

# Israel-South Korea Relations

Republic of Korea's complicity in Israel's occupation, colonialism and apartheid



August 2012

**Palestine Peace and Solidarity @ Seoul, S.Korea**

<http://intifadakorea.wordpress.com/>

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## Summary

The findings of the report have led the researchers to conclude that:

There are considerable economic, military, academic and cultural ties between Israel and South Korea. These ties can be seen in the form of:

- Cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries.
- Establishment of various bilateral treaties and agreements and joint ventures between the governments of the two countries, which encourage cooperation between private sectors.
- Arms trade between both governments and private sectors.

Ties are likely to increase, due to:

- A pending free trade agreement between the two countries.
- Increased dialogue regarding the improvement of academic cooperation.
- An increased South Korean Military budget and a desire to diversify weapons suppliers outside of the US.

Korean economic, military and academic ties with Israel make South Korea complicit in Israel's occupation, colonialism and apartheid. These ties benefit companies and institutions that:

- Help construct and/or maintain the Apartheid Wall, checkpoints, occupation infrastructure and Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (hereafter the Occupied Territories).
- Strengthen the Israeli military sector.

Economic and academic ties send the message that South Korea tacitly approves of Israel's aggressive and widely condemned policies against the Palestinians.

These ties are in contradiction with:

- South Korea's own Constitution and its obligations under international law.
- The moral obligations South Korea has as a country having suffered under colonialism.
- South Korea's stance in the UN regarding Israeli settlements.

## Recommendations

In light of the above findings, Palestine Peace and Solidarity in South Korea calls upon the South Korean government to respect the Palestinian call for BDS (see Chapter 5), by:

- Enforcing an immediate ban on all products or services related to the settlements, Apartheid Wall or occupation.
- Ceasing any government trade, research or investment promotion activities with Israel.
- An immediate freeze on any pending agreements, especially those related to trade, investment or military matters.

We call on the South Korean business and academic community to:

- Halt immediately any dealings with companies and/or institutions related to the settlements, Apartheid Wall or occupation. This includes the Israeli military or companies related to it.

These measures should be upheld until Israel:

1. Ends its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantles the Wall;
2. Recognizes the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
3. Respects, protects and promotes the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.

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## Chapter 1

# Brief History of Relations Between Israel and South Korea

The earliest notable relations between Israel and South Korea can be said to have taken place during the Korean War (1950-1953). Both countries declared their independence in 1948, and Israel adopted a policy of non-alignment towards the two Koreas. In fact, there were some elements of the ruling coalition that wanted to support the North and some that wanted to align with the South. Ultimately, however, it would be a strategic decision to follow US Cold War foreign policy that would lead Israel to support South Korea.

Shortly after North Korea invaded the South, Yaacov Shimoni, deputy director of Far Eastern affairs in the Foreign Ministry, wrote a letter to the then Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharret. The letter suggested that Israel align with the North Korean regime, over what he saw as an oppressive and corrupt South Korean regime.<sup>[1]</sup> This sentiment was one that shared by others in the Government. And while not openly calling for assisting the North, the Mapam Party and Maki Party, both members of the ruling coalition, were against pledging support for the US and South Korea.<sup>[2]</sup> However, the Israeli Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, did favour siding with the US and South Korea and even expressed a desire to send troops. On July 4th 1950 following what is described as a heated debate in the Knesset (Israeli National Assembly), a decision to align with the US and South Korea was passed by a vote of 68 to 20.<sup>[3]</sup> The decision was so controversial that the Government faced, but survived, a vote of no confidence levelled against it by the Mapam Party.

Although Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion wanted to send troops to support the South, he was not able to get support for such a move which was seen as too radical and much too taxing on Israel's Military. Instead Israel eventually opted to send \$63,000 USD worth of medical supplies and \$36,000 USD worth of food supplies to the South, via the UN.<sup>[4]</sup> The decision to send aid was also

initially opposed by Mapam and Maki, but eventually agreed upon. The Israeli involvement in the Korean War, however small, signalled an important change in Israeli Foreign Policy from a policy of neutrality to a one more in line with US Cold War foreign policy.

During and after the Korean War, which ravaged the country unspeakably, South Korea had bigger issues to focus on than its relationship with Israel. Indeed, up until the 1960s the Middle East held no particular political or economic interests for South Korea.<sup>[5]</sup> From the 1960s, Seoul's interest in the Middle-East was defined by its desire to gain official recognition from Middle Eastern countries.

At that time, two Korean states were more or less in a war of legitimacy. As the legitimacy of their existence was contested it was important for them to be 'recognized' as legitimate by as many nations as possible. In the case of the two Koreas, Seoul established diplomatic relations with pro-US countries, like Jordan, Israel and Saudi Arabia and Pyongyang established relations with pro-Soviet countries such as Yemen and Syria.<sup>[6]</sup>

South Korea and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1962 and Israel opened an embassy in Seoul in 1964. However, due to Israel's unpopularity with its neighbours, Seoul recognized that establishing ties beyond that of official recognition could jeopardize its chances with other Middle Eastern countries. Thus, Seoul refrained from opening an embassy in Israel, citing budgetary constraints. This policy of restraint would characterize South Korea's engagement with Israel up until the Oslo Accords.

The Oil Boom in the 1970s saw an increase in Seoul's (then under President Park Chung-hee) economic interest in the Middle East. As the dependence on energy of a booming Korea increased, the Arab Boycott of companies which traded with Israel became another reason for South Korea

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[1] Yaacov Cohen "The Improvement of Israeli-South Korean Relations," *Jewish Political Studies Review* 18 (2006): 1

[2] Ma, Y.S. "Israel's Role in the UN during the Korean War" <http://israelcfr.com/documents/4-3/4-3-6-YoungSamMa.pdf> (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[3] American Jewish Committee "American Jewish Year Vol.53, 1952: Israel" [http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC\\_DATA/Files/1952\\_15\\_Israel.pdf](http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/1952_15_Israel.pdf) (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[4] Ma, Y.S. "Israel's Role in the UN during the Korean War" <http://israelcfr.com/documents/4-3/4-3-6-YoungSamMa.pdf> (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[5] Alon Leikowitz "The Republic of Korea and the Middle East: Economics, Diplomacy, and Security," *Korea Economic Institute Academic Paper Series* 5 (2010): 2

[6] In South Korea's case, its existence was contested by the North Korean Regime which saw it as a corrupt puppet regime. In the case of Israel, it had unilaterally declared itself a state and was embarking on a policy of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. Most surrounding Nations contested Israel's legitimacy to exist in this context.

[7] Alon Leikowitz "The Republic of Korea and the Middle East: Economics, Diplomacy, and Security," *Korea Economic Institute Academic Paper Series* 5 (2010): 2

not to seek increased cooperation with Israel.

However, economic opportunism should not be seen to have been the one and the only characteristic of South Korea's fragile relations with Israel during this time. It is important to note that South Korea openly expressed support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination, recognized the PLO as the legitimate representative of all Palestinians, and demanded Israel withdraw from the Occupied Territories.<sup>[8]</sup> (see Chapter 4)

In February of 1978, with little trade between the two countries and facing a diplomatic crisis at South Korea's support for the Palestinians, Israel once again asked South Korea to open an embassy in Israel. South Korea once again refused, and two months later Israel closed its embassy in Seoul, citing budget constraints. Despite several future efforts by Israel, it would not be reopened until 1992.

Today, Korean companies and corporations are actively entering the Israeli market. It can be said that such trends started around the time when the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993. In the 20 years since the accords, business exchanges between Korean and Israeli companies have grown rapidly.

