A Briefing for Trade Unionists

Stop G4S

www.stopg4s.net

G4S – an issue for all trade unionists

Trade unionists have every reason to challenge G4S as it tramples over public services and union policies. We oppose privatisation, confront racism, and support effective international solidarity, similar to the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions which helped to end the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Union sponsored Councillors and MPs need to know the facts and understand procurement law, and exercise their powers to oppose corporate abuse of power. We hope and expect they will read this Briefing (http://stopg4s.net/Apr14briefing) carefully, and consider how they can choose not to contract with G4S.

Public services and their workforce have experienced severe cuts and are facing more. Central and local government has outsourced, deregulated and privatised - cutting standards and losing jobs while reducing terms and conditions.

Since the Coalition was elected in 2010, austerity and cuts have swept the country and over half a million public sector workers have lost their jobs. At the same time, the Coalition has spent billions of pounds in public money for companies like G4S and Serco to take over public services.

G4S and Atos, a law unto themselves, had over £2 billion worth of publicly funded contracts without paying any corporation tax in this country last year. Even now when G4S and Serco are under review from the Government, Ministers expect them to emerge stronger in future. Normal citizens involved in fraud are treated very differently.

Among the main privateers – now known as “primes” – G4S is the worst, at home and worldwide. Our “prime” target should be G4S, not just for their incompetence and fraud but because of their inhumanity.

Hardly a week passes without another public scandal swirling around G4S. The Olympics debacle, the Electronic Tagging fraud, the Jimmy Mubenga Inquest, grillings at the Public Accounts Committee, the Oakwood prison riot… This is not a string of unfortunate coincidences or mere incompetence. In fact, G4S is a serial abuser of human rights.

When the Independent Monitoring Board’s damning report on Oakwood prison’s first year was published last summer, the Howard League for Penal Reform commented: “Chris Grayling thinks Oakwood is a perfect example of what the private sector achieves in justice. We agree.”

When the beatings, electroshocks and forced injections at a G4S private prison in South Africa became international news, the Government Minister for Correctional Services Sbu Ndebele declared “Privatisation has failed”. We agree.

Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike against conditions in Israeli prisons, including torture and long-term renewable Administrative Detention on secret evidence, have called for an international boycott of G4S for its contract to supply these same prisons with electronic security systems. We support their call.

Jimmy Mubenga was unlawfully killed on a deportation flight to Angola while in the custody of G4S officers who held him down, impeding his breathing, and failed to offer resuscitation when he collapsed. Four years later, the guards finally face prosecution for manslaughter. But G4S will not be charged. That is simply outrageous.

But what can anyone really do about this? The same thing trade unionists have to do with all other rogue employers: use our organised collective power to end their free ride. Working together, we can make G4S a live issue in our dealings with Local Authorities, NHS employers and Commissioners, or anyone else involved in procurement. We cannot

tolerate a regime in which "Best Value" means cheapest, anti-union, poor terms and conditions – and conflicts with union policies.

The Unite Manchester Local Government Branch voted unanimously to call on the City Council to suspend G4S from any consideration of tendering for services, on the basis of their appalling record of human rights abuse around the world. The Branch called on the Council to conduct a review, before even considering asking G4S to take on any more services. Instead, the Branch would like to see the services kept in-house. Manchester TUC has also taken up the campaign.

Surprisingly, even the Foreign Office knows that human rights abuse can be grounds for blocking a company bidding for public contracts. Their own "Good Business" guide, issued last September, stated:

> "Under the public procurement rules public bodies may exclude tenderers from bidding for a contract opportunity in certain circumstances, including where there is information showing grave misconduct by a company in the course of its business or profession. Such misconduct might arise in cases where there are breaches of human rights."

And with a new EU Directive agreed in January 2014, environmental and social issues can be considered during procurement.

We recognise that many G4S employees are former public sector workers TUPE'd out of their jobs. Some are trade union members. No-one deserves to work on a zero hours contract, minimum wage, without adequate health & safety, with poor training, or unsafe staffing levels.

We also expect all trade unionists, with whatever employer, to be horrified by the human rights abuses detailed in this Briefing. Working for a company whose actions are provoking an international boycott, cannot be secure employment.

A Stop-G4S model resolution is included with this Briefing, and more details of the campaign are included on our website.

Stop G4S

www.stopg4s.net

26th March 2014

Contents

An fuller version of this Briefing with references is available online here
http://stopg4s.net/Apr14briefing

Justice: Tagging Dead People and “Jokewood”

G4S defrauded the Ministry of Justice with charges for tagging dead people. The government regards G4S prisons as a model, and the company may play a “supportive” role in privatising the Probation Service.

Tagging

The Serious Fraud Office is conducting a criminal investigation of fraudulent billing for electronic tagging by G4S and Serco. G4S and Serco were billing the MoJ £700m for 18,000 people, of whom only 15,000 were actually tagged. The 3,000 phantoms had their tags removed, returned to prison, left the country, or even died. G4S would begin billing before the tag was applied, and continue until formally notified to stop. This arrangement dated from 2009 or earlier. The fraud was discovered in May 2013.

G4S Chief Exec Ashley Almanza, who replaced Nick Buckles after the Olympic fiasco, appeared before the Public Accounts Committee. He said “It was just a flawed judgment. I don’t think we did correctly tell the difference between right and wrong.”

PAC Chair Margaret Hodge MP asked: “given that you overcharged the taxpayer millions and millions of pounds, what does that say about your systems of governance and control?”. Almanza apologised and admitted that the people who ploughed on brought in higher bonuses with phantom billing.

Cabinet Minister Francis Maude MP expects G4S and Serco to emerge stronger from the investigation. In December, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling announced that both companies had withdrawn bids to run Probation, but may still play a supporting role. This could mean subcontracting. Like Atos, G4S paid no corporation tax last year.

Fraud and criminality

"Immigration fraud” conjures up images of “bogus asylum seekers”. But three G4S officials at Brook House, the company’s Immigration Removal Centre in Gatwick, were involved in “corruptly redacting” an official certificate, which bolstered a case for deportation.

An asylum seeker claimed he had been tortured and beaten with a heated metal rod on arrival at his country of origin after UK officials refused to remove paperwork from his luggage which identified him with anti-government organisations there. When his room at Brook House was cleared, the original clearance certificate mentioned the paperwork, but a doctored version then omitted it.

The fraud emerged in a High Court hearing. Mr Justice Mostyn said “The conduct of the secretary of state’s agents in falsifying the room clearance certificate is corrupt and truly shocking”. He referred the G4S employees for prosecution for forging a document and contempt of court.

Oakwood

Oakwood, near Wolverhampton, is one of five G4S prisons in Britain. It was intended as the first of three “Titan prisons”, a scheme initiated by Labour’s Justice Secretary Jack Straw but ditched after public protest.

Oakwood was scaled back to hold 1600 Category C inmates and opened in April 2012. In August 2013, the Independent Monitoring Boards published their savage review of its first year. Some excerpts:

> Initially the majority of staff had had no previous experience of prison life or prisoners, most of whom knew the rules and regulations better than the new staff.

