

Do not award public contracts to CAF as long as it profits from Israel's violations of Palestinian rights

On Land Day, the international community must double efforts to end Israeli apartheid.

Forty-five years ago today, Israeli police shot and killed six Palestinian citizens of Israel as they were protesting the Israeli government's expropriation of thousands of dunums of Palestinian land. Since then, March 30 has been commemorated by Palestinians everywhere as Land Day.

Even though Israel has put official annexation on pause, its de facto annexation, which has been going on for decades, is escalating. Israel keeps on stealing Palestinian land, denying Palestinian livelihood, as a means of ethnic cleansing.

In August 2019, the Basque company "Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles (CAF)" was awarded¹ the contract to expand and operate Israel's so-called Jerusalem Light Rail (JLR) linking illegal Israeli colonies with West Jerusalem. The expansion is taking place on occupied Palestinian land, contrary to international law, and is also contributing to entrenching Israel's military occupation and apartheid. In addition, Shapir, which is in consortium with CAF to expand the JLR, is listed in the UN database of companies² that are complicit in Israel's illegal settlement enterprise, a war crime under international law.

CAF's contribution to Israel's system of illegal occupation and apartheid is now the target of an international human rights campaign supported by major trade unions in Europe. Trade unions representing the workers at CAF's Spanish factory are protesting against their employer's contribution to Israel's violations of Palestinian rights and demanding that the company withdraw.

The French company Veolia, which carried out the first construction phase of the JLR, had to sell all of its shares after losing over \$20 billion in public contracts due to human rights campaigns against it.

European public institutions, CAF's main clients, can and should exclude CAF from tenders and contracts because of its involvement in gross human rights abuses through its business with Israel's illegal JLR project.

On this Land Day, Palestinians are reminding public institutions in Europe and around the world of their legal and ethical obligations: **Respect our human rights. Do not award contracts to CAF**, or any company listed in the UN database, until they stop profiting from Israel's apartheid and its ongoing colonization of our land.

Signed:

General Federation of Independent Trade Unions - Palestine

The Palestinian New Federation of Trade Unions



¹ <https://www.caf.net/en/sala-prensa/nota-prensa-detalle.php?e=286>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25542&LangID=E>