a weapon. For the role of security inspectors in the checkpoints, Modi'in Eizrachi recruits people who completed military or national service.



Modi'in Eizrachi in Al-Jib checkpoint in East Jerusalem | Photographed by Machsom Watch | 5 August 2008

Modi'in Eizrachi operates branches in the settlement of Ariel and in East Jerusalem and provides security services to different Israeli authorities and ministries. The company's activities in the settlement will be described in the next section.

Outsourcing Security in the Settlements

125 Israeli settlements were established in the West Bank by the end of 2013, in addition to about 100 outposts and 12 settlement neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, all funded by the Israeli government. The settler population in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem is estimated at more than 547,000 people. The existence of settlements leads to violations of basic human rights of Palestinians, including the rights to property, equality and freedom of movement. The establishment of settlements also contravenes international law.⁷⁸

The Israeli army is fully responsible for the every aspect of life in West Bank settlements, through its headquarters officers who work in cooperation with the Civil Administration. In the area of security, the army operates three regional brigades in the West Bank, which operate in cooperation with the Israel Police, settlement security officers, private security employees and other sources. The operational responsibility for civilian security forces in the settlements is divided between the Ministry of Defense, which finances their operations; the Israeli army, which supervises their work and equips them with weapons and military training; and the settlements' local and regional councils, which appoint the Civilian Security Coordinators (CSCs) and serve as their direct employers.⁷⁹ In East Jerusalem settlements, the security guards are hired and funded by the Ministry of Housing and Construction.⁸⁰

78 B'Tselem, Land Expropriation and Settlements, 23 Nov 2015, <http://bit.ly/1RaY0Sp>, last accessed on 25 November 2015.

79 Shomron Regional Council website, "Emergency and security" (Hebrew), p. 1, on file with Who Profits.

80 The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, State-Funded Private Guards for Exclusive Security of Jewish

The Israeli authorities view the West Bank settlements as full-fledged Israeli communities. Accordingly, the Israeli legislation that arranges security in frontline communities in Israel proper was replicated in the West Bank through a military order – the Order concerning Guarding in Communities (Judea and Samaria) (No. 432), 1971. Order No. 432 defines the role of settlement guards, who protect settlement “on behalf of the army,” and the function of the CSCs, who are permanent residents of the settlements and the “supervisor of the guards.”⁸¹ In some cases there is also a security officer of the council, mainly in larger settlements such as Modi’in Illit.⁸²

The CSC is the security coordinator of every settlement or industrial zone in the West Bank, who is responsible for all aspects of security in the settlement or outpost, including the security of educational facilities. The CSC is in charge of regulating and supervising security activities and equipment, including patrols, PA systems, guard booths and settlement fences. In addition, the CSC is in charge of recruiting, training and managing the civilian guarding squad (CGSs) and private security personnel in the settlement.⁸³ The CGS in each settlement includes at least 12 settlers, who undergo specific training, usually by the Israeli army,⁸⁴ which also supplies them with weapons and ammunition.⁸⁵

The CSCs and the members of the CGSs are civilians subject to the Military Justice Law of 1955.

Under to the aforementioned military order, they bear arms and hold policing and law enforcement powers; they are permitted, for example, to conduct searches, detain suspects and use force.⁸⁶ Among other roles, the CSCs are responsible for providing weapons to residents of

East Jerusalem settlements, 7 January 2014, <http://bit.ly/1mzIMZI>.

81 Eyal Hareuveni, *The Lawless Zone: The Transfer of Policing and Security Powers to the Civilian Security Coordinators in the Settlements and Outposts*, Yesh Din, June 2014, p. 11, <http://bit.ly/1uQJG3o>.

82 Modi’in Illit website, “Departments: Emergency and Security” (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1RImCpA>.

83 “Emergency and security,” p. 2; *The Lawless Zone*, pp. 11-12.