> Lack of work placement is causing unrest with prisoners who are locked back in their cell at 09.00.
>
> Delays in providing basic toiletries, underwear and socks proved frustrating to prisoners, all of whom had come from established prisons where these issues did not exist.
>
> There were no locks on the toilet doors when the building was handed over in both staff and prisoner areas. In August there were still no shower curtains.

Health

Concerns include:

- prescriptions not being renewed
- delays in appointments – target of 48hrs to see doctor has been removed.
- severe delays with follow-up appointments

Food

On one occasion there was no bread, a staple part of prisoner's diet. Board Members noted:

- No dishwasher salt, dish washers filters needed cleaning.
- No soap to wash hands.
- No scourers or materials to clean pans.
- No paper towels.
- Wash hand basin dirty with what appeared to be brick dust.
- The gobbler choked with food leftovers.

Security

- The Board have concerns due to the amount of drugs, alcohol, hooch and mobile phones.
- The prison was opened initially with a controlled flow of prisoners, which was overridden by demand. Prisoners tried to capitalise on the lack of experience of new staff, which resulted in high levels of staff sickness.

The Howard League for Penal Reform commented

> How can ministers expect G4S to manage healthcare, education and training at Oakwood, when they can't even navigate the complexities of providing toilet roll or a slice of bread? How much more evidence does the government need before it stops handing over justice services to private security corporations like G4S?...
>
> Chris Grayling thinks Oakwood is a perfect example of what the private sector achieves in justice. We agree.

In October 2013 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) released their 111 page report of an unannounced visit in June 2013. Chief Inspector of Prisons Nick Hardwick declared:

> …This is unquestionably a concerning report… The inexperience of the staff was everywhere evident... Against all four of our healthy prison tests, safety, respect, activity and resettlement, the outcomes we observed were either insufficient or poor...

As *The Guardian* reported

> Prisoners claim it is easier to get hold of illicit drugs than a bar of soap inside Britain's largest prison, G4S's flagship Oakwood jail.
>
> One in seven inmates report having developed a drug problem while they have been inside Oakwood…
>
> The use of force to restrain inmates was twice as high as at similar jails, with 241 incidents in the first six months of this year.
>
> One prisoner had been noted in his secondary screening on arrival as having 'no disabilities'. In reality, he was unable to walk without a Zimmer frame and was partially sighted and deaf.

Prisoners revolt

On 5 January 2014, a "disturbance" by 20 inmates centred on the distance relatives had to travel for visits. G4S initially claimed the incident was under control within 5 hours, but then revealed it had lasted 9 hours. An external prison officer called it "a full-scale prison riot."

Two days after Oakwood erupted, Wrexham Council gave outline planning permission for a £250 million, 2,100-inmate super-size prison, whose construction could begin this summer. Justice Secretary Chris Grayling regards the £13,200 average cost of a prisoner place at Oakwood – less than half the national average – as a model for the rest of the prison service. It is expected that Wrexham will be run on the same model.

It seems that no evidence will change the Government's determination to plough on with prison privatisation, and G4S is still key to their plans. ■

Jimmy Mubenga deported: “Unlawful Killing”

Jimmy Mubenga was an Angolan migrant, a family man with a wife and 5 children all living in the United Kingdom, who had been employed as a fork lift driver. On 12th October 2010 he was due to be deported from this country, because of a criminal conviction. During the deportation he was forcibly restrained by G4S guards and died. Four years later, the guards finally face prosecution for manslaughter.

In the immediate aftermath of Jimmy Mubenga’s death, both the Home Office and G4S put out false information that he became unwell and subsequently died. It was a Guardian investigation that established the facts.

In July 2013, an inquest jury brought in a 9 to 1 majority verdict that Jimmy Mubenga had been “unlawfully killed”, by an unlawful act, the strongest verdict possible. The jury found that the G4S Detainee Custody Officers (DCOs) who were deporting Mr Mubenga pushed or held him down so that his breathing was impeded and that this amounted to unreasonable force.

Racist ‘jokes’

Racist ‘jokes’ were found on the private mobiles of two of the guards. The guards insisted both on the witness stand and in their almost identical reports (written under the supervision of G4S managers, after the guards were bailed from Heathrow police station to a local hotel) that Jimmy Mubenga was responsible for his own death by forcing his head between his knees, thus causing positional asphyxia.

The evidence was that Mubenga had called out “I can’t breathe… You’re killing me”. The lead DCO Stuart Tribelnig declined to resuscitate Mubenga in case he recovered enough to resist. Tribelnig told police “But my concerns would be if we placed him into a position or a recovery position on the floor and he had recovered we could be all over the place again trying to control and restrain him.”

In view of the company culture, supported by the Home Office, the only surprise is that Jimmy Mubenga was the first fatality. The overwhelming pressure is to dispatch deportees. Only an order from the courts or the captain of the aircraft prevents deportation. Guards are paid a monthly retainer but they only get their full entitlement once a deportation has been completed. One of the three guards was actually on a zero hour contract, only paid for completed work. They have no incentive to abort flights, regardless of the state of the deportee. Their main objective is to prevent detainees from ‘upsetting’ other passengers, or the captain, even if it means trying to smother their screams. Some call this ‘carpet karaoke’, when the detainee shouts into a buffer area like a pillow, which drowns their anguish. The guards’ evidence was that they believed that the dying Jimmy Mubenga was ‘faking’.

Restraint and control training that G4S guards receive is geared to work in prisons and not to restraint in a confined environment like an aircraft, surroundings where space is short, where someone may be panicking for long periods, where oxygen levels may be low and where the person being removed is seated; a position with a particularly high risk of asphyxia. The guards seemed to be far more aware of control and restraint procedures than care for someone in physical distress. They did not even put the dying Jimmy Mubenga into the recovery position, which conceivably could have saved his life.

When asked about racist material on the guards’ phones, G4S stated that they take disciplinary action when racism is discovered. However the coroner in her report found evidence of “pervasive racism” among G4S detention custody officers who were tasked with removing detainees. She expressed her fears that these racist attitudes – and “loutish, laddish behaviour … Inappropriate language, and peer pressure” – are still common among escort guards today.

Home Office collusion

The link between the Home Office and G4S seems far too close for comfort. The Coroner was appalled to discover that the Home Office had sanctioned the use of unaccredited guards to remove detainees. The Senior DCO in the Mubenga case was not accredited and therefore acting illegally. The decision to dispense with accreditation in the interests of speed was taken in June 2006 soon

after John Reid was appointed Home Secretary. In 2008 he was a Group Consultant for G4S and in 2010 became G4S Director Regional Management (UK and Ireland Limited), resigning on 1 April 2013 just before the Inquest.

Guards face Manslaughter charges

After the Inquest verdict of "unlawful killing" there was silence from the Crown Prosecution Service and the family were left in limbo. After six months Roland Mubenga, Jimmy's eldest son went public with a moving plea for action. On 20 March 2014 the CPS decided, in view of the verdict and new evidence from the inquest, to reverse their previous 'perverse' decision not to bring charges in respect of Jimmy Mubenga's death and instead to charge the three G4S guards with manslaughter. This decision was a major source of relief to Adrienne Kambana, Jimmy's widow, and to his five children.

