

ELBIT

TIAA CREF investments in Elbit

\$1,689,000 (as of March 31, 2010)¹

What do they do?

Elbit Systems Ltd. is Israel's largest arms manufacturer and one of the world's largest defense electronics manufacturers.²



Military equipment: Producing the killer drones



As one of the primary suppliers of Israel's military, navy, and airforce technology and equipment, Elbit has profited greatly from Israel's many attacks on Palestinian and Lebanese people.

Elbit designs and supplies integrated UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) for a range of applications. It is also applying the UAS technology to unmanned ground vehicles and marine vessel activities.³

Elbit produces the Hermes 450 drone,⁴ aptly described as the "workhorse of the IDF."⁵

Drones from the larger Hermes models can reportedly be outfitted with two missiles, and in addition to their use for scouting and tracking targets, they were used in some of the more horrific incidents in the 2006 war on Lebanon and the 2008-2009 war on Gaza.⁶ In the 23-day assault on Gaza, missiles

¹ [College Retirement Equities Fund, Unaudited Schedules of Investments, March 31, 2010, TIAA-CREF Funds, Schedules of Investments \(Unaudited\), March 31, 2010, TIAA-CREF Life Funds, Unaudited Schedules of Investments, March 31, 2010, and TIAA Separate Account VA-1, Unaudited Schedule of Investments, March 31, 2010](#)

² This fact sheet used some of the info available at in the StoptheWall 4-pager fact sheet: [Boycott Elbit Systems](#). You can find more detailed info there.

³ <http://www.wri-irg.org/node/9663> and <http://www.elbitsystems.com/lobmainpage.asp?id=139>

⁴ [Hermes 450](#). Elbit Systems, Ltd.

⁵ [Hermes 450 drone is workhorse for Israeli Defence Forces](#). The Guardian, Mar 23, 2009

⁶ [Precisely Wrong: Gaza Civilians Killed by Israeli Drone-Launched Missiles](#). Human Rights Watch, Jun 30, 2009

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fired from drones were directly attributed to the killing of 78 Palestinians, including 29 children, and wounding 73 others.⁷ The Hermes has sensors so precise that they enable a drone operator to read a license plate number and determine whether a person on the ground is armed. Infrared sensors provide imaging by day and night.⁸ This makes the killing of civilians all the more troubling.

The use of Israeli drones for targeted killings with Elbit's Hermes drones has been condemned by Human Rights Watch⁹ and has prompted Amnesty International to call for a suspension of UK arms sales to Israel.¹⁰ The continuous use of Israeli drones over Gaza's airspace has been described in the Goldstone Report as one of the elements of the Gaza blockade, conforming the report's legal opinion that Israel remains the occupying power over Gaza.¹¹

"Every night the Palestinians in Gaza relive their worst nightmares when they hear drones; it never stops and you are never sure if it is a surveillance drone or if it will launch a rocket attack. Even the sound of Gaza is frightful, the sound of the Israeli drones in the sky."

-- [Mads Gilbert](#)
Norwegian doctor in Gaza

Israeli drones were also used in the disastrous flotilla attack.¹² Elbit has successfully tested a new generation of drones that can go as far as Iran.¹³

Elbit sells its drones to a good number of countries¹⁴ including the US, where they have been used for surveillance by the Border Patrol in the Arizona/Mexico border.¹⁵

Additionally, other countries, including the United States,¹⁶ use drones for surveillance and targeted killings, with equally horrific results as Israel--and we condemn the use of drones there as well.

The Brookings Institute estimates that in Pakistan, for every militant killed, 10 or so civilians also died.¹⁷ The New America Foundation, found that since 2004, some 32% of those killed in Pakistan by drone strikes were civilians.¹⁸ We join the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in condemning drone attacks wherever they occur. But we clearly state that the fact that other countries use drones is no reason to exempt Israel from scrutiny.

⁷ See details in [Fact sheet: Boycott Elbit Systems!](#), StoptheWall. See also [Cut to pieces: the Palestinian family drinking tea in their courtyard](#). The Guardian, Mar 23, 2009

⁸ [Precisely Wrong: Gaza Civilians Killed by Israeli Drone-Launched Missiles](#). Human Rights Watch, Jun 30, 2009

⁹ [Precisely Wrong: Gaza Civilians Killed by Israeli Drone-Launched Missiles](#). Human Rights Watch, Jun 30, 2009

¹⁰ [Amnesty urges suspension of UK arms sales to Israel as evidence revealed that Israel military drones may use British-built engines](#). Amnesty International, Jan 9, 2009

¹¹ [Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict](#). Sep 15, 2009, p. 85

¹² [Israeli warships closing in on flotilla – please act now](#). Viva Palestina, May 30, 2010

¹³ [Elbit tests UAV that can reach Iran](#), MilitaryPhotos.net, Dec 14, 2009

¹⁴ [Boycott Elbit Systems](#). StoptheWall.