84 “Emergency and security,” p. 4. For example, the training of the squads in Modi’in Illit and in Sha’arey Tikva settlements is carried out by the Israeli army. Modi’in Illit website, “Departments: Emergency and Security”, <http://bit.ly/1RImCpA>; Sha’arey Tikva website, “Guarding squad” (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1TzxNKC>.

85 “Emergency and security,” p. 1. Sometimes the CGSs are trained by other authorized organizations. For example, in the Efrat settlement, the training of the squads is conducted by the NGO Magen Yehuda, which developed a unique training program for settlements. See: Efrat settlement website, <http://bit.ly/1mZIRX2>; Magen Yehuda’s donation page on the website Israel Toremet (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1muLHTU>.

86 *The Lawless Zone*, p. 4-5, 13. An amendment to the military order, in April 1992, granted guards powers “analogous to those of police officers, including powers to detain, search, and arrest. Guards were also empowered to use force in performing their duties [...] The amendment adds that ‘in circumstances in which a guard has been empowered in this order to arrest a person, he is entitled to use any reasonable means to execute the arrest.’” *Ibid.*, p. 13.

the settlement or outpost, even if these residents are not members of the CGS. Although the military order grants the settlement guards substantial policing powers, it does not require them to wear a name tag, as required of Israel Police personnel (including Border Police) and other Israeli officials who hold policing rights. Instead, it merely requires the guards to carry a “guard certificate” and an identity card.⁸⁷

Since these civilian security forces are appointed by the settlements’ regional and local councils, they represent their interests, frequently in a manner that clashes with their role as representatives of the law and defenders of public order. This conflict of interests – combined with the lack of a clear definition of their powers and weak supervision over their actions – creates daily friction and clashes between the civilian security forces of the settlements on one hand and Palestinian civilians on the other.⁸⁸

87 The Lawless Zone, p. 11-13.

88 The Lawless Zone, p. 4-5.

Private Security Companies in the Settlements

The local council of the settlement is authorized by law to arrange the security in the settlements and the settlements' Industrial Zones in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. In addition to the civilian security forces previously mentioned, in recent years, most of the settlements are also protected by private security companies.⁸⁹ In 2008, Israeli security authorities decided to transfer the security of 40 settlements in the West Bank to private security companies. Among these settlements were Kiryat Arba, Telem, Adora, Hermesh and Mevo Dotan. Around these settlements, Israeli security authorities placed defense systems and surveillance equipment.⁹⁰

The private security companies in the settlements usually operate patrol cars, guard entrance and exit gates and educational facilities, and are responsible for the security of community events within the settlement. The process of hiring a private security company requires approval from the military commanders and the legislation of a municipal bylaw for each settlement.⁹¹

⁸⁹ "Emergency and security," p. 2.

⁹⁰ Shimon Cohen, "Settlement security passes to private hands" (Hebrew), Arutz Sheva, 27 April 2008, <http://bit.ly/1OGgppz>.

⁹¹ The security of educational institutions in settlements is funded by the Ministry of Education. See: "Emergency and security," p. 2.

Private security companies in settlements' Industrial zones

In the West Bank, there are some 20 Israeli industrial zones. These industrial zones are located in Area C, in which most security and civil authorities are in the hands of Israel. The Israeli industrial zones were established on land allocated by the Supervisor of Government and Abandoned Property in the West Bank, and they are declared as closed military zones.⁹²

The army is also responsible for security in Israeli industrial zones in the West Bank. However, their routine security is conducted by private security companies, mostly under the supervision of the settlement's civilian security coordinator, who is usually employed by settlement's local council.⁹³

The private security companies that guard these settlement industrial zones are difficult to identify. They do not publish their activities in the industrial zones and research tours conducted by Who Profits to these areas revealed that the security guards do not display any identification badges or company logos. Each settlement regional council chooses a different security company and tracing these companies has become extremely difficult. However, in a research tour conducted by Who Profits on 11 June 2015, our researchers discovered that the security company providing security services to the Mishor Adumim industrial zone is Reshef Security. A review of Reshef Security will be presented later on in this report.

