

can we get behind this as Tikkun Toronto?

Below is an e-mail from Cindy Corrie (Rachel,s mom) inviting organizations to endorse a letter to the largest distributor of Caterpillar in Washington (the Harnish Group), asking them to stop Caterpillar sales to Israel of militarized bulldozers.

Read the whole thing, if you want to help this important campaign. At the very least, encourage your organization to endorse the letter. Send your organizational name and contact person to Rochelle Gause at rochelle@riseupnet.

I support the endorsement of the Coalition of Women for Peace, and invite each member organization to consider endorsement as well. Please send endorsements to rochelle@riseup.net not to me.

Gila Svirsky

-----Original Message-----

From: Cindy Corrie [mailto:Cindy@the-corries.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2005 11:33 PM

To: Cindy Corrie

Subject: Caterpillar, Inc. Project--Join us!

March 1, 2005

Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask you to support the Olympia Rafah Sister City Project's

efforts around the April 13th International Day of Action Against Caterpillar, Inc. Please consider how you can help. Our immediate need is to secure group endorsements for the letter (below) to the Harnish Group. (See information below.)

Caterpillar equipment is directly implicated in a host of human rights abuses committed by the Israeli military in its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Caterpillar officials repeatedly say that the corporation has "neither the legal right nor the ability to monitor and police individual use" of its equipment. But the U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation states, "Caterpillar not only has the ability to monitor the use of its equipment, but after calls from human rights organizations, members of the office of the UN Commissioner on Human Rights, several religious and social justice organizations, and the victims themselves, CAT has the responsibility to investigate the ethics of selling bulldozers as weapons and profiting from human rights abuses."

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) has for the second year in a row filed a shareholder resolution asking Caterpillar, Inc. to review whether the sale of its equipment to the Israeli army violates the corporation's own Code of Worldwide Business Conduct. JVP's Liat Weingart states, "Groups as varied as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch as well as the Presbyterians and Pax Christi have all criticized Caterpillar for their sales of bulldozers to Israel. Groups within the Mennonite and Anglican churches are lobbying for them to take a stand as well."

The Olympia Rafah Sister City group is taking several steps to support the national and international efforts to hold Caterpillar Corporation accountable. We very much need your support for the following:

- 1) Group endorsements of a letter to Harnish Group Inc. (HGI)

Harnish Group Inc., in Tukwila, is the largest distributor of Caterpillar equipment in Washington. It has over 950 employees and operates 11 equipment branches and 10 construction and industrial rental equipment stores under the names N C Machinery Co., N C Power Systems Co., Tractor & Equipment Co., Machinery Power & Equipment Co., and the Cat Rental Store.

Below is a letter to the President and C.E.O. of HGI, John Harnish, requesting the following:

- A) Support of the shareholder resolution brought forward by Jewish Voice for Peace
- B) Support for the demand by Human Rights Watch that Caterpillar cease all sales of D9, D10, and D11 militarized bulldozers to the Israeli military
- C) A public statement of concern about the Israeli army's use of Caterpillar equipment to commit systematic human rights violations.

We are seeking group endorsements of our letter to the Harnish Group.

Please share the letter below with organizations and ask that by March 12th they send their endorsement and the name of an individual member who can be listed as a contact to Rochelle Gause at rochelle@riseup.net.

2) Letter writing campaign

In the period up to and beyond April 13, we urge individuals to write letters to the following:

A) John Harnish, President and C.E.O. of HGI and N.C. Machinery Company, 17025 W. Valley Hwy, Tukwila, WA 98188; Reinforce points made in the group endorsement letter below.

B) Caterpillar Board of Directors: e-mail:

<http://www.progressiveportal.org/letters/global/mideast/cat.html>

Or write to James W. Owens, Chairman and CEO, Caterpillar, Inc, 100 NE Adams

St., Peoria, IL 61629

C) Members of Congress: Contact your Congressional representative and tell her/him to ask for a General Accounting Office investigation of US purchase of CATERPILLAR equipment for Israel. Our understanding is that CATERPILLAR equipment is sold to Israel under the US Foreign Military Sales Program. It is illegal for US-purchased equipment to be used to violate human rights.

In the Olympia area, we are happy to send one of our members to your meeting to explain this effort, to answer questions, and to provide letter writing materials for a letter writing session at the meeting. In other parts of Washington, we urge you to organize your own letter writing sessions. Please e-mail Rochelle Gause at rochelle@riseup.net to let us know about your participation.