It was 1992 when the relations between South Korea and Israel started to improve again. The Israeli embassy reopened as a permanent official residence in Seoul 14 years after its closure. Up until the reopening of the Israeli embassy, the Korean government had maintained close relations with the Arab countries, cooperating with 'the Arab League boycott of Israel'. Despite its statements in 1973 and 1981 (see Chapter 4.1), however, South Korea changed its stance to improve its relations with Israel. What prompted such a change is as follows.

First, the economies of the Arab oil empires were devastated in the wake of the Gulf War. South Korea, which used its business deals with the oil producers as its growth engine, needed to find alternative markets.

Second, the situation changed as Korea finally became a member of the United Nations in 1991. By putting an end to its competition with North Korea to win the support of the international community, South Korea no longer needed to work as hard as it did before to win support from the Arab countries.

Third, from the early 1990s, the Zionist lobbyists, who had grown stronger under the Republican administration in the 1980s, started to attack countries and companies which cooperated with 'Arab League boycott of Israel'. For instance, *Yonhap news* reported on July 10 1992 that:

At a joint hearing by the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East and the Subcommittee on

[8] Yaacov Cohen "The Improvement of Israeli-South Korean Relations," *Jewish Political Studies Review* 18 (2006): 1

International Economic Policy and Trade of the House of Representatives, some representatives claimed that many Korean companies cooperated with the 'Arab League boycott of Israel'. They provided evidence that two affiliates of Samsung placed an ad in *The Korea Times* and denied the rumour that they had opened a branch in Israel, saying they would never break the regulations put forward by the Arab League.<sup>[9]</sup>

It is not difficult to infer that the Korean government was not excluded from such pressure.

With the Arab Boycott replaced by other factors such as economic interests, its newly gained status as a UN member and pressure from the US, South Korea changed its diplomatic approach to Israel. In 1992 the Israeli embassy was reopened and a year later South Korea opened an embassy in Israel for the first time.

After recovering relations with Israel and against the backdrop of the Oslo Accords in 1993, the Korean government came up with various measures to boost its exchanges with Israel. In addition, the private sector in South Korea expedited its entry into the Israeli market. Samsung and LG, censured for their cooperation with the boycott, spearheaded their efforts in establishing R&D centres in Israel.

The following table<sup>[10]</sup> examines the increase in bilateral trade between Israel and South Korea from 1970 to 2010.

We can see a marked increase in trade during the 1990s, coinciding with the Oslo Accords, the reopening of the Israeli embassy and the opening of the Korean embassy. It also appears that the Lee Myung-bak administration (2008~2013) has been actively seeking increased engagement with Israel on a number of levels.

In 2010, following the attack on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla during which nine activists were killed in execution-style killings by Israeli Commandos, the South Korean government received Israeli President, Shimon Peres. Although public outcry over the Gaza flotilla massacre forced the Korean government to downgrade the status of Peres' visit,<sup>[11]</sup> he was nonetheless welcomed. During the visit, Peres and the South Korean President, Lee Myung-bak discussed the potential for increasing ties between the two countries.<sup>[12]</sup>

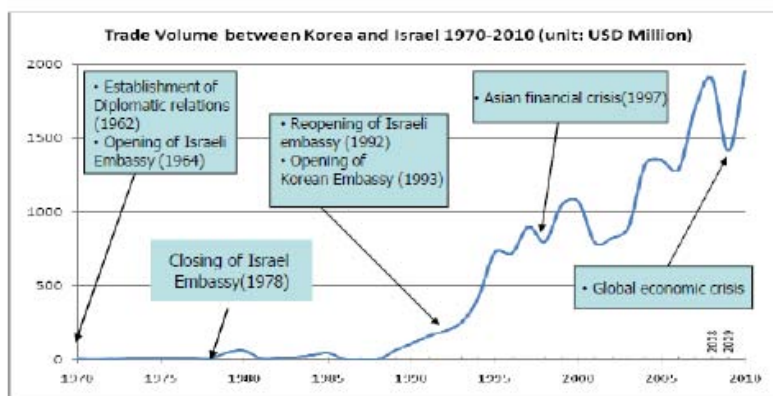
[9] Yonhap News (1992/7/10) "[박스]三星,金星 아랍측무역계제 동조 논란" <http://news.naver.com/main/read.nhn?mode=LSD&mid=sec&sid1=104&oid=001&aid=0003577547> (Accessed: 2011/09/16)

[10] Ma, Y.S. "Korea Israel Economic Relations" [www.emerics.org/posts/downloadAttach/83402.do;jsessionid...localhost...](http://www.emerics.org/posts/downloadAttach/83402.do;jsessionid...localhost...) (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[11] Ravid, B "South Korea downgrades President Shimon Peres' visit following flotilla debacle" <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/south-korea-downgrades-president-shimon-peres-visit-to-working-status-following-flotilla-debacle-1.294571> (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[12] Jerusalem Post "Peres on working visit in South Korea" <http://>

## Bilateral Trade



	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 (1-9)
Export	501	578	851	850	746	970	1,011	729	724
Import	322	318	477	504	542	737	895	691	568
Total	823	896	1,328	1,354	1,288	1,707	1,906	1,420	1,392

(units: USD million)

Earlier in 2011, a Parliamentary delegation of South Koreans visited Israel, where they discussed relations between the two countries. South Korea, according to the *Jerusalem Post*, ‘...wants to intensify that relationship in all areas, particularly with regard to issues of security and peace, but also in the spheres of renewable energy, science and technology and bilateral trade.’<sup>[13]</sup>

At present, an FTA between the two countries is undergoing preliminary considerations. Not many details have been released and none of them have reached final negotiations, but this would, undoubtedly, result in a considerable increase in trade between Israel and South Korea. As it stands, Israel is Korea’s 57th largest export destination, while Korea is Israel’s 15th largest export destination. In terms of imports, Israel is Korea’s 44th largest importing country,<sup>[14]</sup> while Korea is Israel’s 14th largest importing country.

Due to the increase in discussion regarding the FTA and other bilateral agreements, it seems that South Korea and Israel intend to increase ties. The remainder of this report should be read with this trend in mind.

[www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=177836](http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=177836) (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[13] Cashman, G.F. “South Korea sees Israel as Partner in Security and Peace” <http://www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=213098> (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[14] Ma, Y.S. “Korea Israel Economic Relations” [www.emerics.org/posts/downloadAttach/83402.do;jsessionid...localhost...](http://www.emerics.org/posts/downloadAttach/83402.do;jsessionid...localhost...) (Accessed 2011/09/16)

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## Chapter 2

# South Korea's Constitutional and International Obligations

The Preamble to the South Korean Constitution affirms South Korea's commitment to "...contribute to lasting world peace and the common prosperity of mankind." Furthermore, the South Korean Constitution (Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article 6.1) purports that South Korean domestic law and international law are closely and inextricably tied and have the same effect:

Treaties duly concluded and promulgated under the Constitution and the generally recognized rule of international law have the same effect as the domestic laws of the Republic of Korea.<sup>[1]</sup>

As South Korea has been a voting member of the United Nations General Assembly since 1991, it is expected not only to adhere to international law, but to promote international adherence to it.

Article 49 (Section III, Part 2) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, of which South Korea is a signatory, is directly applicable to the issue of settlements and settlers in the Occupied Territories. The article states:

The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.

Article 49 has been invoked countless times in relation to Israel. There is an overwhelming consensus in the international community that the act of settling Israeli citizens in the Occupied Territories violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and is a criminal act under international law.