In the matter of violence leading to death, G4S has form. In October 2013, a G4S guard was found guilty of bludgeoning to death a delegate to a conference in Glasgow. In 2009, G4S was warned about the danger a guard posed to others. G4S went on to employ this man in Iraq, where he murdered two colleagues. A 100kg guard who fatally restrained a 40kg child was subsequently promoted to Safety, Health and Environmental Manager at G4S Children's Services.

At Australia's immigration detention centre on Manus Island, run by G4S, an asylum seeker was killed during a violent confrontation on 17 Feb 2014. G4S initially claimed the conflict had occurred outside the perimeter fence, involving the Papua New Guinea local police. But Australian Immigration Minister Scott Morrison later conceded the events occurred largely within the perimeter compound, and G4S lost the contract immediately. ■

Bathroom: Cascade Housing

Cockroach traps: Cascade Housing

Electricity meter: Barnsley

Asylum Housing: "Hideous Conditions"

In June 2012 G4S and two other security firms were handed the largest Home Office contract ever – potentially £1.8 billion over 7 years – the COMPASS contract to provide houses to people seeking asylum.

What is Asylum Housing?

Asylum housing was, and is, public 'social' housing – 100% funded by the taxpayer. It is means tested housing – asylum seekers and their families have to prove they 'need' the housing. Asylum seekers can spend years in this housing – by 2012 some of the families in council properties in Barnsley had spent over seven years awaiting decisions.

This context for the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) helps explain how G4S became a key contractor in privatised 'asylum markets'.

G4S prospered under Labour; from 2005 to 2010 annual G4S revenues doubled to £6 billion. Dr John Reid a Labour Home Secretary and Defence Minister joined G4S as a consultant whilst still an M.P. in 2008, by 2010 he was earning £50,000 a year. Then as Lord Reid he became G4S Director Regional Management (UK and Ireland Limited).

Meanwhile asylum support was cut back and efforts were made to privatise asylum housing. This was despite the National Audit Office in 2005 exposing fraud and appalling housing conditions where slum landlords had been used.

Asylum seekers and asylum rights campaigners perceive this extension of the role of for-profit security companies in the prison and immigration estate as creating a form of 'house arrest' for asylum seekers awaiting decisions on their claims.

Campaigns against G4S in Yorkshire were launched in January 2012 when a Zimbabwean asylum housing tenant stood up at a meeting and said

> "I do not want a prison guard as my landlord"

Although G4S's slogan is "Securing Your World" its policy and practice is more accurately expressed by a recent description of the US private sector detention and deportation industry.

> 'Every prisoner a profit centre, every immigrant a business opportunity'

G4S and Serco undercut the bids from local authorities for the COMPASS contracts in 2011 so

that they could move beyond their 'detention estates' into wider 'asylum markets' (their words).

Parliamentary Inquiries

Campaigners and asylum tenants organised evidence for M.P.s and three Parliamentary Inquiries – Children, Home Affairs, and National Audit Office in 2013 - 2014. All the Inquiries condemned G4S.

In February 2013 after the Children's Society panel, Chris Bryant then shadow minister of Immigration spoke of

> "The hideous conditions in which many people live. We need to do far more in this country to crack down on unscrupulous and poor landlords, who put people into housing that, frankly, is not fit for living. It has been a disgrace that successive Governments have not concentrated enough on that."

On 5 February 2014 Stephen Small, Manager of G4S Care and Justice Services UK Ltd, appeared at Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on asylum housing and contracts held by G4S / Serco.

PAC chair, Labour's Margaret Hodge, was scathing about G4S and its lack of experience in social housing for vulnerable people. Small contradicted her, claiming G4S had relevant experience in the "welfare and care of people in all sorts of situations- from prisons to childrens' homes to immigration removal centres". Like managing Oakwood prison... or the company's Children's Services Manager for Safety Health & Environment in 2013, previously involved in the lethal restraint of 15 year old Gareth Myatt in 2004… or the guards in whose "care" deportee Jimmy Mubenga was unlawfully killed…?

Rats run riot

Back in June 2013 Small was grilled by the Home Affairs Committee about G4S's role in privatisation of housing for asylum seekers in Yorkshire. About the same time Esther (not her real name) and her four year old daughter were waking up in their G4S Yorkshire asylum house to the scampering of rats in their ceilings, roof space, basement and bedrooms.

Small told MPs he simply "did not recognise" reports of "hideous conditions" in asylum housing. You'd think a former Rentokil executive would recognise a rat. Small and his G4S workers in Yorkshire should have been able to deal with the rats in Esther's house – and the four foot high grass in the garden and the rubbish where the rats were thriving.

Keith Vaz, Chair of the Home Affairs committee, has called G4S housing conditions for asylum seeker families "squalid" and "appalling".

> "We were alarmed to discover that thousands appear to be living in squalid run-down housing as part of the COMPASS contract supplied by the private contractors G4S, Serco and Clearel. These companies must be held accountable."

Under the terms of the contract, paying energy and water bills is the landlord's responsibility. Asylum claimants have furnished housing including heating and lighting. The landlord gets taxpayers' money from the Home Office, and pays the bills.

But G4S, the UK's leading meter readers, don't pay. Resolvecall of Manchester, acting for British Gas, threatened court action on one single woman with a child and said they would "enter by force" to collect the debt. On 9 October 2013 a West Yorkshire charity reported unpaid bills and threatening letters to asylum tenants stretched back almost a year.

At the PAC, Permanent Secretary Mark Sedwill admitted that the housing contracts were "driven" by Home Office cuts in 2012. Margaret Hodge said relying on the private sector inevitably meant higher rents and lower standards for this vulnerable group. MPs were shocked by G4S and Serco's failure to inspect houses before allocation to asylum seekers.

G4S and Serco are making profits from the UK's asylum 'support' regime, which immigration barrister Frances Webber described as a "system of institutionalised inhumanity" designed not to support those seeking asylum in the UK, but to deter others from coming to the UK.

The Home Office wants a service "adequate" for asylum seekers in the slum private rented sector, and it wants to deter 'bogus' applicants. Labour, who consistently pressed for privatisation of the housing contracts, and Coalition ministers in 2012 knew exactly what they were doing in turning over 20,000 asylum seekers to the mercies of G4S and Serco and the UK private sector housing market. They had a previous National Audit Office report (from 2005) to show what could happen – fraud, corruption, and disgusting accommodation for thousands of vulnerable asylum seekers simply waiting for the outcomes of claims for their right to asylum. Coalition ministers continued Labour's policy of cutting back harder on asylum support than for other welfare claimants.

The voices from asylum seeker tenants surfaced occasionally in the PAC, who even persuaded Home Office officials to agree that it was a mistake to give the contracts to huge companies with no experience of housing. They conceded that in future it would probably be a good idea to "disaggregate" future provision to small companies and housing associations. That's of little comfort to people now living in asylum housing. The contracts run till 2019. The disrespect and humiliations go on and on. ■

Welfare-to-Work on Zero Hour Contracts

G4S is one of the government's favoured providers of welfare-to-work schemes, despite employment practices which have given G4S rather more experience of work-to-welfare.