In addition to the companies that secure entire industrial zones, there are also PSCs that operate within these industrial zones, securing different businesses. These companies include G4S Israel, Moked Team 5, Team 3 and Modi'in Ezrachi.



Moked Team 5 in the Mishor Adumim industrial zone | Photo by Who Profits | 11 June 2015



Moked Team 5 in the Barkan industrial zone | Photo by Who Profits | 18 May 2014

92 State Comptroller, Annual Report 62, "Security in the industrial zones" (Hebrew), May 2012, p. 1683, 1685, <http://bit.ly/1mzJLZS>.

93 Ibid, p. 1685.



Team 3 in the Atarot industrial zone | Photo by Who Profits | 11 June 2015

In the settlements' areas in East Jerusalem, the private security companies are hired by the Israeli Ministry of Housing to provide security, protection and public order for the Jewish residents of the settlements.⁹⁴ The Adumim area settlements, such as Ma'ale Adumim and Nofei Prat, are jointly guarded by the Israeli police and private security companies.⁹⁵ In addition to settlements and settlement neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, which are home to some 170,000 Jewish Israeli citizens and some 255,000 Palestinian residents,⁹⁶ there are Jewish settlements compounds in East Jerusalem, which are home to some 2500 Jewish residents. The settlements' compounds are usually located within Palestinian neighborhoods, causing constant violence among the Palestinian and Jewish residents. These compounds are under the responsibility of the Israeli Police, yet they are actively guarded by some 370 private security guards.⁹⁷

In a petition filed by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) to the High Court of Justice in October 2011, ACRI claimed that these security guards, employed by the state, are de facto a private police force in the exclusive service of the Jewish residents. According to ACRI Attorney Keren Tzafrir: "Unlike the police, which are responsible for keeping public order and obligated to act for the benefit of all residents without discriminating, the settlers' armed guards ... are committed only to the defense of one party in the tense reality of East Jerusalem."⁹⁸

94 "State-funded private guards."

95 Shimon Cohen, "Settlement security passes to private hands" (Hebrew), *Arutz Sheva*, 27 April 2008, <http://bit.ly/1OGgppz>.

96 Peace Now, East Jerusalem, <http://bit.ly/1R72V6t>.

97 Yair Altman, "East Jerusalem security guards: Between Scylla and Charybdis" (Hebrew), *Ynet*, 24 September 2010, <http://bit.ly/1OGh4Y6>; Association for Civil Rights in Israel, "State-funded private guards for exclusive security of Jewish East Jerusalem settlements," 7 January 2014, <http://bit.ly/1OFKsaz>.

98 "State-funded private guards."

Modi'in Eizrachi

In addition to its operations in checkpoints, as described above, Modi'in Eizrachi was also hired by the Ministry of Construction and Housing to provide security services to Israeli settlement compounds in East Jerusalem. The company's obligation to protect the settlers in East Jerusalem involves the use of force that can be resulted in injury or death. In September 2010, a security guard working for Modi'in Eizrachi shot and killed a Palestinian resident of Silwan in East Jerusalem.⁹⁹

Modi'in Eizrachi also provides security services to police facilities in East Jerusalem and in Ma'ale Adumim. It provided security services to the construction site built on the ruins of the Shepherd Hotel in East Jerusalem and to the Western Wall compound in the old city of Jerusalem, in addition to the settler organization El'ad in East Jerusalem.

The company provides security services to the Jerusalem Light Rail, which connects the center of Jerusalem with the settlements in and around it. In May 2013, light rail security guards severely assaulted an 18-year-old Palestinian resident of Jerusalem.¹⁰⁰

Modi'in Eizrachi is one of the companies that were contracted by settlements' regional councils to provide security services to the settlements themselves including entry and exit, patrols, control rooms, etc. The company was contracted to provides security services at least to West Bank settlements of Ariel, Oranit, Sha'arei Tikva, Barkan, Yakir, Ma'ale Shomron, Kiryat Arba and Ma'ale Adumim.

