

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

Justice for Rachel: What You Can Do

On Monday, August 28, Cindy and Craig Corrie and their daughter Sarah will be sitting in a courtroom in Haifa. They will be awaiting a verdict issued by Judge Oded Gershon in a civil suit filed by the Corries against the Ministry of Defense of the State of Israel. The civil lawsuit is a response to the 2003 decision by the Israel Defense Forces that the driver of the armored D9 Caterpillar bulldozer did not see or hear Rachel as she stood in front of the Rafah home of Palestinian pharmacist Dr. Samir Nasrallah. Rachel, along with other members of the International Solidarity Movement, was attempting to block the demolitions of homes and entire

villages by the Israeli Army Combat Engineering Corps. She was killed as the bulldozer continued on its assignment to destroy the Nasrallah home.



The U.S. Government advised the Corries to file this civil lawsuit, finding that the Israeli military police investigation of Rachel's killing did not meet

standards of being "thorough, credible, and transparent." Despite this recommendation, U.S. Government and U.S. taxpayers continue to be complicit in the continued destruction of Palestinian homes and villages to make room for illegal Israeli settlements. In addition to the ongoing and ever-increasing military aid our government gives Israel, U.S. companies such as Caterpillar, Motorola, and Hewlett-Packard promote the occupation of Palestine. See the other side of this paper to learn about these connections and what you can do to end the occupation.

We will issue the news of the verdict in next week's flier. Regardless of the outcome of this civil lawsuit, we urge you to continue to work for justice for Rachel Corrie and for human rights.

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

US-based companies that promote illegal occupation

Caterpillar supplies the armor-plated and weaponized bulldozers used to destroy Palestinian homes and uproot Palestinian orchards. Bulldozers purchased with US taxpayer money and given to Israel are retrofitted with armor plating, machine guns, smoke projectors, and even grenade launchers. These machines are an essential part of the IDF arsenal and are used to tear up roads, destroy water and sewage networks, and demolish villages and homes. Although investment firm TIAA-CREF recently removed Caterpillar from its “Social Choice” accounts, it continues to hold over a billion dollars of CAT stock.

Motorola Solutions profits from many aspects of the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including developing at least four perimeter surveillance systems installed around dozens of Jewish-only settlements and military camps. Such infrastructure inside the occupied West Bank entrenches the occupation and solidifies military bases and illegal settlements as “facts on the ground.” It is OK to provide safety equipment. It is not OK to do for segregated communities on stolen land.

Hewlett-Packard provides ongoing support and maintenance to a biometric ID system installed in Israeli checkpoints in the occupied West Bank. These checkpoints 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. HP is also working with the Israeli government to manufacture and distribute a biometric ID system for all Israeli citizens, which will categorize citizens by their ethnic background and increase discrimination against Arab citizens.

Actions you can take

- Do not buy products made by Caterpillar (including toys), Motorola, or Hewlett-Packard;
- Encourage the investment ratings agency, MSCI, to recommend that TIAA-CREF divest of all stock in CAT;
- Inform your government representatives of your opinion;
- Become familiar with these groups that support boycott and divestment from companies that profit from occupation, and sanctions of Israeli entities that violate human rights:

<http://wedivest.org/>

<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=209>

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

<http://www.rabbisletter.org/faq/>

Bay Area Women in Black are Jews and allies who stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own. We wear black as a sign of our mourning for all the lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarization and violence, and particularly those in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine. As part of the international movement of Women in Black, we seek to transform women’s mourning for the dead into a powerful refusal of the inevitability of war.

Join us at the Grand Lake Theater every Saturday at noon to register your protest and your presence as we continue to urge the end of the US military and financial support for Israel’s disastrous policies **and stand for human rights for all in Israel and Palestine.**