In April 2011 G4S won 3 contracts to run the Work Programme in Kent, Surrey & Sussex; North East Yorkshire & Humber; Greater Manchester, Cheshire & Warrington. The Department of Work & Pensions has allocated £5 billion to the Work Programme over 7 years; G4S could take a £250 million share. G4S is contracted to find long-term jobs for 125,000 of the 250,000 "jobseekers" it will see.

"Compulsory volunteering"

The Work Programme is a central part of the Government's "Welfare to Work" strategy which aims to reduce benefit payments (and unemployment statistics) by coercing unemployed people into unpaid jobs ("workfare"), poorly paid jobs or low quality "training" by threatening to stop benefits. These benefit cuts ("sanctions") create destitution and can last from 4 weeks to 3 years. Work Programme providers can recommend that Job Centres sanction claimants for the most trivial of reasons; in the year up to Sept 2013 there were a record 897,690. Many believe foodbanks increase with the level of destitution caused by sanctions.

As Pilgrim Tucker from UNITE Community says: "It's time to take opposition to these schemes into the workplace, not just for the sake of the people who are being exploited and degraded by them, but also to protect the paid jobs that they replace".

All Work Programme contractors including G4S, have been invited to tender for contracts for the "Help to Work" programme which, from April 2014, will force long term unemployed people to work for their benefits. This is despite their manifest failure to help unemployed people find work via the Work Programme. After one year Work Programme performance was described as "worse than doing nothing", "extremely poor" and subsequently failed to meet minimum performance targets.

Zero Experience

G4S could boast zero years of experience before winning WP contracts but "prime" contractors such as G4S can sub-contract many responsibilities to charities and other "delivery partners". Uniquely amongst other "primes", G4S subcontracts 100% of its Work Programme contract.

In 2011 G4S's former Chief Operating Officer David Taylor-Smith (who was forced to resign over the London Olympics security debacle) boasted:

> Welfare to Work, very, very interesting win this for us. We were seen as the biggest net winner of these recent awards. I'm just reminding those tax payers, if there are British taxpayers in this room [sic], £159 billion spent in this area of government.

A "Field Operative" at Your Door

Apart from G4S' close knowledge and connections with the corridors of power, the WP's emphasis on discipline helps explain G4S' success. G4S promised to "send a field operative to a claimant's door within 2 hours if that person was non co-operative". They also took over the national security contract for the DWP in January 2011, including security at Job Centres, where "jobseekers" often first discover that their benefits have been sanctioned.

Payment for Welfare-to-Work providers is stepped up by benefit claims ending. But getting a job is not the only way to come off benefits. Corporate Watch obtained evidence in July 2013 that, in the WP's first 6 months, G4S referred almost 8,000 claimants to the government to 'sanction' their benefits. However most of these have been turned down, as the reasons were deemed inappropriate, suggesting G4S is even more eager than the coalition to cut benefits.

There were twice as many benefit sanctions as job outcomes on the payment-by-results WP for long term unemployed people. But with three or four times as many claimants as advertised vacancies how does G4S make money? Advisers told the *Guardian* a lot of the jobs they do find are part time, 20 hours or fewer, even when people wanted full-time work. G4S is unconcerned: it gets paid as long as they stop claiming benefits. In September 2013 G4S argued for the ability to force claimants into a series of temporary jobs; so G4S could get paid each time they refer to WP.

George Selmer of G4S told the Manchester City Council Economic Scrutiny Committee on 17 July 2013 that, "despite misgivings", the "prime" contractors used zero hour contracts. He reassured members that it only counted if the person was in work for more than 16 hours a week. It often took up to 8 separate sequential jobs to achieve a successful outcome of 3 months in employment.

"Huge Positive Synergy"

G4S could also profit from coercing unemployed people to work for G4S for no pay. Under Community Work Placements, from April 2014 the providers can force claimants to work for free or lose their benefits.

There's been resistance from unemployed people and campaigns like Boycott Workfare. The DWP said

> The activities of campaign groups and the results of negative publicity meant that… 'a great many placement organisations' had ceased to offer placements.■

South Africa: “Privatisation has failed”

G4S dismissed hundreds of staff at South Africa’s top-security Mangaung prison in 2013 after unofficial strikes by the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union POPCRU, replacing them with unqualified staff. When prisoners revolted, the government took over Mangaung, declaring that G4S had lost control. The Wits Justice Project, an investigative journalism organisation, released evidence of G4S security teams using electric shocks and medical staff administering forcible injections of anti-psychotic drugs. The South African Minister of Correctional Services declared “privatisation has failed” and launched an investigation.

G4S has a 25 year contract to run Mangaung, near Bloemfontein, which opened in 2001. By 2009, a secret Government report stated that 62 prisoners had been held in isolation for up to three years, a direct echo of the apartheid era. There was no evidence that this was authorised as required, and some of the prisoners were deprived of life-saving medication for HIV and TB.

POPCRU

For years, the union demanded increased manpower. One unarmed warder oversees about 60 violent, gang affiliated inmates. In September, Popcru sent G4S a petition that listed 30 violent incidents towards warders dating back to 2004.

In August 2013 employees took collective sick leave. The Labour Court ruled this was an unprotected strike, and ordered all employees back to work. When the warders struck again in September after the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration ruled against their wage claim, they were all dismissed.

Popcru said unqualified staff, trainees, administrative staff and workers from other G4S sites replaced the sacked warders. According to company policy, warders who have not worked in contact with inmates for more than three months are not qualified and need a refresher course. In October, inmates rioted and took hostage a female warder whose attempted rape in 2009 was cited in the petition.

Popcru, affiliated to the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), called on the National Commissioner of Correctional Services to invoke the “dismal failure” clause and take over the prison. “The Managing Director – Mr Theron and his team must be fired immediately.” The union demanded immediate unconditional reinstatement. .

COSATU statement 5 Oct 2013

…What is even more astounding is that government has opted to privatize an institution that ought to rehabilitate social delinquents. It ought to be a national scandal that private companies are being handed huge amounts of taxpayers’ money to profit from this rehabilitation process. It is even worse when these companies sack workers for raising issues regarding the conditions that they work under.

It is worrying that G4S, a British-Danish private security company that provides services and equipment to Israeli prisons, checkpoints, the Apartheid Wall and the Israeli police has now been courted by our government to milk tax payer’s money in order to finance its controversial operations...

When G4S says it is “Securing your World”, it is referring to a world of exploitation, repression, occupation and racism.

We call on our government to cut ties with this company whose record for gross human rights violations speaks volumes.

We further call on the Department of Correctional Services to reinstate the dismissed workers with immediate effect!

The DCS sent in 200 staff to cover all security roles. G4S was left in charge of food and education programmes.

Torture

A few weeks later the South African Mail & Guardian published excerpts from a 12-month investigation by the WJP, detailing human rights abuses including G4S security administering electric shocks from their shields and medical staff forcibly injecting inmates with anti-psychotic drugs known to have dangerous side-effects.

A video recording by the Emergency Security Team on 24 July 2013, includes footage of inmate Bheki Dlamini being dragged off for an injection while protesting “No, no, no… I am not a donkey, I am not an animal”. Five men with G4S logos on their

uniforms twist his arms behind his back and drag him to a room where a nurse is called. His medical file reveals he is not psychotic. In another video electroshock zaps can be heard in the background. Dlamini and several other inmates are now seeking legal action against G4S in the British courts.