The company provides security services to all the settlements in the Mateh Binyamin regional council, including 11 outposts. The tender won by the company specifically indicates that the company provides security services to the following settlements in Mateh Binyamin regional council: Ofra, Ateret, Shilo, Shvut Rachel, Eli, Ma'ale Levona, Nachliel, Neria, Talmon, Dolev, Beit Horon, Alon, Kfar Adumim and Nofei Prat.¹⁰¹

The company provides security services to businesses in the Mishor Adumim Industrial zone. It also won a tender to provide security services for construction sites in Beitar Illit. In addition, the company operates branches in the Ariel settlement and in East Jerusalem.

99 Association for Civil Rights in Israel, "Deployment of private security guards by Housing Ministry in East Jerusalem is unlawful," 31 October 2011, <http://bit.ly/1O07onC>; Emily Mulder, "Israel 'gun guards' terrorise East Jerusalem," Al Jazeera, 30 November 2014, <http://bit.ly/1kEWDwl>.

100 Silwanic, "Light rail security guards attack Mohammad Abu Rammouz," 2 May 2013, <http://bit.ly/11Mg42i>.

101 The website of the Mateh Binyamin regional council (Hebrew), <http://bit.ly/1mzMcvy>.



Modi'in Ezrachi office in the Atarot Industrial Zone | Photo by Who Profits | 11 June 2015



Modi'in Ezrachi patrol vehicle in the Ariel settlement | Photo by Who Profits | 1 May 2011

G4S Israel

G4S Israel (formerly Hashmira) is part of the global Danish-British corporation G4S, which owns 91% of the company. The international G4S Corporation specializes in security personnel services, electronic security services, arrest alternatives such as ankle monitors and private prisons around the world. It is traded in LSE and OMX Copenhagen and operates in the United States, Canada, South Africa, Africa, Asia, Latin America and all over Europe. In addition, G4S is active in the Middle East in Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrein, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

G4S Israel that had revenues of some USD 190 million in 2014, G4S Israel is the exclusive Israeli representative of METOREX (Finland), Bosch's Blue Line Security Technologies (Germany), Renful (UK), Vingcard (Norway) and the American companies Rapiscan Systems, L-3 Communications, Honeywell and AMAG.

In addition to providing scanning machines to Israeli checkpoints, G4S Israel provides security services, including security equipment and personnel to businesses in the West Bank settlements of Modi'in Illit, Ma'ale Adumim and Har Adar, the Kalia settlement in the Jordan Valley and settlement neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. The company also provides security services to businesses in the settlements' Industrial Zones of Mishor Adumim, Atarot and Barkan.

Additionally, G4S Israel provided closed circuit TV systems to the Israeli "Safe City" project, which is implemented in dozens of West Bank settlements.



G4S Israel in the Atarot industrial zone | Photo by Who Profits | 11 June 2015



G4S Israel in the Mishor Adumim industrial zone | Photo by Who Profits | 11 June 2015

G4S Israel is a major systems provider to the Israel Prisons Service (IPS), including the Ktziot, Megido and Damon Prisons, which are incarceration facilities located within Israel but designated for Palestinian political prisoners.

The company also installed peripheral defense systems on the walls surrounding the Ofer prison and operates a central control room for the entire Ofer compound. Ofer is an Israeli prison for Palestinian political prisoners, located in the West Bank. In addition, G4S Israel also provided the entire security system and central control room to the Rimonim prison, which is mostly a criminal prison but includes a wing for Palestinian political prisoners.

Additionally, G4S Israel provided security systems to the Abu Kabir, Kishon (Al-Jalameh) and Jerusalem (Russian Compound) detention and interrogation facilities. Palestinian political prisoners are usually held in detention facilities without due process for long periods of time. Human rights organizations have gathered evidence showing that Palestinian prisoners are regularly subjected to torture in these facilities.

