



 **VEOLIA** furthering Israeli Apartheid and Occupation

WHO IS VEOLIA?

Veolia is a French multinational company which operates around the world under various pseudonyms including Connex, Onyx, Cleanaway, and TMM.

WHY BOYCOTT VEOLIA?

Veolia is in breach of international law through its collaboration with Israel in furthering and entrenching the illegal occupation of Palestine. This includes:

1. The Jerusalem Light Rail (JLR) is set to link Israeli West Jerusalem to illegal Israeli settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem (Palestine). See map opposite.

Rather than relieving congestion, the tram project was approved in 2006 *“to strengthen Jerusalem, construct it, expand it, and sustain it for eternity as the capital of the Jewish people and the united capital of the state of Israel”* [then Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon].

Because of its involvement in the illegal scheme, Veolia has already lost contracts to the value of billions in Europe alone, and is being dragged through the French courts (more on this below).

2. Veolia runs two bus services (109 and 110) operated by its local company Connex. Both connect Israeli West Jerusalem to illegal Israeli settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem; both use roads on which Palestinians are forbidden to travel. So both are Apartheid Israeli-only bus services serving the same function as the tramway: to irreversibly entrench the illegal occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

3. Veolia owns and operates the Tovlan landfill site in the Jordan Valley in the West Bank, through its subsidiary TMM. This site is set up to service the illegal settlements, and by extension, the illegal occupation.

Breaches of International Law

Israeli settlements built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the annexation of East Jerusalem are illegal under international law. They violate the 4th Geneva Convention (article 49 and 53); Hague Regulations of 1907 (section 3); numerous United Nations resolutions; and the International Court of Justice 2004 advisory opinion.

These violations in some cases amount to war crimes, i.e. “grave breaches” of the Convention. The International Court of Justice made clear that states should not do anything to assist Israel in its unlawful settlement activities. Yet Veolia is involved in building and operating a tramline, bus routes and a landfill site that run through the OPT and sustain the illegal settlements.

Veolia is involved in facilitating, exacerbating, aiding and abetting Israel's breach of International Law and ongoing war crimes. With their actions, Veolia is cementing the illegal occupation of Palestine and furthering Israeli apartheid. Veolia is undermining any chance of a just peace for the Palestinian people.



IMPACT OF BOYCOTT TO DATE

- In November 2006, ASN Dutch bank, broke off financial relations with Veolia on account of the light rail contract, stating that “*We believe that Veolia's involvement in the light rail project is not in accordance with the UN's demand to stop all support for Israel's settlement activities, and is therefore not in line with ASN Bank's social criteria ...*”
- Veolia also runs Luas, Dublin's light rail system, but has been forced by Trade Union pressure to cancel a proposed deal to provide training to drivers and engineers for the Jerusalem Light Rail.
- In 2007 a French NGO (AFPS) and the PLO, initiated a lawsuit in France against Veolia Transport and Alstom (another JLR partner). The French courts are able to void business agreements signed by French companies that violate international law.
- In February 2009 Veolia lost a 3.5 billion Euro contract to run the Stockholm metro.
- In June 2009, in Australia, Veolia lost their contract with Melbourne's train system.
- After a campaign by West Midlands Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Veolia failed to get on Sandwell Borough Council's short list for a rubbish-collection contract.
- **Haaretz reported in June 2009 that because of boycott and divestment actions, Veolia is looking to sell its stake in the Jerusalem Light Rail.** Veolia has yet to confirm this, but it is clear that they are feeling the heat and are susceptible to continued boycott pressure.

The above list is only a sample of some of the boycott successes that are known about; many concerned individuals and groups are challenging Veolia all over Europe and beyond.

WHERE CAN I FIND VEOLIA?

Veolia and its subsidiaries are involved with the public sector such as local Councils and with the private sector. Their areas of work are water, waste management, energy and transport services.

WHAT CAN I DO?

As the international community has been unwilling and unable to hold Israel accountable to international law, or at least to end its unchallenged impunity, it is left to the citizens of every country to take action to end Israeli crimes and to end the direct involvement in those crimes by companies servicing us.

Join with others to raise the issue in any place where Veolia is operating; unite with colleagues in your workplace or university; take up the issue in your trade union.

The information on this factsheet is not common knowledge so, often, procurement staff will be surprised to discover the nature of the company that supplies them. Few will have any ideological yearning to support a company involved in breaches of international law, so the facts alone may well be enough to convince many small businesses to arrange an alternative supplier.

Larger or public institutions may be more resistant, and the facts by themselves may not be enough. Petitions are a useful way to raise awareness and build a group or network able to force change. No institution is keen to be linked with human rights abuses, and breach of international law.

RESOURCES

See our website's Veolia section for more information on how to challenge public procurement. Contact the campaign for help or advice, and resources such as petitions templates, leaflets etc.



SUCCESSSES - Please let us know of any successes as they occur.