

January 17, 2024

Tobias Read
State Treasurer
Office of the State Treasurer
159 State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE, Salem 97301-4043
oregon.treasurer@ost.state.or.us

cc: Oregon Investment Council
OIC.PublicComments@ost.state.or.us

Dear Mr. Read,

The Oregon State Treasury has invested Public Retirement funds in Israel's largest military contractor, Elbit Systems, securing a 500-share stake in Elbit through a private equity firm in 2022. Elbit manufactures many of the munitions being used to devastate Gaza, and the use of our public money to finance and invest in this destruction is unacceptable.

We, as public employees invested in PERS, do not want to be invested in a military that commits war crimes and other crimes against humanity!

As a union, we are asking the State to immediately divest our Public Employee Retirement Funds from the Israeli military contractor Elbit Systems. We object to our retirement funds being used to support Israeli war crimes against the Palestinian people. In the last three months, Israel's bombardment of Gaza has killed over 22,000 civilians, an estimated 10,000 of whom are children, using munitions and other weapons of war made by Elbit. The Oregon Treasury's investment in Elbit makes Oregonians complicit in the crime of collective punishment, which is forbidden by the Geneva Conventions.

Elbit Systems Ltd, headquartered in Israel, designs, manufactures, and sells munitions, combat vehicles, drones, electronic warfare systems, cybersecurity technologies, and other weapons and surveillance systems.

Elbit supplies the Israeli military with a wide variety of weapons, including missiles, bombs, drones, gun systems, and ammunition. Elbit technologies, including Torch-X command and control, electronic warfare (EW), display, and warning systems, are also integrated into the Israeli military's main fighter aircraft, battle tanks, and warships.

For years, these weapons have routinely been used against Palestinian civilians, resulting in numerous casualties as well as mass destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and water and electric systems. These attacks include war crimes that Israel

has committed during several major military offensives against the Gaza Strip, which has been illegally blockaded since 2007:

2022 ("Operation Breaking Dawn"): Within three days of this unprovoked offensive, Israel killed at least 33 Palestinians, including 17 civilians. Evidence of war crimes was recorded by Amnesty International.

2021 ("Operation Guardian of the Walls"): During this assault, Israel killed at least 261 Palestinians, including 67 children and 41 women. At least half of the fatalities were civilians, and more than 2,200 additional Palestinians were injured. Evidence of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity was published by Palestinian human rights organizations Al-Haz, Al-Mezan, and the Palestinian Center of Human Rights; Amnesty International; and Human Rights Watch.

2014 ("Operation Protective Edge"): During this 50-day assault, Israel killed at least 2,131 Palestinians, at least 1,473 of whom were civilians, including 501 children and 257 women. At least 11,100 Palestinians were wounded, including 3,374 children. Evidence of war crimes was published by Palestinian human rights organizations Al-Haq and Al-Mezan; Israeli organization B'Tselem; Amnesty International; and Human Rights Watch.

Border Monitoring and Surveillance in the US and Abroad:

Elbit has also provided its surveillance technologies—"field-proven" on Palestinians and installed along Israel's border walls—to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) since 2006. The company provides U.S. immigration authorities with fixed and mobile/relocatable surveillance systems, ground sensors, drones, Border Patrol command and control platforms, and other technologies. Elbit has become one of 14 "giants in the [U.S.] border security business" in its bid to "build a 'layer' of electronic surveillance equipment across the entire perimeter of the U.S.", expanding "not only to the northern border [the U.S.–Canadian border], but to the ports and harbors across the country."

We will not be complicit, and we will not be silent. Divest Now!

Sincerely,

AFSCME Local 88