

Supporting Divestment and Boycott of G4S Secure Solutions (G4S)

Item _____

Submitted by the California-Nevada Annual Conference Israel-Palestine Task Force

Number on the Board: 12; Number present when voting: 12;

Number voting for: 12; Number voting against: 0; Number abstaining: 0

Date adopted: March 29, 2016

Contact person: Patricia Daugherty

Financial Impact: None

Background:

G4S Secure Solutions (G4S), the world's largest private security company, is an active participant [in well documented](#) violations of human rights, labor rights, and governance codes in its United States operations and around the world.

In the United States, G4S profits from the [forced detention and deportation of immigrants](#) through its contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities. G4S is also involved in running privatized juvenile prisons in which there have been well documented reports of abuse.

G4S aids and abets grave human rights violations carried out by Israeli authorities, military, and police, including the automatic and systematic trial of Palestinian children in military courts that lack fundamental fair trial guarantees, and the unlawful transfer of Palestinian child detainees to prisons inside Israel. G4S also provides equipment and services for checkpoints, the Separation Wall, and Israeli settlements constructed in violation of international law on Palestinian land.

In June 2014 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church [divested from G4S](#) in part because of these concerns. The United Methodist Church has a history of advocating for human and civil rights and not investing in the for-profit prison industry.

In 2015 African American activists, scholars and artists issued a [statement](#) in which G4S is called out as a target for action because "G4S harms thousands of

30 Palestinian political prisoners illegally held in Israeli prisons, and hundreds of Black
31 and brown youth held in its privatized juvenile prisons in the US.”

32 Members of the Conference Israel-Palestine Task Force have done careful research
33 on G4S and are now working with a community coalition urging Sacramento
34 Regional Transit to end its contract for security services with G4S.

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36 **Resolution:**

37 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2016 California Nevada Annual Conference
38 of the United Methodist Church urges Sacramento Regional Transit to divest from
39 and/or not enter into contracts with G4S until the company:

- 40 1. is no longer complicit in clear and active human rights abuses around the
41 world; and
- 42 2. disassociates itself from supplying, maintaining, and profiting from Israel’s
43 occupation of Palestine.
- 44 3. is no longer involved in the forced detention and deportation of immigrants.

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46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the California Nevada Annual Conference is united
47 with other UMC conferences, religious denominations, and secular organizations,
48 as supporters of an international movement to end the abuses of Palestinian rights
49 by selective divestment from specific corporations.

50 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the California Nevada Annual Conference asks that
51 the Israel-Palestine Task Force make itself available to serve as a resource for local
52 efforts to persuade G4S to act in compliance with international law and human
53 rights standards.

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