¹⁵ [Spotlight on Surveillance: Unmanned Planes Offer New Opportunities for Clandestine Government Tracking](#). Electronic Privacy Information Center, Aug 2005

¹⁶ [US Drone Strikes Draw Int'l Scrutiny](#). Common Dreams, Jun 1 2010

¹⁷ [Do Targeted Killings Work?](#) Brookings Institute, Jul 14, 2009

¹⁸ [U.N. official to call for halt of C.I.A. drone strikes in Pakistan](#), Daily Kos, May 29, 2010

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Building Walls in Palestine and on the US/Mexico Border

Elbit and its subsidiaries manufacture some of the surveillance equipment on the Apartheid Wall (Lorros surveillance cameras, unmanned ground vehicles, and the TORCH surveillance system).¹⁹ The construction of the wall in the West Bank, including in and around East Jerusalem, has been declared illegal by the international Court of Justice.²⁰

European pension fund
are divesting from Elbit,
what about TIAA-CREF
retirement money?

Having tested its technology on the Apartheid Wall, Elbit is now exporting it to the United States through its American subsidiary, Kollsman, Inc.²¹

Much as the Apartheid Wall separates Palestinians and grabs Palestinian land, the US-Mexico wall has also been accused of dividing indigenous populations²² and arbitrarily grab the land of the poor in the United States.²³ Norway's Pension Fund divested from Elbit.²⁴ The fund is Europe's largest investment fund and held nearly 6 million dollars worth of shares in Elbit.²⁵

A few weeks later, this move cost Palestinian activist Mohammad Ohman his freedom. He was arrested by Israeli soldiers as he was legally crossing the border from Jordan to Palestine. He was coming back from a trip to Norway where he met with senior officials,



¹⁹ See more details at [Boycott Elbit Systems](#). StoptheWall.

²⁰ [Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#). International Court of Justice, Jul 9, 2004

²¹ [Israeli company selected by Homeland Security to build US - Mexico border wall](#). Labournet, Oct 15, 2006

²² [Border Fence to Divide Three Native American Nations](#). New America Media, Oct 6, 2006

²³ [Homeland Security Won't Explain Why the Mexican Border Wall Bypasses the Rich and Connected](#). AlterNet, Feb 19, 2008

²⁴ [Norway's Pension Fund Drops Israel's Elbit](#), Wall Street Journal, Sep 3, 2009

²⁵ [Norway divests from Israeli arms giant Elbit Systems Ltd.](#) Palestine News Network, Sep 4, 2009

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including Norwegian Finance Minister Kristen Halvorsen.²⁶ Mohammad was imprisoned on September 22, 2009, and was only released in January, after Amnesty International had declared him a prisoner of conscience.²⁷

Less than a year later, the Swedish national pension fund divested from Elbit as well.²⁸ Additional financial institutions have divested as well: Kommunal Landspensjonkasse (one of the largest life insurance companies in Norway), Danske Bank (the largest bank in Denmark), PKA Ltd. (one of the largest Danish pension funds)²⁹

Where is Elbit?

- The company is headquartered in Haifa, Israel.
- Elbit also owns several companies in the United States through its American subsidiary, Elbit Systems of America (ESA),³⁰ located at 4700 Marine Creek Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76179-6969 Phone: 817-234-6799 A few of these are:
 - Kollsman, 220 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, NH 03054, Phone: 603-889-2500
 - Vision Systems International LLC (VSI) , 641 River Oaks Parkway, San Jose, CA 95134, USA, Phone: 408-232-5300
 - International Enterprises, Inc., 108 Allen St, Talladega, AL 35160, Phone: 256-362-8562
 - C4I Solutions, 1721 W. Paul Dirac Drive Tallahassee, FL 32310, Phone: 850-350-8444
 - Innovative Concepts, Inc., 8200 Greensboro Drive, Suite 700, McLean, VA 22102, Phone: 703-893-2007



Photo: StoptheWall

Additional resources

WhoProfits.org

[Fact sheet: Boycott Elbit Systems!](#), StoptheWall

[Drone Wars](#), Fellowship of Reconciliation

[War Profiteer of the Month: Elbit Systems](#), War Resisters' International, Feb 17, 2010

[Ni'lin and Bil'in call on world to stop Elbit, CRH and Magal from building the Wall](#), Apr 4, 2010

²⁶ [Israel targeting grassroots activists](#). Electronic Intifada, Oct 28, 2009. See also [freemohammadothman](#)

²⁷ [Israeli detention of Palestinian activists must end](#). Amnesty International, Jan 8, 2010

²⁸ [Swedish pension firm drops Israeli co. in protest](#). USACBI, Apr 8, 2010

²⁹ [Scandinavian financial institutions drop Elbit due to BDS pressure](#). Electronic Intifada Feb 10 2010

³⁰ [War Profiteer of the Month: Elbit Systems](#), War Resisters' International, Feb 17, 2010