In June 2014, G4S announced that it will stop working with the IPS. However, in December 2013, the IPS responded to a Freedom of Information request that was submitted by Who Profits that G4S won a tender of millions of shekels to provide and maintain supporting management systems, metal detector gates, scanning machines and ankle monitors, during the fiscal year 2015.

G4S Israel is also the sole provider of electronic security systems to the Israeli Police. It provided equipment to the West Bank Israeli Police headquarters (the Judea and Samaria district), located in the highly

contested E-1 Area, next to the Ma'ale Adomim settlement (the Judea and Samaria Police headquarters - "Machoz Shai"). In addition, the company holds 50% of the Pocity Group and will be the operating contractor of the new Israel Police training center. G4S Israel is one of the major security systems provider to the Israeli government, including the Ministry of Defense, and it provides security systems to the Israeli military base Nachshonim.

T&M Protection Resources Holdings Israel

The Israeli subsidiary of the American company T&M Protection Resources is a holding company that provides security services and personnel, control systems and cleaning and maintenance services. The company's revenues for 2014 were USD 1.3 million.

T&M Israel consolidates several Israeli companies, which have merged into the group, including: Sa'ar security with revenues of some USD 123 million (2014); Kfir Security with revenues of some USD 25 million (2014); Goshen security with revenues of some USD 4 million (2014); B Protect that specializes in advanced technological systems and provides the surveillance cameras of HikVision, with revenues of USD 515,000 (2014); and Moked HaBitahon that specializes in control center services.

The company was contracted to provide security services to the Old City compound of East Jerusalem. In a wanted ad published by the company for this position, it specifies that the candidate is required to be a former soldiers from combat units in the Israeli army.

T&M provides security services to the Mount Scopus compound of the Hebrew University in East Jerusalem. The company also provides security services to the Jerusalem Light Rail.

In addition, the company provides security services, inter alia, to the Ministry of Social Services, Clalit and Maccabi healthcare organizations and Ashtrom - which also operate in the settlements.

Moked Matara

A private Israeli security company that is owned by Adi Rabinovitch Baharav.

Moked Matara provides security services and routine protection to the settlement of Oranit. The company states that it also provides security services to education institutions all over Israel and the West Bank, after winning a tender by Local Government Economic Services, including institutions in the settlements of Beit Arye and Ofarim.

According to the company's website, Moked Matara has "an employment permit to work in the Judea and Samaria area as a supplier for the Ministry of Defense, responsible for securing sensitive sites in the territories and security escorts in armored vehicles." The company further states it has "vast experience in guarding sensitive security facilities and in working with the IDF and the Ministry of Defense", including providing vehicles and armed security personnel to armored escorts of explosives.

Nof Yam Security

A private security company that is part of the Natoon Group, a large Israeli corporation for estate management and security services. Nurel Yeheskel, Shmuel Shalev and Avner Goldenberg, who directly own Nof Yam, own 75% of the Natoon Group. The other 25% of the Natoon Group are owned by REIT Asset Management Israel, part of REIT Asset Management UK.

Nof Yam Security provides security and guard services to the settlement of Efrat, in the framework of settlement security for the Ministry of Defense. The company also states on its website that it provides security and guard services to 20 seam line settlements in the Samaria area.

Galshan Marketing Human Resources Guarding & Security

A private manpower company that provides human resources and security services. The company is owned by Galshan Marketing Human Resources, which is owned by Moran Raz (25%) and Avi Hever (75%). Galshan Marketing Human Resources Guarding & Security's revenues for 2014 were some USD 8.5 million.

The company provides security and guard services to the settlements of Givat Ze'ev, Modi'in Illit, Beitar Illit and Ma'ale Efraim. It also provides security services to the settlement of Kiryat Arba: guards for its gates and education facilities, as well as patrols. The company also provides security and guard services to a factory in the Atarot industrial zone. In addition, Galshan Shvakim provides security services to the settlement neighborhoods of French Hill and Ramat Eshkol in East Jerusalem. Galshan Marketing has responded to Who Profits letter, confirming that the company provides security and guarding services to the municipalities and local councils of Jerusalem, Ma'ale Efraim, Beitar Illit, Kiryat Arba, Givat Ze'ev and Hashmonaim. For the full response of Galshan Marketing see letter in appendix.