WJP journalist Ruth Hopkins had spoken to inmates who alleged that the Emergency Security Team, known as the Ninjas, "would take prisoners to the single cell unit, strip them naked, pour water over them and electroshock them with the electronically charged shields they carry with them". G4S had not realised Hopkins was a journalist.

A file compiled by one of the imprisoned gang leaders alleged "the prison was injecting inmates against their will with drugs that made them walk, feel and act like zombies or robots, that caused intense sleepiness, involuntary and spastic movements of limbs and a dry mouth or excess saliva".

Privatisation has failed

On 28 October 2013 Correctional Services Minister Sbu Ndebele promised an investigation "would leave no stone unturned", and on 7 November the Minister declared "privatisation has failed". Acting National Commissioner Ms Nontsikelelo Jolingana said Cabinet had "decided that there would be no more Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)" as "security could not be outsourced."

Back in Britain

Mangaung has been mentioned only twice in the House of Commons. G4S bragged about it in 2009. Then during a debate on the impending privatisation of probation services, Andy MacDonald MP (Lab) stated:

> …The Minister has called Oakwood "an excellent model for the future of the Prison Service." Well, we saw a snapshot of that future this week in the form of the sickening images from G4S-run Mangaung prison in South Africa—yet G4S will be able to bid to manage the rehabilitation, in our communities, of the very sex offender prisoners whom it did nothing to rehabilitate in Oakwood prison.

Apart from which, silence. ■

Palestine / Israel: Securing the torture sites

G4S profits from direct involvement in the Occupation, checkpoints along the Apartheid Wall, Israeli police HQ in the occupied West Bank, Settlement industries, and the Israeli prison system in which Palestinian children and political prisoners are detained in breach of international law, and where torture is documented. The regime tramples on human rights in sites supplied by G4S. These abuses are extremely strong reasons for trade unionists to demand the company be excluded from public contracts, and to focus public attention on complicity with the military occupation and prison regime.

Prisons and Detention Centres

Through its 91% owned subsidiary G4S Israel (Hashmira), the company holds a $NIS 7m contract originally signed in 2007 with the Israel Prison Service to provide electronic security systems. These include computerized control and monitoring systems, entrance and visitation control systems, control rooms with touch screens, internal and external CCTV monitoring and recording systems and optic fibre communication lines. G4S is also responsible for their maintenance.

Prisons with G4S systems include the primary sites where Palestinian prisoners, including children, are held under military orders, interrogated without access to lawyers, imprisoned indefinitely on secret evidence under renewable Administrative Detention without trial, and in some cases tortured. There are over 5,000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli custody (as of Dec 2013) including 173 children (16 under 16 years old), 16 women, and 145 people held in Administrative Detention, 10 of whom are elected members of the Palestinian Legislature. The transfer of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories to facilities within Israel breaches the 4th Geneva Convention.

How do we know? G4S presentations (in Hebrew) and the trade press show the company's involvement. Palestinian organisations providing

legal representation, including Addameer and Adalah, publish information on prisoners. The Israeli human rights organisation The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel has taken affidavits. In 2013 a delegation of prominent UK lawyers sponsored by the Foreign Office investigated the conditions of Palestinian children in Israeli military custody, highlighted by the human rights organisation Defence for Children International.

In Israel "Who Profits", originally a project of The Coalition of Women for Peace, produced "The case of G4S: Private Security Companies and the Israeli Occupation" (2011). Some of their primary sources later disappeared from the internet. "Who Profits" retained and continues to obtain evidence.

As one G4S document explains (in Hebrew):

> ...G4S Technologies has been awarded the contract for guarding the detention centres which have been transferred to the responsibility of the Prison Service, including the Tel Aviv detention centre and the Jerusalem detention centre. The company will also guard the new wing which is being built at the Rimonim Prison.
>
> As part of these projects, the company will set up control rooms with a computerised integrated supervision and control structure, with all of the standard resources in these sites, in order to establish national technological uniformity in all of the Prison Service establishments.
>
> Shmulik Shiprut, head of the sales department in the technology division, noted that "The satisfaction of the Prison Service as a result of our high level of achievement and compliance with timetables has led to a recognition of the company's ability to carry out complex projects and complex technologies".
>
> The value of the project is about 7 million shekels.

Kishon and Jerusalem detention centres: Torture

G4S Technology provides security at the Kishon prison ("Al Jalame") and Jerusalem ("Russian compound") detention centres. Torture is carried out during interrogation by the Israel Security Agency (GSS, a.k.a. Shin Bet or Shabak). The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel has extensive evidence on both centres. One PCATI publication documents the abuse of family members as part of a strategy to break detainees, as with the Diab family.

After torturing Sa'id Diab in Kishon, the GSS threatened to arrest his mother if he did not cooperate. The next day, they brought him to peer through a peephole to see her being interrogated aggressively and crying. The encounter is corroborated by an affidavit from his mother and notes of his interrogator, "Effi". Sa'id was later taken to see his brother 'Amr tied to a chair. As to Sa'id Diab's own interrogation:

> Major Effi is 1.9 m. tall, with a solid build. After they tied me to the chair, Effi began beating me hard on my face, punching and slapping and cursing and threatening me. Effi hit me for close to fifteen minutes, and as a result, I was injured on my lower lip and bleeding. Afterwards, the interrogators removed my blindfold and I saw Effi jotting down something on a chart. Afterwards, the interrogators tied my hands behind my back with long metal shackles, sat me down on a chair attached to the floor with the back of the chair to my right side. Effi sat on the chair opposite me and put my legs behind the front legs of the chair so that I couldn't move them, and laid the bottoms of his feet on the bottoms of my feet, and Adi stood behind me. Afterwards, Major Effi began pushing me down backwards from the chest, until my back was at an angle of 180 degrees, and then Adi began pushing me downwards from the chest until my head hit the floor, and they were both screaming at me and threatening to cripple me and to bust my balls. As a result of being held in this position [the "banana"], I had searing pains in my back, my entire body began to shake, and I couldn't breathe. I figure that I was held in this position for about four minutes, and afterwards they lifted me up, brought me water to drink since I was sweating and my throat was dry. The interrogators held me in the "banana" position for 20 minutes in a series of four minutes each time, with half a minute's rest.
>
> …At the end of 20 minutes, they removed my shackles, and Effi and Adi caught my arms, stood me up on my feet, took the shackles, and fastened them to my forearms and began to tighten them hard until they couldn't press any more, and afterwards, they grabbed the shackles, each from his side, and began pulling them up and down, which caused terrible pains and bleeding from my forearms.
>
> Afterwards, Maimon entered the room and the three interrogators (Maimon, Adi and Effi) forced me to squat in a 'frog position.' My hands were shackled behind my back, and they forced me to squat on my tiptoes. Every time I lost my balance, Maimon would hold me and Adi, who stood behind me, would catch me. The interrogators forced me to squat in this position for half an hour. Afterwards, they released me and I fell onto the floor.

For the first 45 days of his detention, Sa'id Diab was prohibited from meeting with a lawyer.

Another PCATI publication concerns the abuse of Palestinian women detained in Israel.

