

The Oregon Progressive Party has added our name and voice to this letter written by Jewish Voice for Peace (PDX Chapter) regarding the city's contract with G4S, which provides security guards at City Hall. The most recent contract was for 5 years, signed in 2019. G4S is partial owner of Policity, the national police academy, which conducts what are known as Deadly Exchanges: "bringing together police, IE, border patrol and FBI from the US with soldiers, police, border agents etc from Israel....to promote and extend discriminatory and repressive policing practices that already exist in both countries."

To the members of Portland City Council:

As the crisis in Palestine escalates, we as Portlanders are concerned about the use of our city's resources and our city's complicity in the Israeli regime of apartheid and occupation. Palestinians across the region are protesting the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian neighborhoods, and the massacre in Gaza. So far, over 230 Palestinians, including 64 children, have been murdered, and 50,000 Palestinians have been displaced by Israeli bombs. The United States gives nearly \$3.8 billion per year in military funding to Israel, and many progressive members of Congress are urging an end to this funding. But our complicity can be ended right here in Portland, too.

Currently, Israel is forcibly expelling Palestinian families in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods. Palestinians protesting this ethnic cleansing have faced violent repression, including by Israeli police forces. The Israeli police and border police are trained at Policity, the national police academy which is partially owned and operated by G4S (recently acquired by Allied Universal). The city of Portland renewed a 5 year, \$10 million contract with G4S for security guards at Portland City Hall in 2019. G4S has a horrific track record of human rights abuses worldwide, and the latest escalation of violence by Israeli forces adds to this record. Our city's tax dollars should not go towards contracting with such a company.

This police academy has also hosted delegations of US police forces in what Jewish Voices for Peace activists have called "the Deadly Exchange". The Deadly Exchange describes exchange programs that bring together police, ICE, border

patrol, and FBI from the US with soldiers, police, border agents, etc from Israel. In these programs, “worst practices” are shared to promote and extend discriminatory and repressive policing practices that already exist in both countries, including racial profiling, massive spying and surveillance, deportation and detention, and attacks on human rights defenders. Our own former police chief, Danielle Outlaw, went on one of these trips in 2018.

As a city that is frequently lauded for its progressive values, we would like Portland to live up to its reputation. These are not international issues that have nothing to do with Portland - rather, we are deeply complicit in legitimizing and perpetuating the violence of the Israeli regime.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, urge the Portland City Council to adopt the following measures:

1. A pledge to not renew the city's contract with G4S at the end of the current 5 year term;
2. A resolution prohibiting Portland police trainings with any foreign military, police, or private company, including in Israel;  
and
3. A socially responsible procurement policy which screens potential contractors for human rights violations and renders companies which have a record of human rights violations ineligible for contracting with the city.