3) Attend a rally at N.C. Machinery in Tukwila, 17900 W. Valley Highway, 2PM, Wednesday, April 13, to highlight the role of Caterpillar Corporation in the Israeli occupation of Palestine. This is H.G.I. headquarters and an important place to direct our message. For carpooling in the Olympia area, we are meeting in the Rainy Day Records parking lot, on the corner of Harrison and Division at 12:30PM. However, if you are unable to join us at the headquarters, consider doing some education and protest at another Harnish location. See the website at www.ncmachinery.com for further information and the list below for additional locations. Note that we will keep you informed of our progress in securing a meeting with the Harnish Group so that our responses can be adjusted accordingly.

Thank you for your time and attention to this effort. Working together, we can hopefully become increasingly effective in our local efforts to address the role of Caterpillar, Inc in the human rights abuses that continue to occur in Palestine.

In peace,
Cindy Corrie

Cindy@the-corries.com

February 28, 2005

Mr. John Harnish

President and CEO

The Harnish Group, Inc.

17025 W. Valley Hwy.

Tukwila, WA 98188

Dear Mr. Harnish,

On March 16, 2003, our friend Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by an armored D9 Caterpillar bulldozer as she tried to nonviolently prevent the bulldozer from destroying the home of two families in the Palestinian city of Rafah. Two weeks earlier in Rafah, Nuha Sweidan was killed when her home collapsed on her as the home next door was being demolished by a bulldozer. She was nine months pregnant. Many more Palestinian men, women, and children have also been killed in their own homes when the Israeli military utilized Caterpillar bulldozers to demolish houses.

We call on you ~ the largest distributor of Caterpillar equipment in Washington ~ to join the efforts of many human rights and religious groups to ensure that Caterpillar, Inc. complies with international law and respects standards of decency and human rights. The use of weaponized Caterpillar bulldozers by the Israeli military is causing enormous destruction, misery and death in the Occupied Territories, making a just resolution to the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict much more difficult.

Human Rights Watch has determined that „the Israeli military uses the D9 as its primary weapon to raze Palestinian homes, destroy agriculture and shred roads in violation of the laws of war.% Human Rights Watch calls upon Caterpillar, Inc. to suspend sales of D9 bulldozers, parts, and maintenance services to the Israeli military pending implementation of recommendations to bring its use of Caterpillar equipment into compliance with international law. The campaign to stop sales of Caterpillar equipment to the Israeli military is supported by Amnesty International, the Presbyterian Church USA, the Sisters of Mercy, Churches for Peace in the Middle East, and over twenty other national organizations.

In the last four years, Israel has demolished 4,000 to 5,000 Palestinian homes, leaving thousands of families homeless. During 2000 and 2001 alone, the Israeli military used Caterpillar bulldozers to uproot 385,000 olive trees and other orchards, undermining the foundations of the Palestinian agricultural economy. Just last year, Israeli forces used D9s to destroy large swaths of greenhouses in Rafah, while the „ripper% blade on the D9,s back tore up over 50% of Rafah,s roads and water pipes, causing sewage and drinking water to mix.

In a single day, August 21, 2003, the Israeli military used Caterpillar bulldozers to destroy the entire marketplace of Nazlat Elssa, demolishing over a hundred shops and the economic livelihood of the village,s 2,500 residents. Israel offered no security rationale for this destruction.

Israel consistently employs military-grade Caterpillar bulldozers to commit actions that have been declared „war crimes% by respected authorities from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the UN Commission on Human Rights and the Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem. These crimes have been repeatedly criticized by the US Department of State in its annual human rights report. Even a recent Israeli military report concurs that the practice of demolishing Palestinian homes increases Palestinian anger towards Israel and provokes violent retaliation, thereby perpetuating the long-running conflict.

Since 2003, the United Nations has begun to develop standards for corporations in regards to human rights. The UN has stated that companies should not „engage in or benefit from% violations of international human rights

or humanitarian law and that companies „shall further seek to ensure that the goods and services they provide will not be used to abuse human rights.%00

Caterpillar,s own code of conduct requires it to consider the broad impact of its business. The company,s Code of Worldwide Business Conduct states that „Caterpillar accepts the responsibilities of global citizenship.%00 The company,s commitment to financial success, the code says, „must also take into account social, economic, political and environmental priorities.%00

One of the NC Machinery,s values states, „We are uncompromising in our adherence to moral and ethical principles. We do what is right, even when it is not the easiest solution.%00

It is easy to wish for this issue to go away. But inaction only allows the crimes to continue. As President and CEO of the Harnish Group, Inc., you have the opportunity to take positive steps to promote peace and justice, rather than to perpetuate conflict and violence. We ask that you:

v Support the shareholder resolution brought forward by Jewish Voice for Peace (attachment A), requesting that Caterpillar review whether the direct or indirect sale of its equipment to the Israeli army violates the corporation,s own Code of Worldwide Business Conduct. Vote your personal shares of Caterpillar stock in favor of the resolution.

v Support the demand by Human Rights Watch that Caterpillar cease all sales to the Israeli military of the D9, D10, and D11 militarized bulldozers, as well as parts and maintenance services; and communicate your support for this demand to the Caterpillar Board of Directors.

v Issue a public statement of concern about the Israeli army,s use of Caterpillar bulldozers to commit systematic human rights violations.