Kahara Sa'adi, a resident of A-Ram, was arrested on 1 May 2002 at her home. The arresting soldiers beat her in front of her four children. She was brought to the Russian Compound Detention Center in Jerusalem and interrogated from 14:00 until 3:30AM the following morning. Ms. Sa'adi reported that her interrogators threatened to rape her, beat her and to arrest her sister and brother-in-law. She was under interrogation for nine days, during which she was held in a small solitary cell. A hole infested with insects served as a toilet. She was interrogated each day from 9:00 AM until the 3:30 AM the next day while her hands and feet were tied to a chair. After her interrogation ended she was kept in a solitary cell for 115 days. Ms. Sa'adi reports that during this time, an officer called Shlomo would come into her cell and beat her leaving marks on her body.

According to Addameer,

> "the majority of Palestinian women prisoners are subjected to some form of psychological torture and ill-treatment throughout the process of their arrest and detention, including various forms of sexual violence that occur such as beatings, insults, threats, body searches, and sexually explicit harassment".

HaSharon – women and children

Most Palestinian women prisoners are held in HaSharon or Damon prisons. G4S provides the entire security system and the central control room in HaSharon, and unspecified security in Damon. According to Addameer, "women prisoners often suffer from harsh imprisonment conditions including medical negligence, denial of education, denial of family visits, including for mothers with young children, solitary confinement, overcrowded cells which are often filled with insects and dirt, and lack natural light. Personal health and hygiene needs are rarely addressed by prison authorities, even in cases involving the detention of pregnant women."

Last summer, 16 Palestinian women were being held in HaSharon. The longest-serving prisoner Lina Jarbouni, sentenced to 17 years, underwent gall bladder surgery after more than a year of medical neglect.

Children are held in Rimonim prison, within the HaSharon complex. In 2012, twenty children staged a hunger strike to protest at their isolation, and the conditions affecting all Palestinian prisoners: insufficient food, search raids on their rooms by intelligence officers, provocations, medical neglect and denial of education.

Fourth Geneva Convention

In December 2012, half of Israel's Palestinian child prisoners were held illegally outside the West Bank in G4S-equipped prisons. Transferring Palestinians from the West Bank or Gaza to prisons or detention centres within Israel breaches the Fourth Geneva Convention. Under Article 49 "deportations of protected persons" [in this case Palestinians under Israeli occupation] "from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive". Under Article 76 "Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein." Article 147 designates "grave breaches" of the Convention including "unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of a protected person" and "torture".

Detaining Palestinians illegally inside Israel makes it difficult or impossible for family members to visit due to restrictions on their own freedom of movement, and for lawyers to visit.

West Bank: Ofer prison

Ofer is an Israeli "security" prison within the occupied West Bank, where Palestinians are initially held after arrest. Security offences include stone-throwing, for which the penalty can be 10 years imprisonment. Ofer has the capacity for 1,500 Palestinian political prisoners, and is always full.

G4S Technologies provides a perimeter defence system and a central command room to monitor the entire facility. Ofer includes a prison, an army camp and a military court.

As the UK lawyers delegation witnessed,

> "the accused children were brought into court in iron shackles which remained on throughout the hearing. We found this a matter of serious concern… We observed no probation officer or social worker during our visit to the military courts at Ofer. B'Tselem noted from Israeli Defence Force (IDF) files that in the period to August 2010 there had been only four requests

for probation reports on children… When observing 71 cases at Ofer military juvenile court, the NGO No Legal Frontiers reported that 94% of the children interviewed were denied bail… within the West Bank 98% of cases observed by No Legal Frontiers ended in plea bargains, and the conviction rate was 100%".

Checkpoints, Apartheid Wall, Settlements and Police

As confirmed by the Israeli Ministry of Defence on 9 July 2012, G4S provides inspection and scanning equipment for all checkpoints along the route of the

Separation Wall (a.k.a Apartheid Wall), declared illegal by the International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004. G4S also supplies the Erez checkpoint at Gaza's northern border.

G4S still provides security equipment and personnel to shops and supermarkets in illegal West Bank settlements and settlement neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. These security services serve only the Jewish residents as Palestinians from the West Bank cannot enter or patronize the private companies there.

G4S Israel also maintains cooperation with Ariel College in the illegal settlement of Ariel.

In July 2010, G4S took-over Aminut Moked Artzi, an established Israeli security company with services to businesses in the Barkan industrial zone.

G4S provides security systems for the Israeli police headquarters in the West Bank, located in the E-1 area, near the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. Construction in E-1 areas was aimed at ensuring the contiguity of Israeli settlements between East Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim, cutting off the south of the West Bank (Bethlehem and Hebron) from the central and northern areas (Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin). The plan was suspended due to US objections and the only building in this area is the Israeli police HQ.

Answering G4S spin

Last year, G4S responded to Corporate Watch, which had written directly to the company regarding its involvement in Israel and Palestine.

Samples of G4S spin:

The situation in the West Bank is highly complex and very emotional for those involved on both sides of the debate. G4S takes its human rights obligations very seriously and has undertaken an extensive review of its business in the region - our decisions have been made on the basis of ethics and not on politics and therefore we have remained neutral on the political issues.

- **We're not neutral about the Occupation, torture or breaches of the 4th Geneva Convention.**

Current services provided in the West Bank are:
provision of a small number of security officers within retail and banking outlets

- **Plus security for settlement industries in the Barkan Industrial Zone**

monitoring of home security systems

- **i.e. homes in illegal Settlements**

security systems maintenance at a prison, a police station and at a small number of checkpoints along the barrier - G4S provides security systems installation and maintenance services only and have no interaction with prisoners at all.

- **Without the security system the prison could not function.**

In March 2011 we took a number of steps to understand the impact of our business in the West Bank and the ethical implications of doing business there. This review resulted in a decision to exit the contracts for servicing check point equipment and the systems within the prison and police station – this exit is underway (contracts end between now and 2015).

- **G4S is still operating in the West Bank.**

In Israel G4S only provide maintenance services to the electronic security systems at a number of Israeli Prison Services facilities in Israel. G4S does not have any involvement in the regime or management of prisoners.

- **Without the security system the prisons could not function. Torture is documented in facilities with G4S security systems. All transfers of Palestinians from the West Bank to Israel are illegal under international law.**

note that G4S has no contracts in Gaza.

- **G4S provide the security system at the Erez checkpoint between Israel and Gaza.**

And now?

The evidence of G4S complicity in the suppression of Palestinian rights is overwhelming. G4S can carry on until someone stops them. Most trade unions in Britain, the TUC and Scottish TUC all have strong policies of solidarity. What are we waiting for?

Thanks to "Who Profits" for copies of company information and a draft document on G4S in the West Bank, and to Roland Rance for translations.■

Procurement Law: 'grave misconduct'

G4S can be excluding from bidding or being awarded contracts without falling foul of the law, and evidence on the company's international activities is relevant when awarding contracts. No-one can compel a Local Authority, University, Clinical Commissioning Group or other NHS body to award a contract to G4S. We ask union-sponsored Councillors and others involved in public procurement to act in line with union policies when exercising their discretion.

