

Fact sheet: Queensland public money going to war criminal Veolia

French based company Veolia has contracts with Federal, State and local governments worth millions of dollars throughout Queensland. Veolia operates buses for the Queensland Government in the Redlands Shire and runs services to Brisbane as well. It also operates waste and recycling services seen almost everywhere on bins, skips and garbage truck bearing the name Veolia or the yellow hippo of Collex (part of Veolia). You can see Veolia recycling wheelie bins in Centrelink offices or Veolia skips in Brisbane City Council yards. Recently the Queensland State Government has awarded Veolia two multi-million dollar projects; the Western Corridor Recycled Water (WCRW) scheme and the seawater desalination plant on the Gold Coast. While Veolia's image of providing environmental services and solutions seems benign this company, which receives millions from Queensland rates and tax payers, is actively involved in committing war crimes.

Veolia committing war crimes in East Jerusalem

Veolia Transport is directly involved in the Israeli light rail or tramway project that is planned to link West Jerusalem with the ring of illegal Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. This settler-only tramway is playing a key role in Israel's attempt to make its illegal annexation of Palestinian East Jerusalem irreversible. This is a violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949 which prohibits an occupying power transferring part of its civil population to an occupied territory and demolishing property. In 2005, Amnesty International-France and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) warned Veolia to stay away from the tramway project.

Veolia committing war crimes in the Jordan Valley

Veolia runs the Tovlan landfill, located beside the Jordan River in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and despite being on Palestinian land Veolia claims the landfill is part of Israel which uses it as a dump for solid waste from Israeli municipalities and the illegal settlements of Ariel, Maale Efrayim, the Regional Councils of Megilot, Biqat Hayarden and Shomron as well as the Barkan Industrial Park. Tovlan accounts for 14 percent of Israel's solid waste dumped in landfills. In 2004, the International Court of Justice stated that Israel should dismantle the settlements built in the OPT. Instead, Israel has accelerated the expansion of settlements. The company assists Israel in "solving" the problem of waste from the illegal settlements. With the Tovlan "sanitary" landfill in the OPT, Veolia leaves Palestine with an unacceptable and criminal scar of garbage in the Jordan Valley.

Pressure mounting internationally against Veolia

On January 20 this year Veolia lost the contract to operate Stockholm's subway due to media scrutiny about Veolia's crimes against Palestine. Despite having operated the subway for 10 years Veolia lost the contracts for the coming 8 years worth 3.5 billion EURO.

Dutch Triodos Bank recently stated in their publication *Triodos Nieuws* that Triodos does not and will not invest in Veolia. Triodos does not want to support dictatorial regimes because of their undemocratic character. In Palestine, due to the Israeli occupation, democracy is impossible. That is why Triodos explicitly excludes companies that contribute to the continuation of occupation, like Veolia.

In France the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Association Solidarity France Palestine have taken Veolia to court to prove that Veolia has committed grave misconduct in Palestine under French law.

In many European countries, activists have started to influence pension funds and city councils to exclude Veolia from their dealings. For the past few years activists in Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland have sent a clear message to institutions in their countries that they should stay away from companies that benefit from the Israeli occupation. By ignoring the numerous calls by activists to withdraw from the Jerusalem light rail project, Veolia has only served to solidify their image as companies that don't care about human rights and international law.

What can we do?

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign against Israel was launched in 2005 by more than 170 Palestinian organizations to end Israel's impunity and to hold it accountable for its persistent violation of international law and Palestinian rights. It draws on the experience of the movement against South African apartheid, which brought about the international isolation of the apartheid regime and forced Western governments to apply sanctions on South Africa. Given Veolia's active involvement in Israel's war crimes Justice for Palestine Brisbane has decided to target Veolia as part of this international campaign. No government or company should deal with war criminals. Justice for Palestine Brisbane is organising people to demand that as long as Veolia continues to support Israel's illegal occupation and theft of Palestinian land that no government or company in Queensland should do business with Veolia. To get involved or to find out more information contact Hamish p) 0401 586 923 or e) hamishmail@gmail.com or visit www.justiceforpalestinebrisbane.org

WANTED



**for profiteering
from occupation
and war crimes**

Free Palestine - Isolate Apartheid Israel - Dump Veolia