Avidar Security

A private security company that also supplies, installs and maintains different security and surveillance devices. The company is owned by Eliyahu Avidar and its revenues for 2014 were some USD 129 million. The company provides security and guard services to settlements, under the Ministry of Defense project to guard settlements. Avidar Security states that it provides security services specifically to settlements in the "Gush Etzion area". The regional council of Gush Etzion, southeast of Jerusalem, includes 19 settlements. The company also provides security services to the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim and the settlement of Ariel. In addition, Avidar's security guards were spotted securing the settlement of Otniel in 2012.



An Avidar security guard near the entrance to the Otniel settlement | Photo by Guy from Ta'ayush | 8 September 2012

Avidar Security provides security services to employees of the Ministry of Social Services during their activities across the Green Line and in West Bank settlements. According to the company's website, this project

employs dozens of security guards and patrol vehicles.

The company provides security services to the Israel Police, Israel Railways, the Israel Electric Corporation and the Israeli Airport Authority. In addition, the company provides security services to Egged, IBM Global Services, Volvo, Orange and Pelephone.

Ben Security

A private security company that also supplies, installs and maintains various security and surveillance devices. The company is owned by Ronit Finkelstein and its revenues for 2014 were some USD 32 million.

Ben Security provides security and guard services to the local council of the Alfei Menashe settlement. It also provides armed guard services to education institutions in the Gilo and Har Homa settlement neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. In addition, Ben security provides security services to different facilities in the Jordan Valley settlement regional council.

Reshef Security

A private security company with revenues of some USD 31 million in 2013. Reshef Security is part of the Israeli public Tigbur Group with revenues of some USD 135 million in 2013, which is owned by the Israeli Benbenisti family. The Tigbur also includes Metropol – an international company based in Turkey.

Reshef Security operates 8 branches in Israel including one in Katzrin in the Golan Heights. Additionally, the company also owns and operates 6 weapon storage houses. The company also has a permit to operate in the West Bank, issued by the Civil Administration.

In December 2011, Reshef Security won a NIS 40 Million tender to provide security services to the Ma'ale Adumim settlement. The tender was for a period of three years. The security services include guarding educational facilities and entrance gates, operating the central control room and surveillance systems, providing patrol services and securing the checkpoints around the settlement. In wanted adds published by Reshef Security on its website in September 2015, the company stated that it requires security patrol personnel, who are former soldiers, for the Ma'ale Adumim settlement and for guarding educational facilities in the

settlement.

Reshef Security also provides transportation services to a project of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, for the shipping and handling batteries from educational facilities all over Israel and the settlements to collection centers. Reshef Security provides control center services to the Nature and Parks Authority and security services to Mizrahi Tefahot Bank and its branches (including in the West Bank).

The company provides electronic protection systems to an Israeli army base, the location of which is not specified. The project is in cooperation with the Israeli and the American Ministries of Defense.

Abroad, the company conducts a project for electronic security to solar fields in Italy, in cooperation with the company Solar By Yourself. Reshef Security is the sole distributor of the Israeli system Akrobot, by the Solaris company.

Conclusion

Private security companies in Israel play an active role in the occupation of Palestinian land and control over Palestinian people. Private security guards operate checkpoints and guard settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These security guards have policing powers, they bear arms and are entitled to use force in performing their duties.

In the settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the private security guards, who are hired by the state of Israel to guard the settlements, de facto serve as a private police force that serves the settlers population. The employment of private security guards enables state authorities to provide security services only to the settlers, without acknowledging or meeting the security needs of the Palestinian communities around the settlements. This situation creates an inherent inequality between the Palestinian and the Jewish population in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The privatization process of the checkpoints and the employment of private security guards, usually contractor workers who are not directly employed by the state, also enables the Israeli authorities to shirk their responsibility for activities taking place in the checkpoints. While the Israeli authorities take full responsibility for the activities of their employees, the private security companies' responsibility for their workers is inadequate.