Following an investigation into the legal consequences of the Apartheid Wall (or Separation Barrier) in 2004, the International Court of Justice declared that all states party to the Fourth Geneva Convention have an obligation to ensure that Israel is compliant with the international humanitarian law which is embodied in that Convention.<sup>[3]</sup>

Following the guiding principles set out in its constitution,

its status as a UN member, and in accordance with its obligations as a party to the Geneva Conventions, South Korea must actively seek to ensure Israel's compliance with international law, (including the Fourth Geneva Convention). However, the reality is that South Korea has not taken serious steps towards meeting these obligations. In fact, the character of South Korea's economic, military and academic relationship with Israel amounts to tacit approval of Israel's actions.

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[1] "The Constitution of the Republic of Korea, Preamble." [http://korea.assembly.go.kr/res/low\\_01\\_read.jsp?boardid=1000000035](http://korea.assembly.go.kr/res/low_01_read.jsp?boardid=1000000035) (Accessed: 2011/09/05)

[2] Ibid (Accessed: 2011/09/05)

[3] International Court of Justice "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Territories (Request for Advisory Opinion) Summary of the Advisory Opinion of July 9th 2004" <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1677.pdf> (Accessed: 2011/09/05)

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## Chapter 3

# South Korea's Obligations as a Country which Suffered under Colonialism

The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 can be traced back to the British Mandate of Palestine, the British Empire's colonial rule that started in 1923. The alliance between Britain and Japan helped give legitimacy to their own imperial projects in Palestine and Joseon.

The two countries created a military alliance (the Anglo-Japanese Alliance) regarding their rights and interests in 1902. The alliance consequentially threw more weight on Japan which was striving against Russia for its colonial dominance over northeast China (then Qing) and the Korean peninsula. Indeed, Japan was able to "beneficially" end the Russo-Japanese War which led to the revision of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance in August 1905 (the Second Anglo-Japanese Alliance). In this revision, both countries acknowledged Japan's protectorate over Joseon and simultaneously they changed essence of the alliance to an offensive and defensive alliance. Thus, Britain's stronger support played a critical role in starting Japanese colonial rule over Joseon.

In return, Japan supported Britain in the Middle East including Palestine. With the third revision of the alliance (third Anglo-Japanese Alliance) in 1911, Japan joined the Allied Powers and participated in World War I. Although Japan's participation in the war was limited to areas in Northeast Asia, it was allowed to attend meetings where winners negotiated their rights and interests. One of the meetings was the San Remo Conference which was held in April 1920.

It was at the San Remo Conference where Britain's mandate for Palestine was finalized. Yuzo Itagaki, a Japanese scholar on the Middle East, identifies Japan as one of the six countries (Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Greece, and Belgium) that attended the San Remo Conference and officially supported and aided Britain's interests in the mandate system. Itagaki explained that Japan decided to support Britain in order to get international approval for its mandate over islands in the South Pacific, Germany's former colonies.<sup>[1]</sup>

However, it should be noted that around that time, Japan faced widespread grassroots resistance in Joseon, triggered by the March 1st Movement. As the persistent resistance

posed a threat to its colonial rule in Joseon, Japan mobilized its armed forces and violently cracked down on the non-violent March 1st Movement. Ironically, Japan was making efforts to become a member of the Council of the League of Nations at that time. The League of Nations, which consisted mainly of imperial countries, was about to be established and Japan tried to improve its international status by becoming a member of the League's Council. Against this backdrop, it is possible to argue that Japan supported Britain's colonial rule of Palestine with an aim to acquire such status.

Joseon gained independence from Japanese colonial rule on August 15, 1945 when Japan surrendered to the Allied Powers. To this day, however, Korea still has unresolved issues with Japan, a former occupier. For instance, the issues of territorial disputes, forced colonial labourers and sexual slaves, have been raised by successive Korean governments and civic groups but remain unsolved.

In the meantime Israel's continued occupation of Palestine is the product of a political reality that is related to world history where past atrocities have not been dealt with. There also exists a political culture that has failed to end the allocation of rule of the Middle East to Western Countries (this is the prehistory of Israel's foundation). Western countries, led by the United States, failed to admit and pay for their past atrocities, and since colonial rule is no longer acceptable, they try to establish hegemony in the Palestine and the Middle East by supporting Israel.

It has been more than 60 years since Korea gained independence from colonial rule, but it still faces remnants from colonial and decolonization processes, and Palestine is still suffering from the oppression and rule of Israel. The legacies of colonial rule in the early 20th century have continued to influence contemporary politics.

Given that the occupation in Palestine and the colonization of Joseon were closely related, support for Palestine is and should be an indispensable part of Korea's dealing with the problems associated with de-colonization.

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[1] Itagaki, Yuzo. 大川周明が遺したもの 板垣雄三 <http://wakame.econ.hit-u.ac.jp/~areastd/okawa/img/kokai/kokai.pdf> (Accessed 2011/9/5)



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## Chapter 4

# South Korea's Foreign Policy Approach

### 4.1 Before Joining the UN

It was 1973 when the South Korean government announced for the first time its official position on the Israeli occupation to the international community. On December 15, 1973, when the first oil crisis was underway, the Korean government made a statement regarding the Middle East (hereinafter "Statement") consisting of the following four clauses:<sup>[1]</sup>

1. International conflicts should be settled not by force but through peaceful negotiation, and any acquisition of territory by force should not be tolerated.
2. Israel should withdraw its troops from the territories that it occupied during the 1967 War and the recent war (1973 War).
3. The fair claim of the Palestinians should be acknowledged and respected.
4. Sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and the right to live in a peaceful manner of every country in the region should be respected.

Around that time, South Korea had already formed diplomatic relations with Israel (April 1962), and maintained these despite opposition from Arab countries including the United Arab Republic (Egypt at that time). The Statement, however, was a clear disapproval of the Israeli government's refusal to withdraw from the Occupied Territories. In addition, the Statement mentioned Palestine whose existence was denied by Israel, and went even further by stating that the right of the Palestinians should be acknowledged and respected. The Statement was so significant that it was entitled 'A turning point of the Korean government's Middle East policy.' With the Statement, the South Korean government implied a pro-Arab Korean approach.

In its publication, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade wrote, "Thanks to the Statement, Korea was able to establish diplomatic ties with Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Sudan and Mauritania and to improve its relations with moderate Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia. It helped South Korea overcome the economic crisis caused by the

1973-74 oil price crisis and laid the foundation for Korean companies to enter the Middle Eastern states which became rich because of the increase in oil revenues."<sup>[2]</sup>

It cannot be denied by the Lee Myung-bak administration, which has been strengthening relations with Israel, that the Statement brought about positive results. The essence of the policy taken by the South Korean government back then was engaging in practical diplomacy to achieve the goal of entering the Middle East and securing oil.

Against this backdrop, South Korea's pro-Palestine policy became the basis of its foreign policy in the 1970s and 1980s, as economic development became a top priority by then-dictatorial governments. Oil prices fluctuated depending on the political and economic situations in the major oil-producing countries and South Korea turned its closer relations with Arab oil producers into an opportunity to develop its economy and "made further efforts to strengthen economic cooperation with countries in the Middle East with its pro-Arab policy."<sup>[3]</sup> Amid this trend, then Foreign Minister Lho Shin-Yong attended the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People held at the UN headquarters on December 2, 1981 and announced the following message:<sup>[4]</sup>

1. I would like to join the international community, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, in expressing once again our full support for the cause of the Palestinian people and our solidarity with them in their just struggle for self-determination.
2. It is our firm belief that all the international disputes should be settled not by force but through peaceful negotiation, and that acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible.
3. The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, should be fully respected.

