

# Corporate responsibility

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*THE CASE OF BUSINESSES AND COMPANIES PROFITING FROM THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION*

*- LOU PINGEOT, GLOBAL POLICY FORUM*

# Companies in the spotlight

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## The example of SodaStream

- The company's sales in the US plunged by 41 percent in the third quarter of 2014, and its share price halved.
- Is "naming and shaming" and targeting a company's bottom-line effective?



# How companies profit from the Israeli occupation

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- The settlement business: construction companies that build Israeli property, companies that provide products and services for the settlements.
  - Example: Alstom
- Exploitation of the land and the people: companies that benefit from a captive workforce and a captive market, companies that exploit resources in the occupied territories.
  - Example: Veolia
- Control of the Palestinian population: companies that provide private security, companies that provide equipment and services for checkpoints.
  - Example: G4S
- Indirectly: through financial investment in companies that benefit from the occupation.
  - Example: TIAA CREF

Source: <http://www.whoprofits.org/>

# The example of G4S

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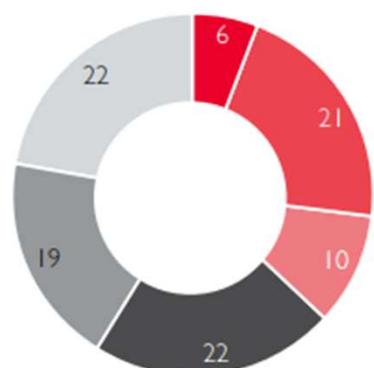
- 620,000 employees (2013)
- £7,428 million in 2013 (about \$11,6 billion)
- Operates in 120 countries



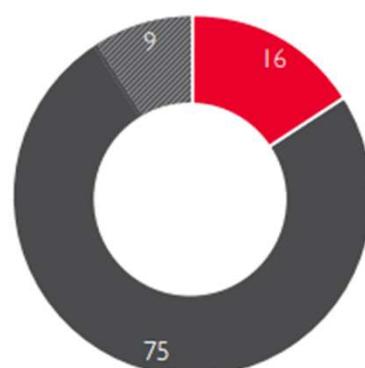
## OUR CUSTOMERS, SERVICES AND MARKETS

% of 2013 revenue by:

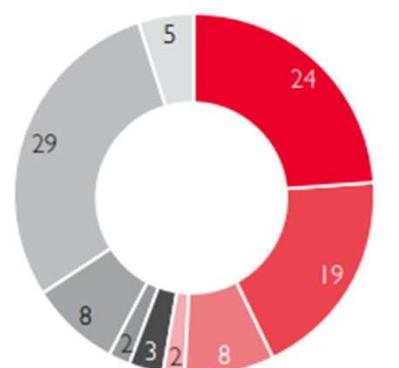
### REGION



### BUSINESS SERVICE



### CUSTOMERS



- Africa
- Asia Middle East
- Latin America
- Europe
- North America
- UK & Ireland

- Cash solutions
- Secure solutions
- Care & Justice services

- Government
- Financial institutions
- Utilities
- Transport
- Leisure
- Retail
- Major corporates
- Ports & airports
- Consumers

Source: G4S Annual Report and Accounts 2013

## SECURE SOLUTIONS

The secure solutions business covers a wide range of services, including:

<b>Risk services and consultancy</b>	Risk management consultancy services including personal protection, training, mine detection and clearance services
<b>Security systems</b>	Access control, CCTV, intruder alarms, fire detection, video analytics and security and building systems technology integration
<b>Monitoring and response</b>	Key holding, mobile security patrol and response services and alarm receiving and monitoring facilities
<b>Secure facilities services</b>	Integrated facilities services for entire sites or estates for commercial customers and governments
<b>Welfare to work programme</b>	Assisting long term unemployed people into work
<b>Manned security services</b>	Trained and vetted security officers

## CARE & JUSTICE SERVICES

Care & justice services is part of secure solutions and offers highly specialised services to central and local governments and government agencies and authorities:

<b>Juvenile and adult custody</b>	Management of all aspects of a facility and those held within the facility – similar centres are also used for the detention of asylum applicants
<b>Prisoner escorting</b>	Transportation of prisoners and asylum applicants between courts, police stations and custody and asylum centres
<b>Asylum services</b>	Management of housing provision and other services for asylum applicants
<b>Electronic monitoring</b>	Electronic tagging and monitoring of offenders at home or in the community
<b>Police services</b>	Back office support functions for police forces, support for front line policing including the provision of custody suite services and forensic medical services

*Source: G4S Annual Report and Accounts 2013*

# G4S in Israel and the Occupied Territories

- G4S provides equipment to the Ofer prison in Israel, which houses Palestinian political prisoners, including children.
- G4S provides security systems for the Kishon and Jerusalem Interrogation and Detention Centers.
- G4S also provides equipment and maintenance services to Israeli military checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza.

Source: "The Case of G4S. Private Security Companies and the Israeli Occupation," The Coalition of Women for Peace, March 2011



# The mobilization against G4S

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- BDS movement
- « Stop G4S » campaign (UK)
- War on Want (UK)
- Who Profits? (Israel/Palestine)
- Russell Tribunal on Palestine
- UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories Richard Falk
- Desmond Tutu, Noam Chomsky, directors Mike Leigh and Ken Loach...



# Result: contracts lost and not renewed, disvestment

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- Trade unions: Industri Energi (Norway), Scottish Trades Union Council, East London Teachers Association...
- Universities: University of Oslo, University of Edinburgh, University of Kent...
- NGOs: Amnesty International Denmark
- Foundations: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Churches: United Methodist Church
- BBC
- **After activists disrupted G4S' shareholders meeting in June 2014, the company declared: “We expect [the Israeli contracts] to expire and we don't expect to renew them”**

Sources: “G4S campaign timeline,” BDS movement (<http://www.bdsmovement.net/g4s-timeline>); “G4S To End Israel Prison Contracts Following Protests,” CorpWatch (<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=15958>); <http://mondoweiss.net/>

# However...

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- The contracts only expire within the next 3 years...
- « This has no immediate effect on those facing human rights violations inside Israel's prisons today » - Randa Wahbe, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association
- G4S still has many contracts, including with... the UN. In 2013, G4S had contracts with:
  - UNHCR in DRC, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Hong Kong, Kenya, Nepal
  - UNICEF in Bangladesh, Chile, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, India, Jordan, Yemen
  - UNDP in Chile, Jordan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia
  - UNESCO in Jordan
  - UNOPS in Jordan, Mali
  - UNPD in Kenya, Morocco, Serbia

*(Source: Annual Statistical report on UN procurement, 2013)*

# Conclusions

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- The promises of activism targeting companies that benefit from the Israeli occupation...
  - The role that civil society and local governments can play
- ... and its limits
  - Only works on some companies
  - Does not replace legal and judicial remedy for HR abuses
  - Lets governments off the hook?
  - Very time consuming for activists



Source: <http://www.bdsmovement.net/activecamps/g4s>

# Resources

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- Who Profits? <http://www.whoprofits.org/>
- BDS movement [www.bdsmovement.net/](http://www.bdsmovement.net/)
- CorpWatch <http://www.corpwatch.org/>
- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre <http://business-humanrights.org/>
- War on Want, « Globalising Injustice » campaign  
<http://www.waronwant.org/campaigns/justice-for-palestine/end-g4s-complicity-in-israels-prisons>
- Stop G4S <http://stopg4s.net/>