As illustrated in this report, the private security industry in Israel is large and profitable, among other factors due to its extensive involvement in Israeli control and surveillance of the Palestinian people. The vast privatization policy of the Israeli governments contributes to the security companies' growth in capital and authority and reduces the state responsibility for security operations in the oPt. In this sense, private companies became a crucial component of the Israeli occupation.

Appendix: Galshan Marketing response letter



January 24, 2016

"The Who Profits Research Team"
P.O. Box 1084
Tel Aviv, 6101001

To whom it may concern,

We received your letter dated January 5th, 2016 requesting a response regarding our company's details and activities.

We find it disturbing that the letter was not signed by an individual but rather by "The Who Profits Research Team", which leads us to think that you may be concerned that your activities may be illegal, hypocritical or morally bankrupt and thus you are ashamed to expose your real names. As a result, we deliberated whether to respond or not but decided that because we are proud of the work our company does and our loyal employees, Jews, Arabs and Druze among them, we would be honored to have our company listed on your website.

Galshan Shvakim is a privately owned company based in Jerusalem. It offers services in the fields of security, personnel and cleaning. We also employ women and thus would prefer not to be labeled by the antiquated, non-gender inclusive term, "manpower."

Our company provides security and guarding services to the numerous communities and cities in the State of Israel including Jerusalem, Abu Ghosh, Bat Yam, Ma'ale Efraim, Mevaseret Zion, Beitar Illit, Modi'in Illit, Kiryat Arba, Givat Ze'ev and Hashmonaim and more.

Last year, the company even competed in a tender to provide guarding services to educational facilities in east Jerusalem. If we had won this contract, we would have been responsible for the safety of the Arab children in these facilities, many of whom you would probably define as palestinians. I wonder how your organization would characterize such activities. If we are protecting innocent Arab children is that also considered "profiting from the occupation?" or is it only when we protect Jewish children that we are worthy of inclusion on your website?

Just a few weeks ago, a guard employed by our company was injured in the course of duty while protecting the entrance to Beitar Illit. His quick response prevented an armed Arab terrorist from entering the town and attacking innocents. We hate to think what may have happened if the aforementioned terrorist had managed to enter a school or kindergarten. We are sure that you could agree that having a guard prevented this happening and we



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■ רמת אגרימס 88 שוק קניון [ק-1], 'רושלים', טל': 02-6222411, פקס: 02-6236715
www.galshan.co.il



would like to believe that your organization is not in favor of children being knifed to death by terrorists.

We view ourselves, in a way, as a human-rights firm, protecting all individuals without regard to race, religion, gender or religion.

We thus do not regard our company, Galshan Shvakim, as profiting from the "occupation" – rather the fact is that in this region, unfortunately, there is a vehement hatred, fuelled by incessant incitement and blatant anti-Semitism, that means that innocent men, women and children are the target of violence by terrorists and thus need protection.

This type of terror is not a result of the "occupation," proof of this being evidenced by recent violent terror attacks events in locations that were not "occupied by israel in 1967," such as Tel Aviv and Ra'anana.

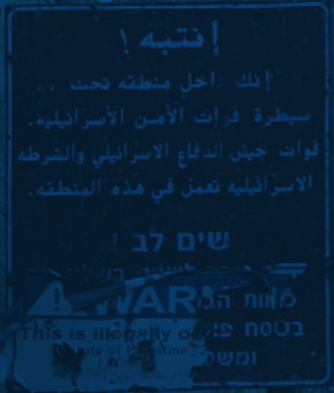
Ironically, as an organization that asks for and receives monetary donations, it seems that you are directly profiting from the "occupation" in a much more direct way than our company. We find this hypocrisy very disturbing as we find the whole concept of your organization.

Sincerely,

Moran Raz
Director-General



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Private Security Companies and the Israeli Occupation

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