



CAT BULLDOZERS ARE BEING USED AS WEAPONS

Since Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, its army has used Caterpillar bulldozers to demolish 11,000 Palestinian homes, leaving more than 50,000 people homeless.

Israel's motivation, writes Israeli peace activist Jeff Halper, is "to confine the West Bank's 2.3 million Palestinians -- as well as the 1.3 million of Gaza...to small, crowded, disconnected enclaves" (*Obstacles to Peace*, Feb. 2004). The "message of the bulldozers" is "you do not belong here."



CATERPILLAR: STOP BULLDOZING PALESTINIAN LIVES!

The Caterpillar D9 and D10 bulldozers are used to destroy Palestinian land, roads, water supplies and sewer systems and to uproot hundreds of thousands of fruit and olive trees, the main livelihood for many Palestinians. Home demolitions clear the way for illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land and the creation of Israel's separation Wall. In Palestinian East Jerusalem alone, demolition orders are outstanding on 2,000 homes.

According to Amnesty International, "Often the only warning is the rumbling of the Israeli army's bulldozers and tanks, and the inhabitants barely have time to flee as the bulldozers begin to tear down the walls of their homes" (May 18, 2004).

Recently, three Palestinians were crushed inside their homes during demolition. On March 16, 2003, Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old American peace activist, was killed by a Caterpillar bulldozer as she tried to protect a Gaza home threatened with destruction.

Israel claims it is demolishing the homes of suicide bombers and other militants who have staged attacks on Israelis. The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem says only a fraction of the homes Israel has destroyed belong to Palestinians suspected of participation in attacks on Israelis.

"The razing of

homes is a blatant violation of international law and is also considered a war crime," declares B'Tselem (Nov. 14, 2004).

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other human rights groups all denounce the Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes and property as a form of collective punishment banned by Article 33 and Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Why is this our business?

We help pay for it. Caterpillar D9 and D10 bulldozers are purchased by the US Foreign Military Sales Program with our tax dollars, and conveyed to Israel as part of the US military aid package.

In Israel the bulldozers are retrofitted with armor, machine guns and grenade launchers and used as weapons of occupation and settlement expansion in violation of the US Arms Export Control Act (Public Law 90-829), which limits the use of US military aid to "legitimate self-defense" and prohibits its use against civilians.

What should Caterpillar do?

Caterpillar claims to be guided by its Code of Worldwide Business Conduct which states that it accepts the "responsibilities of global citizenship" and recognizes that its "commitment to financial success must also take into account social, economic, political and environmental priorities."

To end its complicity in human rights violations, Caterpillar must halt the sales of its equipment to the Israeli government and army (*over*).



BootCAT Campaign: HOW YOU CAN HELP

A GROWING CAMPAIGN

People and organizations around the US and the world are demanding that the Caterpillar Corporation stop permitting its bulldozers to be used as weapons by the Israeli occupying army in violation of international law:

- **Human Rights Watch** demanded that Caterpillar “immediately suspend” the sale of D9 bulldozers to the Israeli military since it is the “primary weapon to raze Palestinian homes, destroy agriculture and shred roads in violation of the laws of war” (October 29, 2004).
- **Amnesty International** recommended that Caterpillar “take measures — within the company sphere of influence — to guarantee that its bulldozers are not used to commit human rights violations, including the destruction of homes, land and other properties” (May 18, 2004).
- **Jean Ziegler, the Special Rapporteur for the Right to Food** (UN Commission on Human Rights) wrote to Caterpillar expressing deep concern “about the actions of the Israeli occupying forces in Rafah and other locations in Gaza and the West Bank, using armored bulldozers supplied by your company.”
- The **Presbyterian Church** is considering divesting from its 39,900 shares of Caterpillar stock.



THINGS YOU CAN DO

- **Send an online letter to the Caterpillar Board** saying that the Corporation should stop bulldozing Palestinian lives.

Go to <http://www.ProgressivePortal.org/cat>.

- **Sign and get signatures for the BootCAT petition.**

You can download it from www.bootcat.org and send completed copies to BCPR, PO Box 2433, Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA 02238. The copies will be presented to the Caterpillar Corporation at their annual shareholders meeting in April 2005.

- **Boycott CAT brand products,** including boots, T-shirts, hats

and toys. Tell the store manager why you are not buying CAT products and why you think the store should stop carrying them. And ask your friends to do the same! See www.bootcat.org for store locations.

- **Find out more about the issue** and the BootCAT campaign. Learn about efforts initiated by the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Loretto, and Jewish Voice for Peace to pass a Caterpillar shareholders’ resolution and about the direct action being coordinated by SUSTAIN and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, representing some 200 groups nationwide. Go to www.bootCAT.org.

JOIN THE BOOTCAT CAMPAIGN

The BootCAT Campaign seeks to stop the Caterpillar Corporation from selling bulldozers to Israel that are used to destroy Palestinian homes and agricultural land. The Campaign supports divestment efforts, the shareholders’ resolution, and a boycott of CAT equipment, clothing and footwear.

A project of the Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights, BootCAT holds regular meetings in the Boston area. If you cannot attend meetings, there are many other ways you can help us build the Campaign. To get involved email info@bootcat.org.

www.bootCat.org