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[1] DongA Ilbo (1973/12/17) "이스라엘 점령지 철수하라' 친아랍 성명 발표" <http://newslibrary.naver.com/viewer/index.nhn?articleId=1973121700209201004&editNo=2&printCount=1&publishDate=1973-12-> (Accessed 2011/11/30)

[2] Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Korean Government, "60 Years of Korean. Diplomacy" (MOFTA, 2009), p 96

[3] Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Korean Government, "60 Years of Korean. Diplomacy" (MOFTA, 2009), p 96

[4] DongA Ilbo (1981/12/02) "팔 자결권 존중해야 노외무 유엔에 서한" <http://newslibrary.naver.com/viewer/index.nhn?articleId=1981120200209202017&editNo=2&printCount=1&publishDate=1981-12-02&officeId=00020&pageNo=2&printNo=18512&publishType=00020&doNotReadAnyMore=notClose> (Accessed 2011/11/30)

4. The Palestine Liberation Organization solely represents the people of Palestine.
5. The Israeli forces should withdraw from the Arab territories occupied since the 1967 war, including Jerusalem.

In its 1973 Statement, the South Korean government said “the fair claim of the Palestinians should be acknowledged and respected”, but it reframed its position as one more supportive of the Palestinians’ claims through the 1981 announcement, affirming “full support for the cause of the Palestinian people and affirming “full support for the cause of the Palestinian people and [Korean government] solidarity with them in their just struggle for self-determination”. solidarity with them in their just struggle for self-determination”. It even directly mentioned Jerusalem regarding Israel’s occupation.

The Israeli government took some steps in responding to the message. First, Israel, which opened its embassy in Seoul in 1964 after having persistently trying to persuade the South Korean government, expressed its regret and disappointment at the 1973 Statement through its secretary of the embassy, but maintained a calm facade, reaffirming its determination to maintain friendly relations with South Korea.<sup>[5]</sup> Next, the Israeli government requested South Korea to open its embassy in Israel. The South Korean government that had deferred opening an embassy in consideration of the Arab countries, refused the request.<sup>[6]</sup> This outraged Moshe Dayan, then Foreign Minister to South Korea, and Israel closed its embassy in April 1978.

Up until around 1991 when South Korea became a member of the UN, the South Korean government maintained its pro-Arab and pro-Palestine policy. The Israeli embassy reopened in November 1992.

## 4.2 UN Participation

After joining the United Nations in September 1991, South Korea has never opposed resolutions regarding the question of Palestine. However, it has abstained from various resolutions on matters of great importance.

South Korea’s major membership in UN bodies with which South Korea would have to vote on the question of Palestine is as follows.

- President of the 56th session of the General Assembly 2001-2002
- Security Council 1996-1997

[5] KyungHyang Shinmun (1973/12/17) “‘양국우호는 불변’ 이스라엘 대사관, 견감표명” <http://newslibrary.naver.com/viewer/index.nhn?articleId=1973121700329201006&editNo=2&printCount=1&publishDate=1973-12-> (Accessed 2011/11/30)

[6] DongA Ilbo (1978/02/18) “이 외무성 발표 상주공관 개설 한국측서 거부” <http://newslibrary.naver.com/viewer/index.nhn?articleId=1978021800209201017&editNo=2&printCount=1&publishDate=1978-02-> (Accessed: 2011/11/30)

- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 1993-1995, 1997-1999, 2003-2006, 2008-2010
- Human Rights Council (HRC) 2006-2011
- Commission on Human Rights (CHR) 1993-2004

South Korea has consistently voted for resolutions on the Palestinians’ right of self-determination, but it has also consistently abstained from voting on resolutions on human rights violations in the Occupied Territories. Meanwhile, the South Korean government has consistently voted in favour of resolutions against the construction of settlements, following its initial foreign policy approach after the oil crisis of the 1970s.

### 4.2.1 United Nations General Assembly Resolutions

From 2001 to 2002, South Korea served as the president of the 56th session of the General Assembly. South Korea’s former Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo was the then President of the General Assembly and his inauguration was put off for a day because of the attacks on September 11 in the US. Due to the latter, Han Seung-soo adopted a resolution condemning all sorts of terrorism. While South Korea was the president of the UN General Assembly, there were not many activities related to Palestine at the General Assembly. But there was one important resolution on Jenin and other Palestinian cities, which was adopted at an emergency special session, and South Korea once again abstained from voting.<sup>[7]</sup>

The resolution concerned the Israeli attack on refugee camps in Jenin from April 1 to April 11, in 2002. Allegations that a massacre of civilians had been committed during the attacks in Jenin were made, and an official fact-finding report by the UN released on July 31 said that a half of 52 victims killed were civilians. The then Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, criticized Israel for refusing to admit the UN investigators into the camp.

South Korea abstained from voting on five out of 20 resolutions on the question of Palestine in 2009 and 5 of 19 in 2010. Among the resolutions on which South Korea decided not to vote were two follow-up resolutions<sup>[8]</sup> to the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,

[7] UN General Assembly (2002/05/07) “UN General Assembly Resolution ES-10/10. Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory” <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/72DA83FF10657C9985256BC2005B8D23> (Date Accessed 2011/09/16)

[8] UN General Assembly (2009/12/01) “Resolution 64/10. Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict” <http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/9cc062414581d038852576c10055b066> (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[9] UN General Assembly (2010/03/25) “Resolution 64/254. Second follow-up to the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict” <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/763D289FB7F2019B852576F20050496B> (Accessed



[illustration 1] Israel used white phosphorus munitions during the Gaza attack in 2009.

a report on Israel's invasion into the Gaza Strip known as the Goldstone Report.

#### 4.2.2 A non-permanent member of the Security Council

From 1996 to 1997, when Korea was a non-permanent member of the Security Council, 10 resolutions related to Palestine were adopted. Korea did not abstain from voting on any of them, and all resolutions except one were adopted unanimously.<sup>[10]</sup>

#### 4.2.3 The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

When the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was founded in 2006, South Korea became its member along with 13 other Asian countries. Initially South Korea enjoyed a two-year term, and was re-elected in 2008 as a three-year term member.

The UNHRC is the successor to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly. Four countries including the US and Israel opposed the establishment of the UNHRC, while three abstained from voting, but it came eventually into existence with 170 countries voting for it. Israel is the most condemned country at the council.

South Korea often abstained from voting on issues related to Palestine at other UN organizations, a trend particularly apparent at the UNHRC. With the exception of resolutions that were adopted without voting, South Korea abstained from voting on almost all resolutions except

2011/09/16)

[10] UN Security Council (1996/09/28) "Situation in the Occupied Arab Territories" <http://www.worldlii.org/int/other/UNSCRsn/recent.html> (Accessed 2011/09/19)

resolutions on the Palestinians' right of self-determination and on Israel's settlements.

Resolutions on which South Korea abstained from voting include a resolution on condemning Israel for invading the Gaza Strip from late 2008 to early 2009 and for sending a fact-finding team to investigate the issue.<sup>[11]</sup> South Korea also abstained from voting on a resolution to send a fact-finding team to investigate the deaths of nine peace activists killed by the Israel's attacks on a humanitarian boat convoy (Gaza flotilla massacre) on its way to the Gaza Strip.<sup>[12]</sup> It is interesting to note that while the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade published a statement on the latter attack "urging a thorough investigation of the incident", it abstained from voting on a related resolution at the council.