The key legislation is the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. Section 23 deals with "Criteria for the rejection of economic operators". Within 23, subsection (4) begins "A contracting authority may treat an economic operator as ineligible or decide not to select an economic operator in accordance with these Regulations on one or more of the following grounds, namely that the economic operator –"

It then lists the grounds, any one of which may be used to exclude or not select a particular bidder. (4) (e) states "has committed an act of grave misconduct in the course of his business or profession".

PCR 2006 implements the EU Public Sector Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC, in which Article 45 (2) states "Any economic operator may be excluded from participation in a contract where that economic operator:" and lists a number of grounds, any one of which is sufficient for exclusion. (2) (d) states "has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authorities can demonstrate".

PCR 2006 is required to be consistent with the EU Directive which it implements, and this means that it is up to the contracting authority to demonstrate grave professional misconduct if they wish to exclude a bidder on those grounds. It is up to the authority to consider the evidence and act accordingly.

In fact, the contracting authority is obliged to acknowledge its discretionary powers, as the human rights lawyer Daniel Machover has stated:

> Under EU competition law and the 2006 Public Contract Regulations, a public body will act unlawfully if it directs itself wrongly on its discretionary power to exclude an economic operator from bidding for a contract where that operator has committed an act of grave misconduct in the course of its business or profession.

Foreign Office guidance

Guidance published by the Foreign Office on 4 Sept 2013, "Good Business: Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights", makes it clear that a company's human rights record should be taken into account during decisions on awarding contracts. In particular, on page 9 the Government states:

> "To give effect to the UN Guiding Principles, we have: . (ii) sought and are committed to ensuring that in UK Government procurement human rights related matters are reflected appropriately when purchasing goods, works and services. Under the public procurement rules public bodies may exclude tenderers from bidding for a contract opportunity in certain circumstances, including where there is information showing grave misconduct by a company in the course of its business or profession. Such misconduct might arise in cases where there are breaches of human rights. In addition, UK public bodies are required to have due regard for equality-related issues in their procurement activity."

UK and EU procurement law, expert opinion, and government guidance to implement UN principles all mean that the public body can, and should, review the human rights record of companies bidding for contracts and may exclude tenderers from bidding on grounds of grave misconduct, which may arise from breaches of human rights.

Councillors may encounter another objection, the distinction between so-called Part A and Part B services, set out in Schedule 3 of the Public Contract Regulations. For Part B services, the full PCR does not apply and in particular the exclusions under Section 23 do not apply. However, the full Regulations do apply to Part A services, which include land transportation, courier and armoured car, banking, management consultancy, cleaning services and many others. It would be relevant to question whether a contract which is said to be Part B in fact concerns Part A services.

However, Government guidance gives public bodies discretion to exclude bidders on human rights grounds so as to comply with UN Guiding Principles, without reference to the Part A/B distinction which is also due to be abolished. On 15 January, the European Parliament approved a new Directive. When published in final form, the UK will be obliged to implement it in domestic legislation. The Explanatory Memorandum to a draft of the new Directive includes:

> "The traditional distinction between so-called prioritary and non-prioritary services ('A' and 'B' services) will be abolished. The results of the evaluation have shown that is no longer justified to restrict the full application of procurement law to a limited group of services."

Furthermore, the new Directive will include consideration during procurement of environmental and social issues, along with grave misconduct, a development welcomed by unions. ■

Actions against G4S contracts

Some of the key actions against G4S, including by trade unionists in Norway, South Africa, Netherlands, and the UK.

April 2012: the **European Union** refused to renew its contract with G4S following concerns raised by MEPs and human rights organizations. http://www.bdsmovement.net/2012/g4s-loses-its-contract-with-the-european-parliament-8901#sthash.MWMTAS0u.dpuf

August 2012: Denmark's **Merkur Bank** terminated its contract with G4S. Spokesperson Karl Johnsen, said that the bank had canceled its contract "because of G4S's involvement in the Israeli occupation of Palestine." http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/danish-clients-dump-g4s-because-security-companys-ties-israeli-occupation

September 2012: the UK energy firm, **Good Energy**, ditched G4S saying that "feedback from customers" was one of the reasons behind its decision. http://www.corporatewatch.org/?lid=4459

November 2012: **over 20 Norwegian organizations, trade unions and NGOs** including Amnesty International, Norwegian People's Aid and the Young Mens Christian Association wrote an open letter to G4S calling on the company to withdraw from Israel. http://boikottisrael.no/nyhet/petition-21-organizations-31-october-2012-g4s-contributes-occupation-palestine

December 2012: the **University of Oslo** voted to end its G4S contract over G4S' support for "Israeli apartheid". http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/michael-deas/university-oslo-end-g4s-contract-over-support-israeli-apartheid

27 September 2013, the **Norwegian trade union, Industri Energi**, ended its G4S contract as "act of solidarity" with Palestinians. http://www5.industrienergi.no/modules/m02/article.aspx?CatId=32&ArtId=1419

November 2013, the **University of Bergen** became the second Norwegian university to not to award its security contract to G4S. http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/michael-deas/second-norwegian-university-drops-g4s-over-support-israeli-apartheid

November 2013, G4S decides to sell G4S Norway. http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303936904579179313228207256

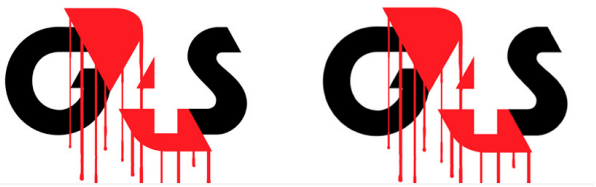
September 2013: the **East London Teachers Association (ELTA)** condemned G4S's complicity in Israel's prison system and called on the Local Authority to end contracts with G4S. ELTA is the Tower Hamlets association of the National Union of Teachers representing 70% of classroom teachers in Tower Hamlets. http://www.waronwant.org/news/latest-news/17996-east-london-teachers-association-condemns-g4s-contract-with-israels-prison-system

5 October 2013, when G4S sacked over 300 members of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union **POPCRU**, the Congress of South African Trade Unions **COSATU**, called on the South African government to end all its contracts with G4S. http://www.cosatu.org.za/show.php?ID=7904

11 October 2013, **UNISON** General Secretary Dave Prentis wrote to G4S calling on the company to pull out of Israel. http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/asa-winstanley/uk-union-head-calls-g4s-end-israel-contracts

November 2013, **University of Southampton** and **Kings College London** opted not to award G4S control of campus security services following student union campaigns criticizing the company. http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/michael-deas/boycott-campaigns-cost-g4s-two-university-contracts

December 2013, **Abvakabo**, a trade union with 350,000 members in the Netherlands, ended its relationship with G4S. http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/adri-nieuwhof/dutch-union-dumps-g4s-aiding-israels-human-rights-abuses



Union policies on Palestine

The TUC, Scottish TUC, and TUC affiliates including UNITE, Unison, GMB, and PCS have policies on Palestine relevant to G4S. Many unions actively support the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

TUC (2011)

…Congress reaffirms policy adopted in 2010, particularly the instruction to the General Council 'to work closely with the Palestine Solidarity Campaign to actively encourage affiliates, employers and pension funds to disinvest from, and boycott the goods of, companies who profit from illegal settlements, the Occupation and the construction of the Wall…

STUC (2013)

…Congress therefore:

- demands that G4S withdraws forthwith from all activities that contribute to Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem and to its denial of human rights to Palestinians;
- calls on the General Council and the trade union movement in Scotland to raise these points, through every possible channel, with G4S;
- resolves that until G4S concedes to these demands, it will be a target of the STUC's policy of Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions;
- calls on the Scottish Government to cancel G4S's new contract for tagging of offenders; and
- endorses the UK StopG4S Campaign.