These are practical steps that suit your leadership role in the Caterpillar sales

and rental industry. In fulfilling them, you will be in accordance with ethical standards currently endorsed by Jewish Voice for Peace, Presbyterian Churches USA, the World Council of Churches, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, and countless other organizations of conscience.

To heal the world, we must all step up to the obligations that our respective roles grant us. We must recognize that however great or small, each of us possesses the ability to affect the world, even in the distant reach of the Middle East.

Selling Caterpillar bulldozers to the Israeli military, whether directly or indirectly, is bad for human rights and bad for business. The destructive use of Caterpillar equipment stands in direct contrast with the values of the Harnish Group and NC Machinery. Therefore, we call on you to lend your voice to the campaign to stop sales of Caterpillar equipment to Israel.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our request with you, and to that end request a meeting at your convenience. To schedule a meeting, please contact Rochelle Gause at (360) 753-7093. We look forward to hearing from you, and would appreciate a response before March 20.

This letter to you is inspired by our serious concern for the welfare of the people in the Middle East, but also by the need for all of us to work together and to take responsibility for the deplorable actions that occur in our names. We strive to continue the peacemaking work of our fallen friend Rachel Corrie, and of those who came before her. We hope you will not let us down.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Gause for Olympia Rafah Sister City Project

Craig and Cindy Corrie for Rachel Corrie Foundation

Alice Zillah for Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

Deb Langhans & Keith Keyser for 100 Thousand & Counting
and more comingΣ

Text of shareholder resolution regarding the sale of Caterpillar equipment to
Israel

Jewish Voice for Peace

November 22nd, 2004

Stockholder Proposal re: Sale of Equipment to Israel

WHEREAS;

Caterpillar's Code of Worldwide Business Conduct states that „Caterpillar
accepts the responsibilities of global citizenship‰ and recognizes that
Caterpillar's „commitment to financial success must also take into account
social, economic, political, and environmental priorities‰;

The Code of Worldwide Business Conduct recognizes that „Caterpillar prospers
not only by our customers' acceptance of our products and services, but also
by the public's acceptance of our conduct‰;

Through the Code of Worldwide Business Conduct Caterpillar has made a
commitment to „respond to public inquiries Σ with prompt, courteous, honest
answers‰;

It is a matter of public record that since 1967, the Israeli government has used
Caterpillar equipment, including specially modified D9 and D10 bulldozers to
destroy over 7,000 buildings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, leaving 50,000
men, women and children homeless;

It is a matter of public record that since September 2000, the Israeli

government has used Caterpillar equipment to destroy more than 3,000 homes, hundreds of public buildings and private commercial properties and vast areas of agricultural land;

It is a matter of public record that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have used Caterpillar equipment to uproot hundreds of thousands of olive trees as well as orchards of dates, prunes, lemons and oranges causing widespread economic hardship and environmental degradation in rural areas of Palestine;

Caterpillar's involvement in the above-described abuses has attracted the attention of the international community: Amnesty International has issued a call to Caterpillar to „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% and the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights has written to the Caterpillar president that „allowing the delivery of your. . . bulldozers to the Israeli army. . . in the certain knowledge that they are being used for such action, might involve complicity or acceptance on the part of your company to actual and potential violations of human rights ...%“;

Public campaigns in the United States and Europe are advocating boycotts of Caterpillar industrial and consumer products;

Spokesmen for Caterpillar, Inc. have acknowledged that Caterpillar is aware of the IDF's use of Caterpillar equipment to destroy civilian homes, infrastructure and agricultural resources but has, nevertheless, refused either to condemn these practices or to take actions necessary to halt the sale or transfer of Caterpillar equipment to the IDF;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The shareholders request that the Board of Directors appoint a committee of outside directors to issue a report, omitting proprietary information and prepared at reasonable cost, by October 1, 2005, addressing the following:

The process for review and evaluation used to determine whether the sale (either directly or through intermediaries, including agencies of the United States government) of Caterpillar equipment to the IDF comports with Caterpillar's Code of Worldwide Business Conduct.