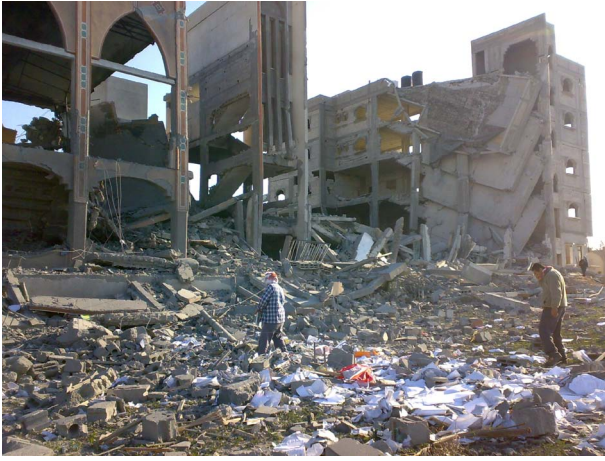
### 4.3 Stated Opinion on the Wall/Settlements/Gaza

As the above-mentioned participation at the UN has indicated, the South Korean government has taken an equivocal attitude regarding Israel's occupation of Palestine, employing the tactic of abstaining rather than making its position clear. This tactic can also be found in the statements of the South Korean Foreign Ministry.

The South Korean government has issued seven statements and one comment on Israel-Palestine issues from 2000 to 2011. Six of them concerning Israel's attacks on the Gaza

[11] UN General Assembly (2009/01/12) "Resolution A/HRC/S-9/L.1/Rev.2 Grave violations of human rights in the OPT, Israeli military attack on Gaza, Fact-finding mission" <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/A8A783ACB5D0C6B88525753C0071F427> (Accessed 2011/09/19)

[12] UN General Assembly (2010. 6. 2.) "Resolution A/HRC/RES/14/1 The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the Humanitarian Boat Convey" <http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/4d2f5b28bb470a8e8525773d0051f543> (Accessed 2011/09/19)



[illustration 2] An orphan school and mosque that were destroyed by the Israelis during Israel's assault on Gaza.

Strip, one on the bombing attacks on Israel's Hebrew University, and the latest one on Israel's attacks on the humanitarian boat convoy.

The South Korean government defines the question of Palestine as a 'situation' or a 'conflict', but not as an 'occupation'. Even when UN resolutions demand Israel stop its 'attacks', the South Korean government says that both Israel and Palestine should stop their 'battles' or 'flamed conflicts' and 'solve' them peacefully. It uses expressions such as 'deep concerns' and 'regrets' over the murdered civilians by Israel, but it has not condemned the country.

It urges 'peaceful negotiations through dialogue' and seems seeking to maintain a neutral position with 'strong opposition toward any forms of violence', but in fact, it is giving an upper hand to Israel's apparent illegal activities with its tacit approval.

In particular, in its late-2008 statement on the aggravated situation in the Gaza Strip, the South Korean government emphasizes "Hamas' recent attacks and Israel's following strike"<sup>[13]</sup>, indicating that Hamas was the cause of Israel's killing of 1,389 Palestinians in Gaza, and it went further in its statement on the Halt of Hostilities in the Gaza Strip, by "welcoming the decision of the parties to halt hostilities."<sup>[14]</sup>

Meanwhile, the South Korean government voted in favour of resolutions of the World Health Organization on the aggravated health-care conditions in the Gaza Strip due to

[13] South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2009/01/19) "MOFAT Spokesperson's Statement on the Halt of Hostilities in the Gaza Strip" [http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/template/read/engreadboard.jsp?typeID=12&boardid=302&seqno=307254&c=TITLE&t=&pagenum=146&tableName=TYPE\\_ENGLISH](http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/template/read/engreadboard.jsp?typeID=12&boardid=302&seqno=307254&c=TITLE&t=&pagenum=146&tableName=TYPE_ENGLISH) (Accessed: 2012/04/09)

[14] South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2009/01/19) "MOFAT Spokesperson's Statement on the Halt of Hostilities in the Gaza Strip" [http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/template/read/engreadboard.jsp?typeID=12&boardid=302&seqno=307254&c=TITLE&t=&pagenum=146&tableName=TYPE\\_ENGLISH](http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/template/read/engreadboard.jsp?typeID=12&boardid=302&seqno=307254&c=TITLE&t=&pagenum=146&tableName=TYPE_ENGLISH) (Accessed: 2012/04/09)

Israel's invasion and offered aid for recovery,<sup>[15]</sup> but it failed to reflect on why the Palestinians alone had to suffer most of the damage if it was a battle, not an invasion.

As mentioned above, the South Korean government abstained from voting on resolutions on the invasion of the Gaza Strip and attacks on a humanitarian boat convey. Such an approach stands in stark contrast to its statement on June 1, 2010 regarding attacks against a humanitarian boat convey, stating its demand for "a thorough investigation on the incident"<sup>[16]</sup>.

There was widespread public outcry following the attacks, and some countries such as Vietnam asked Peres to cancel his visit due to anti-Israeli sentiment. The South Korean government, however, simply downgraded Israeli President Peres' visit to South Korea from a state visit to a working visit,<sup>[17]</sup> sparking protests from the South Korean public.<sup>[18]</sup>

There is no explicit mentioning by the South Korean government on the Apartheid Wall and Israeli settlements, except that it has consistently voted for resolutions demanding the evacuation of all settlements.

[15] South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2009/01/22) "세계보건기구 (WHO), 가자지구 보건 상황 결의 채택" [http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/hbd/hbdrdread.jsp?typeID=6&boardid=235&seqno=320116&c=TITLE&t=%EA%B0%80%EC%9E%90&pagenum=1&tableName=TYPE\\_DATABOARD](http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/hbd/hbdrdread.jsp?typeID=6&boardid=235&seqno=320116&c=TITLE&t=%EA%B0%80%EC%9E%90&pagenum=1&tableName=TYPE_DATABOARD) (Accessed: 2011/12/2)

[16] South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2010/06/01) "가자 구호 선단 무력 저지에 대한 대변인 성명" [http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/hbd/hbdrdread.jsp?typeID=6&boardid=235&seqno=328210&c=TITLE&t=%EA%B0%80%EC%9E%90&pagenum=1&tableName=TYPE\\_DATABOARD](http://www.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/hbd/hbdrdread.jsp?typeID=6&boardid=235&seqno=328210&c=TITLE&t=%EA%B0%80%EC%9E%90&pagenum=1&tableName=TYPE_DATABOARD) (Accessed: 2011/12/02)

[17] Ravid, B (2010/06/06) "South Korea lowers status of Peres visit in wake of Gaza flotilla raid" <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/south-korea-lowers-status-of-peres-visit-in-wake-of-gaza-flotilla-raid-1.294523> (Accessed: 2011/09/19)

[18] Haaretz (2010/06/10) "South Korean protestors greet Perez with cries of 'killer'" <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/south-korea-protesters-greet-peres-with-cries-of-killer-1.295316> (Accessed: 2011/09/19)

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## Chapter 5

# Support for Israel's Occupation, Colonialism and Apartheid

South Korea's support for Israel's occupation, colonialism and apartheid can be seen in a number of areas and on a number of levels, ranging from:

1. Companies that established businesses in Israel and provide cooperation and support for Israel's infrastructure.
2. Companies that are doing business or cooperating with the Israeli defence industry.
3. Companies that are related to the occupation or their holding companies or affiliate companies related to the occupation.
4. Academic ties with institutions involved in the occupation.

### 5.1 The BDS Movement

In 2005, the Palestinian BDS National Committee (hereafter the BNC), a coalition of Palestinian civil society organizations, called for a campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel (BDS). The campaign was inspired by the struggle of South Africans against Apartheid and was conceived as response to the failure of international enforcement and peace-making to convince or force Israel into compliance with international law.<sup>[1]</sup> Specifically, the Campaign seeks an outcome in which Israel decides to or is forced to:

1. End its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantle the Wall;
2. Recognize the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
3. Respect, protect and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.<sup>[2]</sup>

BDS, which enjoys the support of the majority of Palestinian civil society, has invited thousands of citizens from around the world to contribute to the struggle for

Palestinian rights and has seen remarkable success in the last seven years. Such as the Norwegian government's decision to drop Elbit Systems (Israeli Arms Manufacturer) from its Pension Fund,<sup>[3]</sup> the decision of the University of Johannesburg to sever ties with Ben-Gurion University<sup>[4]</sup> and the refusal of artists and musicians such as Roger Waters,<sup>[5]</sup> Elvis Costello<sup>[6]</sup> and the Pixies<sup>[7]</sup> to perform in Israel.