Unison (2013)

… Conference also recalls last year's decision to instruct the National Executive Council to:

...

C) develop guidance for branches on campaigns to stop public service contracts being awarded to companies which are complicit in Israeli violations of international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention, for instance by contracts which service the illegal settlements, construct the Apartheid Wall or provide security in prisons holding Palestinians illegally transferred from the Occupied Territories.

PCS (2011)

.. Conference instructs the NEC to continue to support the TUC/PSC boycott campaign of those firms complicit in making profits from the occupation, the wall and the illegal settlements - including the campaign against BT due to its business links with Israeli telecommunications which supply services to the illegal Israeli settlements.

GMB (2013)

Congress notes our 2011 decision that "this Union should take a lead in driving forward the disinvestment and boycott initiatives" of "companies who profit from illegal settlements, the Occupation and the construction of the wall". Congress notes that a major priority of Trade Union Friends of Israel is to "fight the boycott" and thus to campaign against the policy of this Union. Congress determines that GMB members should not receive funding or otherwise be facilitated to either participate in TUFI sponsored visits to Israel or speak to TUFI platforms.

Unite (Executive Committee 2013)

In October 2013 the Executive Committee adopted a motion to

…1. Endorse and support the Stop G4S UK campaign, which seeks to raise awareness of / take action in relation to G4S' abuses and failures as detailed above and to do so by

- encouraging regions and branches to support & work with the Stop G4S campaign locally
- support the campaign to boycott G4S as part of a boycott of the Israeli apartheid state and to do so until such time that G4S withdraws from all activities that contribute to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, its blockade of Gaza and its denial of human rights to Palestinian prisoners

2. Prepare a G4S briefing for all UNITE sponsored MPs and also for councillors so that they can raise questions about G4S' activities and work practices, which can then be used as part of the campaigning by UNITE and other trade unions to oppose G4S expanding in to the delivery of public services

3. Reaffirm the Union's commitment to promote Palestinian freedom, equality and justice by continuing to work closely with the Palestine Solidarity Campaign which, at its 2013 AGM held in January, decided to prioritise the Stop G4S Campaign as part of its Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaign.

Model Resolution

Support for "Stop G4S" Campaign

This trades council/branch/conference [etc.] notes that:

1. In the UK, G4S profits from the privatisation of welfare services, the criminal justice system, the health service and the housing, incarceration and deportation of refugees;

2. G4S is complicit in violations of international law and gross human rights abuses, including torture. G4S supplies security systems to the Israeli occupation forces in sites where Palestinian political prisoners, including children, are detained and abused in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and, following illegal transfer into Israel, in sites where torture is documented.

3. In 2013 the inquest into the death of asylum seeker Jimmy Mubenga, who died following the use of 'unauthorised and potentially dangerous restraint techniques' by three G4S security guards, returned a verdict of unlawful killing;

4. In Europe, trades unions have taken a leading role in the campaign to Stop G4S. For example, G4S has now exited from Norway after lobbying by trade union organisations and having been excluded from contracts as a result of the reputational damage incurred by its investment in Israel and the OPT;

5. The "Stop G4S" campaign coalition was founded in October 2012, including organisations such as Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), War on Want and the South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group (SYMAAG).

This trades council/branch/conference [etc.] resolves to:

1. Endorse and support the "Stop G4S" UK campaign, including paying the appropriate affiliation fee;

2. Encourage regions and branches to support and work with the Stop G4S campaign locally;

3. Publicise the Stop G4S website, http://www.stopg4s.net, to members and branches;

4. Support the campaign to boycott G4S as part of the campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel, until such time as G4S withdraws from all activities that contribute to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, its blockade of Gaza and its denial of human rights to Palestinian prisoners;

5. Circulate briefing materials to local MPs and Councillors so that they can raise questions about G4S' activities and work practices, which can then be used as part of the campaign against G4S expanding its takeover of public services;

6. Reaffirm commitment to promote Palestinian freedom, equality and justice by continuing to work closely with / affiliate to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign which, at its 2013 AGM, decided to prioritise the Stop G4S Campaign as part of its BDS campaign.

Supplementary material

The following additional points can be incorporated into the motion if word limits permit; or they can be used as speaker's notes in proposing the motion.

Under "In the UK, ... privatisation of public services" the following sub-points can be added:

• G4S runs prisons, police custody suites, electronic tagging & court management services. It seeks further expansion into policing and probation services.

• G4S has been awarded a three-year contract to take over two sexual assault referral centres (Sarcs) in Birmingham and Walsall.

• G4S was awarded the COMPASS asylum seeker housing contract for Yorkshire & North East England. A recent parliamentary hearing was told of systematic failures including missed deadlines, sub-standard accommodation and forced evictions.

• G4S is contracted to run part of the Government's 'Work Programme' despite having no experience in this area. It has been accused of cherry-picking claimants, coercing claimants into inappropriate jobs or training in order to receive contractual payments and referring people unnecessarily for benefit sanction in order to meet targets.

• G4S is contracted to run Children's Services including secure training centres, eight residential children's homes and training courses for child care professionals.

Under "In occupied Palestine ... where torture is documented", the following sub-points can be added:

• equipment for Israeli Checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza, including in the 'seam zone' around the illegal 'separation wall'.

• Security services to businesses, including banks in illegal West Bank settlements and in East Jerusalem.

And finally:

• In the 2013 Public Eye "Worst Company of the Year" awards, G4S was voted the 3rd worst company because of its involvement in human rights violations in the UK and abroad;

Further details:

G4S's operations for the Israeli Prison Service constitute a breach of international law, including Articles 49 and 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (which forbid the transfer of prisoners from occupied territories to the territory of the occupier), and they are complicit in violations of the human rights of Palestinian prisoners, including children (as documented by independent human rights organisations such as Amnesty International and Defence for Children International).

In February 2013 Palestinian political prisoner Arafat Jaradat died in Israeli custody after being interrogated at Israel's G4S secured Megiddo Prison. The results of an autopsy conducted in Tel Aviv revealed he had been tortured before he died.

G4S is complicit in Israel's illegal practice of punitive administrative detention where prisoners are held indefinitely without charge or trial on endless rolling administrative detention orders. Figures from 2013 show 86% of administrative detainees are imprisoned in G4S secured Israeli facilities.

G4S have stated for a few years now that they are planning to cease operations in the OPT. However, they have not yet done so and they now say it will be in 2015. Hence the motion mentions detention centres/prisons within the OPT.

Papua New Guinean G4S staff contracted by Australia are alleged to be responsible for much of the violence during the attack on Manus Island detention centre on 17th February 2014 when one of the asylum seekers, Reza Berati, was killed and many others were seriously injured.

Latest updates and campaign info at

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stop-G4S/208029375963632

Follow @StopG4S on Twitter