

Elbit, TIAA-CREF and the Wall that Separates Palestinians from their Resource Rights



In Palestine/Israel, where land and water are at the root of the conflict, resource rights are essential to achieving a just peace and an end to the decades-long conflict.

Resource Rights are economic and social rights grounded in local control of, and access to, natural resources such as land, water, food and genetic material (e.g., seed stocks) that are fundamental to sustaining livelihoods, biodiversity, and economic and social justice.

How is the Wall a Barrier to Resource Rights?

- In 2002, the Israeli government began the construction of a 400-mile-long “Separation Wall” in the West Bank. By 2010, the Wall was 64 percent complete.
- The Wall is not built along the 1967 Green Line between Israel and the West Bank—instead, 85 percent of the Wall is in Palestinian territory inside the West Bank. When completed, the Wall will effectively annex nearly half of the West Bank, and prevent Palestinian access to the Jordan River.
- The Wall’s construction has already destroyed more than 13 miles of water networks, uprooted over 100,000 olive and citrus trees, and killed hundreds of cattle and farm animals—resources that Palestinian families relied on for their livelihoods.
- The Wall has separated Palestinian families from thousands of acres of fertile farmland, aqueducts, and dozens of wells, violating Palestinians’ right to water, enshrined in international law.
- In some places the Wall is a solid concrete structure over 26 feet high with armed sniper towers embedded every 900 feet. In others, it is a network of razor wires, electrified fences, trenches that measure up to 12 feet deep and military roads. Its buffer zones extend from 100 to over 330 feet into Palestinian land—complete with sensors, expanded trenches, and military patrol roads.
- Many voices indicate that the Wall is unjust, from Grassroots International’s own partners who focus on the ways it violates their resource rights, to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the United Nations Security Council, who declared the Wall in the West Bank illegal.

Grassroots International works to create a just and sustainable world by building alliances with progressive movements. We provide grants to our Global South partners and join them in advocating for social change. Our primary focus is on land, water and food as human rights and nourishing the political struggle necessary to achieve these rights.



“The construction of the wall being built by Israel... in the occupied Palestinian territories, including in and around East Jerusalem... [is] contrary to international law. Israel is under obligation... to dismantle forthwith the structure... [and] make reparation for all damage caused...”

– International Court of Justice advisory opinion, July 9, 2004

What is Elbit Systems Ltd., and how does it profit from the Wall?

- Elbit Systems Ltd. is one of the world's largest security and defense electronics contractors. Elbit specializes in military electronics and unmanned air vehicles or “drones.”
- Elbit has a lucrative contract to build and operate the Wall in the West Bank and Gaza, and to provide military surveillance systems. At an estimated \$2 million per kilometer in construction costs, Elbit stands to profit significantly from the violation of Palestinians' resource and human rights.
- Elbit's subsidiary is also building the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Elbit is a publicly traded corporation with multiple investors, including TIAA-CREF (Teachers Insurance and Annuity—College Retirement Equities Fund). As of March 31, 2010, TIAA-CREF invested \$1,698,000 in Elbit Systems Ltd.

What you can do:

You have the power to right wrongs and defend resource rights!

Grassroots International invites you to join with us in a campaign to ask TIAA-CREF to divest from Elbit Systems Ltd. This campaign is one part of a broader worldwide effort—large pension funds and banks in Norway, the Netherlands, and Denmark have already divested from Elbit. Whether or not you have retirement funds invested in TIAA-CREF, you have the power to influence where that money goes!

You can support this campaign in many ways:

1. If you have funds invested in TIAA-CREF, follow this link to [send a message](#) asking them to divest from Elbit Systems Ltd.
2. If you don't have funds invested in TIAA-CREF or are unsure, you can [sign the petition](#) asking TIAA-CREF to divest from Elbit Systems Ltd—this is open to everyone!
3. Ask your friends and family to sign the petition and, if they have funds at TIAA-CREF, to take our Call to Action.
4. Share information about this campaign through your social networks on Twitter or Facebook. Repost or “like” articles or blogs to help spread the word.
5. [Join our e-advocacy](#) list to receive regular updates on resource rights work around the world, including action alerts.
6. [Make a gift!](#) Your financial support for Grassroots International and our Middle East Program helps women, family farmers, and human rights activists in the occupied Palestinian territories and worldwide.

www.GrassrootsOnline.org/TIAA-CREF_Petition
www.GrassrootsOnline.org/TIAA-CREF_Action

“No company is more deeply embedded in Israel's brutal architecture, occupation, and segregation than Elbit.”

– Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*



“The Wall ... doesn't only devour our land but also devours all the efforts made to cultivate our olive trees over generations. No one can imagine the daily suffering of the Palestinian people caused by the Apartheid Wall and the military check-points...We're olive farmers. It is very difficult now to survive on the olive oil we produce after 95 percent of our land was confiscated.”

– Aisha Mahmoud, 50-year-old farmer, mother of five children, and member of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, Faraon village in Tulkarem