An article in the *Jerusalem Post* lauded South Korean plans to establish a joint \$150 million USD venture capital fund with Israel, as a victory against the boycott movement, saying:

Despite international calls to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel by some, Israel does have friends and admirers around the world. Among them is South Korea<sup>[8]</sup>

Palestine Peace and Solidarity in South Korea supports the Palestinian call for BDS. And we hope to see the day when the South Korean government, corporate society, and South Korean consumers make choices which further the possibilities of peace and equality in Palestine, rather than demonstrate their tacit support for continuing injustices being done to Palestinians.

### 5.2 Investment in the Israeli Economy and Infrastructure

There are a large number of South Korean companies that have invested in the Israeli economy, establishing their

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[1] BNC "Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS" <http://www.bdsmovement.net/call> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[2] United Nations "United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194" <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/C758572B78D1CD0085256BCF0077E51A> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[3] Adams, E "Norway's Pension Fund drops Israel's Elbit" <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125197496278482849.html> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[4] Laing, A "South African University severs ties with Israel" <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/southafrica/8404451/South-African-university-severs-ties-with-Israel.html> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[5] Haaretz "Roger Waters Voices Support for Israel Boycott" <http://www.haaretz.com/culture/roger-waters-voices-support-for-israel-boycott-1.347411> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[6] Dodd, V & McCarthy, R "Elvis Costello Cancels Concerts in Israel as Protest at Treatment of Palestinians" <http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2010/may/18/elvis-costello-cancels-israel-concerts> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[7] Michaels, S "Pixies Cancel Gig Following Gaza Raid" <http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2010/jun/07/pixies-cancel-israel-gig> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[8] Jerusalem Post (2010/11/22) "Israel, South Korea sign MoU to assist companies" <http://www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=196266> (Accessed 2012/04/16)

base there. Such a trend is expected to rise (see Chapters 6 and 8).

It is important to underline that while not contributing to the occupation as visibly as engaging with companies involved in settlement construction, investing in the Israeli economy does not provide Israel an incentive to discontinue activities violating international law, as it sends the message that the occupation is not an obstacle for Israel's economy.

The occupation is only one among many instances of violations of international law committed by Israel. The BDS movements aim to achieve not only the end of the occupation but also equal rights for the indigenous Palestinian population of Israel as well as ensuring that the right of return for Palestinian refugees is respected. These goals cannot be achieved by focusing on the occupation alone.

As Omar Barghouti, a founding member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Cultural and Academic Boycott of Israel, reminds us:

When a state X occupies another "state" Y and persistently violates UN resolutions calling for an end to this occupation, the international community often punishes X and not some manifestation of X's occupation. Governments aside, international civil society organizations have repeatedly boycotted entire states implicated in prolonged belligerent occupation, apartheid or other severe human rights violations, and not just parts of those states. Was there ever a movement calling for boycotting the Bantustans alone in South Africa? Are there calls for boycotting only the Sudanese army and government officials present in Darfur today? Did any of the free-Tibet activists ever call for boycotting only those Chinese products made in Tibet?<sup>[9]</sup>

Although many of those opposing the Israeli occupation of Palestine may be in agreement with a movement against the occupation and related industry, such a movement simply does not go far enough in allowing the realization of rights for Palestinians in Israel or Palestinian Refugees.

The 'Arab Minority' or Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel numbers about 1.2 million (almost 20% of Israel's population). The 2010 'Inequality Report' by the Adalah Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel<sup>[10]</sup> points out that although under international human rights conventions, to which Israel is a party, the status of Palestinian citizens in Israel is ethnic, linguistic, national and religious

minority, they are not declared as such in the Basic Law of Israel. Denied international legal protection against discriminatory policy of Israel, these Palestinian citizens face serious daily institutionalized discrimination in areas such as citizenship, political participation, health, education and social welfare.<sup>[11]</sup>

Palestinian refugees, whose rights are addressed in the Palestinian call for BDS, were forced to flee their homes in 1948 and again in 1967. Living in refugee camps/houses in Israel, Palestine, and surrounding Arab countries, they number over 1.4 million.<sup>[12]</sup> They make up what is the largest refugee population in the world. Although Article 11 of UN General Assembly Resolution 194 clearly addresses the right of those refugees wishing to return to their homes,<sup>[13]</sup> Israel has refused the Palestinian refugees their right of return. In contrast, the state of Israel, through the 1950 Law of Return, allows anyone who is Jewish or is of Jewish ancestry to immigrate to Israel, simply because they are Jewish. Even on its own, the Law of Return is a discriminatory policy, as it limits the right to immigrate to one ethnic/religious group over others.

The issues of Palestinian rights in Israel and the rights of Palestinian refugees therefore should be considered simultaneously with those of the occupation. As we support the Palestinian BDS campaign and the three specific objectives the campaign stands for, we oppose South Korean investments in Israel's economy and infrastructure.

### 5.3 Cooperation with the Israeli Defence Industry

South Korean cooperation with the Israeli arms industry in the form of military imports from Israel to South Korea, is steadily increasing.

After the reopening of the Israeli embassy in 1992, exchanging military technology between South Korea and Israel is what political and business circles in both countries have attempted to achieve under the pretext of wartime necessity; such exchange, they hoped, would improve both sides' military technology and develop a new market for each country. On August 27, 1995, the South Korean and Israeli governments signed a memorandum that signalled future cooperation in logistics and the defence industry.

From 2009 to 2010, about \$400 million USD worth of military acquisitions were made by South Korea in Israel.<sup>[14]</sup>

[9] Barghouti, O "Boycotting Israeli settlement products: tactic vs. strategy" <http://www.palestina-komitee.nl/dossiers/9/66> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[10] Adalah: The Legal Centre for the Arab Minority in Israel "Inequality Report: The Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel (February 2011)" <http://www.adalah.org/upfiles/Christian%20Aid%20Report%20December%202010%20FINAL%281%29.pdf> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[11] Ibid p. 2(Accessed 2011/09/06)

[12] UNRWA "Palestinian Refugees" <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=86> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[13] United Nations "United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194" <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/C758572B78D1CD0085256BCF0077E51A> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[14] Weekly blitz News Desk "Israel Turning into Main Arms Supplier

On top of that, there are still more deals to be approved by the two countries, with some commentators suggesting that Israel will become South Korea's main military supplier.<sup>[15]</sup>

On July 9, 2011, the BNC issued a call for a comprehensive military embargo against Israel.<sup>[16]</sup> It called on governments, corporations, the UN and multi-lateral bodies to:

1. Cease forthwith any provision to Israel of arms and related materiel of all types, including the sale or transfer of weapons and ammunitions, military vehicles and equipment, para-military police equipment, including dual-use equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and cease as well the provision of all types of equipment and supplies and grants of licensing arrangements for the manufacture of aforementioned or maintenance of the aforementioned;
2. Stop all military and dual-use imports (equipment, assistance and munitions) from Israel;
3. Stop the transfer of military products to and from Israel through national ports, territory and airspace;
4. Stop cooperation with the Israeli army, military companies, and military-related R&D projects, including joint ventures (whether bilateral or multilateral);
5. Halt all military-related training and consultancies involving the Israeli army, military companies and academic research institutions;
6. End all military aid to Israel;
7. Refrain from any cooperation with Israel in the manufacture and development of nuclear weapons and mobilize for a nuclear-free Middle East;

With the exception of the T-50 Golden Eagle (see Chapter 6.2), South Korea is not responsible for the sale of a great deal of arms to Israel. It is however a huge recipient of arms and military technologies. Some of the companies that South Korea has cooperated with, such as Elbit and the state owned IAI, have been part of both the occupation and complicit in violent repression against Palestinians.

### ► Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)

IAI supplies drones, fighter jets and missiles. IAI's products are clearly implicated in the 2008-2009 assault on Gaza or "Operation Cast Lead," in which some 1,389 Gazans were killed (including some 344 children and 110 women).<sup>[17]</sup> Human

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for South Korea" <http://www.weeklyblitz.net/1677/israel-turning-into-main-arms-supplier-to-south> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[15] Ibid (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[16] BDS National Committee "Impose an Immediate, Comprehensive Military Embargo on Israel" <http://www.bdsmovement.net/2011/military-embargo-call-7497> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[17] B'Tselem "Fatalities During Operation Cast Lead" <http://old.btselem.org/statistics/english/casualties.asp?sD=27&sM=12&s>

Rights Watch reported that during the assault 29 civilians, alone, were unlawfully killed by drones.<sup>[18]</sup>

IAI also provides surveillance equipment for the "Apartheid Wall". The Wall, commonly and misleadingly referred to as the West Bank "Barrier", has been condemned by the International Court of Justice as being illegal. The ICJ, in 2004, called on Israel to dismantle the wall.<sup>[19]</sup>

### ► Elbit Systems

Like IAI, Elbit produces drones which have been used to kill Palestinian civilians.

Elbit provides "Intrusion Detection Systems" for use on the Apartheid Wall.<sup>[20]</sup> The company also provides surveillance equipment for the Ariel settlement.<sup>[21]</sup> Israeli settlements have been deemed illegal by the ICJ due to the fact that they violate Article 49.6 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the transfer of an occupying power's own civilian population into the territory that power occupies.<sup>[22]</sup>

According to Kwon Oh-bong, the vice commissioner of the Defence Acquisition Program Administration:

The South Korean defence budget stands at \$30 billion USD, and the military acquisition budget stands at \$10 billion USD and grows as time goes by. In the past few years we have purchased the Green Pine radar and the Harpy UAV from Israel. The United States has been our main arms supplier for years, but in recent years Israel has become a key acquisition source together with European countries.<sup>[23]</sup>

## 5.4 Involvement in the Occupation

A number of South Korean companies contribute to the occupation through their assistance in construction

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Y=2008&eD=18&eM=01&eY=2009&filterby=event&oferet\_stat=during (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[18] Human Rights Watch "Precisely Wrong: Gaza Civilians Killed by Israeli Drone-Launched Missiles" [http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iopt0609webwcover\\_0.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/iopt0609webwcover_0.pdf) (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[19] International Court of Justice "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Territories (Request for Advisory Opinion) Summary of the Advisory Opinion of July 9th 2004" <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1677.pdf> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[20] Stop the Wall "Companies Building the Apartheid Wall" <http://www.stopthewall.org/downloads/pdf/companiesbuildingwall.pdf> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[21] Who Profits? "Elbit Systems" <http://whoprofits.org/Company%20Info.php?id=554> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[22] United Nations "Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949." <http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/385ec082b509e76c41256739003e636d/6756482d86146898c125641e004aa3c5> (Accessed 2011/09/13)

[23] Weekly blitz News Desk "Israel Turning into Main Arms Supplier for South Korea" <http://www.weeklyblitz.net/1677/israel-turning-into-main-arms-supplier-to-south> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

and support of the security system in the West Bank, functioning of illegal settlements and the marketing of goods produced by exploitation of the Palestinian natural resources.

In the West Bank, Palestinians live under Israeli military occupation as well as the ever-increasing construction of illegal Israeli settlements. The freedom of movement of Palestinians is severely policed and restricted, through a combination of the Apartheid Wall, checkpoints and Jewish settlers-only roads. Many Palestinian villages are boxed in by combination of any of the three. This will, hereafter, be referred to as the 'Checkpoints System'.

In addition to the wall, there are 505 physical obstacles across the West Bank. Among these obstacles are 25 partial (not permanently staffed) checkpoints and 64 fully staffed checkpoints. Other obstacles to movement include roadblocks, trenches, road gates and earth mounds.<sup>[24]</sup> Barriers and checkpoints serve, like the wall, to fragment the West Bank into ghettos, by restricting Palestinians' access to other parts of the territory. Many of the checkpoints are what are known as 'flying checkpoints'; that is, they are non-permanent checkpoints that are liable to appear randomly and without much warning. The fact that random searches and unexpected road closures can occur on any given day makes the Palestinians' daily lives even more difficult.

In addition to restricting the freedom of movement, the Checkpoints System prevents West Bank residents from realizing their basic rights to medical services and education.<sup>[25]</sup> This can often have fatal effects. B'Tselem (an Israeli NGO which monitors Human Rights abuses in the Occupied Territories) documented that between September 29 2000 and February 28 2011, about 49 Palestinians died after being denied access to medical treatment due to having to wait at checkpoints. It has been estimated that between September 2000 (when the Second Intifada broke out) and 2006, 69 Palestinian women were forced to give birth at checkpoints. Of these births, 35 of the newborns and five of the mothers died during birth.<sup>[26]</sup>

In addition, the Checkpoints System has had devastating effects on the West Bank economy. Recent research by the World Bank attributes this to the restriction of access (especially vehicular access) to important agricultural areas.<sup>[27]</sup>

On top of all this, there has been overwhelming evidence documenting the level of harassment of West Bank residents at checkpoints. In one account, 27 year old Muhammed Id' from Beit 'Amra was brutally assaulted by soldiers at a 'flying checkpoint' near a-Tuwani Village and Shani Checkpoint. He was hospitalized with damage to his organs.<sup>[28]</sup> The former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, comments that:

The absence of a satisfactory security explanation for these checkpoints leads to the inevitable conclusion that they are principally designed to humiliate and harass the Palestinian people.

The overwhelming international consensus on settlements is that they are illegal. Both the UN Security Council<sup>[29]</sup> and the International Court of Justice<sup>[30]</sup> have ruled that the settlements violate international law. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention strictly prohibits the transfer of an Occupying Power's civilian population into the Territory it occupies. The United Nations has repeatedly held up this view and has asked Israel to desist from transferring its civilian population into the Occupied Territories. As it has done with regards to the Apartheid Wall, Israel has ignored such calls by the international community. It has continued on with, and accelerated, settlement construction.

In addition to being against international law and creating a massive obstacle to any kind of lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, the settlements create huge problems for Palestinians. For one, settler-only roads contribute to the increasing 'ghettoization' of Palestinian villages. By serving, along with checkpoints and the Apartheid Wall, to surround and cut villages off from neighbouring villages, schools and medical facilities.

The increase in settlement has also brought with it increased violence against Palestinians. Attacks on Palestinians by settlers are not uncommon. B'Tselem documented that from September 2001 to 2011, settlers killed 50 Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Of course, there have also been countless attacks which have resulted in serious physical injury falling short of death.

