

Company of Concern: Hewlett-Packard (HP)

Description: Hewlett-Packard (HP) is a global provider of computer products, including PCs, printers, servers, software, and IT services and solutions.

Concerns: HP provides ongoing support and maintenance to its Basel biometric ID system installed in Israeli military checkpoints in the occupied West Bank. These checkpoints are deep in Palestinian territory and deprive Palestinians of freedom of movement in their own land and allow the Israeli military occupation to grant or deny special privileges to the civilians under its control. This ID system harkens back to Polaroid's involvement in apartheid South Africa's pass system which was used to control the movement of black South Africans. (See http://www.democracynow.org/2013/12/13/polaroid_apartheid_inside_the_beginnings_of)

HP also provides the Israeli military with other equipment and services to help it maintain the illegal occupation. (Source: <https://wedivest.org/c/57/hp#.VcLwDre8Doo>)

Other Concerns: In the United States, HP is one of the government's top 25 defense contractors. HP profits from the U.S. prison system and aids Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). HP provides technological support for surveillance and population control tactics throughout the world.

In China, HP bid on a contract to be a main supplier of servers or storage equipment for a project called "Peaceful Chongqing," a plan to install roughly 500,000 cameras throughout the city. The aim, according to officials, is to prevent crime, although human rights advocates warn that the program may instead target political activists.

In Iran, a Reuters investigation reveals how HP products were used to create a "powerful surveillance system capable of monitoring landline, mobile, and internet communications." Along with products from several other technology companies, the HP products were sold to a Chinese corporation, ZTE, which then created and sold the surveillance system to the Telecommunication Co. of Iran (TCI).

HP products have also been used to target political dissidents in Syria. A Bloomberg article revealed, "Hewlett-Packard Co. (HPQ) equipment worth more than \$500,000 has been installed in computer rooms in Syria, underpinning a surveillance system being built to monitor e-mails and Internet use..."

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2011-11-18/hewlett-packard-computers-underpin-syria-electronic-surveillance-project>

HP is one of the top 100 arms-producing and military services companies in the world according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Actions and Attempts to Change Behavior:

- The Presbyterian Church divests after trying to get HP to change its behavior:

"We have run out of hope that these companies are willing to change their corporate practices [in Israel-Palestine]," said the Rev. Brian Ellison, a Kansas City pastor and chair of the

denomination's Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee (MRTI). "We have made diligent effort to engage in conversation. We'd like to do more, to make progress, but substantial change does not seem possible."

Source: <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2012/2/17/gamc-recommends-divestment-caterpillar-motorola-he/>

- UCC Divests from HP and other companies profiting from Israeli occupation

On June 30, 2015, the United Church of Christ (UCC) joined the Presbyterians and the Quakers Friends Fiduciary Fund when its synod [voted overwhelmingly](#) to boycott and divest from companies profiting from the Israeli occupation, including Hewlett Packard.

Source: UCC Palestine/Israel Network: <http://www.uccpin.org>

- Quakers Divest From Hewlett-Packard And Veolia Environment

Friends Fiduciary Corporation, an investment firm serving over 300 Quaker institutions in the United States, has dropped its holdings in Hewlett-Packard and Veolia Environment. The two multinational corporations are the focus of a global divestment and boycott movement that charges them with supporting Israel's 45-year-old military occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Source: <http://quakerpi.org/news/divest.html>

Links:

Polaroid & Apartheid: Inside the Beginnings of the Boycott, Divestment Movement Against South Africa

http://www.democracynow.org/2013/12/13/polaroid_apartheid_inside_the_beginnings_of

Hewlett-Packard Computers Underpin Syria Surveillance Project

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2011-11-18/hewlett-packard-computers-underpin-syria-electronic-surveillance-project>

The SIPRI top 100 arms-producing companies, 2013

<http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/production/recent-trends-in-arms-industry/The%20SIPRI%20Top%20100%202013.pdf>

<http://www.globalexchange.org/economicactivism/hp/joinus>

https://org.salsalabs.com/o/703/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=11587

<http://www.palestinecampaign.org/case-hewlett-packard/>

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2012/2/17/gamc-recommends-divestment-caterpillar-motorola-he/>

http://hpboycott.net/content/action/divest_from_hp.htm

<http://quakerpi.org/news/divest.html>