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Access to Land in the West Bank Oct. 21. 08. pdf (Accessed 2011/09/13)

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[24] UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Occupied Palestinian Territories "West Bank Movement and Access Update" <http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/4b8b74b1450a13c48525790300498980?OpenDocument> (Accessed 2011/09/13)

[25] Ibid (Accessed 2011/09/13)

[26] B'Tselem "Palestinians who died following an infringement of the right to medical treatment in the West Bank, 29.9.2000 - 31.8.2011" [http://old.btselem.org/statistics/english/Casualties\\_data.asp?Category=21&region=WB](http://old.btselem.org/statistics/english/Casualties_data.asp?Category=21&region=WB) (Accessed 2011/09/13)

[27] Palestine Monitor "Palestine Monitor Factsheet: Checkpoints" <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/?p=206> (Accessed 2012/05/26)

[28] The World Bank "The Economic Effects of Restricted Access to Land in the West Bank" <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/EconomicEffectsofRestricted>

[29] B'Tselem "Testimony: Soldiers Brutally Beat Muhammed Id'is near A-Tuwani Villagae and Shani Checkpoint, September 2009" [http://www.btselem.org/testimonies/20090906\\_soldiers\\_assault\\_muhammad\\_ides\\_in\\_a-tuwani](http://www.btselem.org/testimonies/20090906_soldiers_assault_muhammad_ides_in_a-tuwani) (Accessed 2011/09/13)

[30] UN Security Council "UN Security Council Resolution 446" <http://www.cfr.org/israel/un-security-council-resolution-446-israel/p11195> (Accessed 2011/09/13)

[31] International Court of Justice "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Territories (Request for Advisory Opinion) Summary of the Advisory Opinion of July 9th 2004" <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/131/1677.pdf> (Accessed 2011/09/06)

[32] B'Tselem "Violence by Settlers: Background of Violence by Settlers" [http://www.btselem.org/settler\\_violence](http://www.btselem.org/settler_violence) (Accessed 2011/09/13)



Perhaps most disturbing is the fact that Israel has developed a dual system of law for use in the Occupied Territories. Israeli Jewish settlers, by virtue of their Israeli citizenship, are entitled to have access to the Israeli domestic legal system. Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, however, are tried under military law. Commentators have noted that this dual legal system forms a part of a more extensive policy of apartheid against Palestinians.<sup>[33]</sup>

Despite the broad international consensus that Israeli settlements are illegal, there are a number of products produced within the settlements available for purchase in the very same countries that have decried settlement expansion, including in South Korea. Many of these products are produced by exploiting the natural resources in the Occupied Territories.

## 5.5 Academic Ties with Institutions Involved in the Occupation

Academic cooperation between Israeli and South Korean institutions may not seem directly linked to the occupation. However, Israeli universities have been vital in developing weapons and surveillance technologies used to suppress the Palestinian population and maintain the occupation<sup>[34]</sup> (see Chapter 9). This fact demands that international institutions have responsibility for the subsequent use of future technologies they foster in cooperation with Israeli institutions.

In a broader sense, cooperation with Israeli academic institutions sends a message of tacit approval of Israel's actions and leaves Israel's occupation, colonialism and apartheid unchallenged.

The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel (PACBI), part of the BNC, calls for the withdrawal of Israel from the Occupied Territories and dismantling of the Wall, the recognition of fundamental rights for Arab-Israelis, and the promotion of the right of return for Palestinian refugees. PACBI has called on academics and the international community to:

1. Refrain from participation in any form of academic and cultural cooperation, collaboration or joint projects with Israeli institutions;
2. Advocate a comprehensive boycott of Israeli

institutions at the national and international levels, including suspension of all forms of funding and subsidies to these institutions;

3. Promote divestment and disinvestment from Israel by international academic institutions;
4. Work toward the condemnation of Israeli policies by pressing for resolutions to be adopted by academic, professional and cultural associations and organizations;
5. Support Palestinian academic and cultural institutions directly without requiring them to partner with Israeli counterparts as an explicit or implicit condition for such support.<sup>[35]</sup>

This request has enjoyed support from some universities. As a recent example, the University of Johannesburg in South Africa severed ties with Israel's Ben-Gurion University due to Israeli academic support for military action and human rights abuses in Palestine.<sup>[36]</sup>

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[33] Falk, R "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories" [http://www.middleeastmonitor.org.uk/downloads/other\\_reports/report-of-the-special-rapporteur-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-palestinian-territories-occupied-since-1967.pdf](http://www.middleeastmonitor.org.uk/downloads/other_reports/report-of-the-special-rapporteur-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-palestinian-territories-occupied-since-1967.pdf) p.4 (Accessed 2011/09/13)

[34] Keller, U "The Economy of the Occupation: Academic Boycott of Israel" <http://www.alternativenews.org/english/index.php/topics/economy-of-the-occupation/2223-the-economy-of-the-occupation-23-24-academic-boycott-of-israel> (Accessed 2011/09/13)

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[35] PACBI "Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel" <http://www.pacbi.org/etemplate.php?id=1108> (Accessed 2011/09/13)

[36] The Telegraph. Laing, A (2011/3/24) "South African University severs ties with Israel" <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/southafrica/8404451/South-African-university-severs-ties-with-Israel.html> (Accessed 2011/09/13)

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## Chapter 6

# Private South Korean Companies

### 6.1 Private South Korean Companies that are Providing Cooperation and Support for Israel's Development Infrastructure

#### Hyundai Corporation

Hyundai Corporation is a general trading company of which main business areas consist of export/import and distribution of products such as ships, plant, steel, and automobiles.

In 1996, Hyundai Corporation signed a deal with Bezeq, a national telecommunications provider in Israel to deliver 30,000km of optic cable worth \$12.7 million USD.<sup>[1]</sup> Bezeq is Israel's main telecommunications provider and has been criticized for its complicity in Israeli occupation, colonialism and apartheid for its services provided for the Israeli military and illegal settlers.<sup>[2]</sup> As of 2011, Hyundai Corporation ended its cable business. However, Hyundai established its office in Tel Aviv and operated it until late 2009.<sup>[3]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.hyundaicorp.com/>

#### Daewoo International Corporation

Daewoo International's main business areas are international trade, overseas investment, and energy resource development.

Daewoo International established its branch in Tel Aviv in 1999, and as of 2011, the office was in operation.<sup>[4]</sup> Daewoo

International signed a contract with OPC Rotem Ltd. for the construction of a combined cycle power station in the Negev desert.<sup>[5]</sup> OPC Rotem Ltd. is a subsidiary of Israel Corporation, the latter of which is a leading Israeli Infrastructure company in Israel owning industrial sites for oil refining, chemical processing, natural resource, microchips and fertilizers.<sup>[6]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.doosanheavy.com/>

#### Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction Co., Ltd.

Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction's major focus areas consist of production and distribution of construction equipment, machines tools, engines, and attachments and utility equipment for nuclear and thermo electric power plants.

Doosan signed a contract with Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) to provide it with a construction of desulfurization for each of four thermoelectric power plants in September 2010.<sup>[7]</sup> Desulfurization is needed to remove sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) produced by thermoelectric power plants.

In March 2011, Doosan signed another deal with IEC to provide combined cycle power equipment worth approximately of \$298 million USD. The deal amounted to 5.46% of Doosan's total revenue at that time.<sup>[8]</sup>

Subsequently, in February 2012, Doosan signed a \$443 million USD contract for the construction of IEC's sewage system along with Samyang Entech Inc.<sup>[9]</sup> Details of the deal, however, are unknown at the time of writing.

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[1] Yonhap New (1996/11/01) "현대상사, 광케이블 이스라엘 공급에 현지업체 트집" [http://news.naver.com/main/read.nhn?mode=LS\\_D&mid=sec&sid1=101&oid=001&aid=0004120462](http://news.naver.com/main/read.nhn?mode=LS_D&mid=sec&sid1=101&oid=001&aid=0004120462) (Accessed: 2011/09/19)

[2] Who Profits "Bezeq: The Israeli Telecommunications Corporation" <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/bezeq-israeli-telecommunication-corporation> (Accessed: 2012/07/17)

[3] KyungHyang (1995/07/29) "이스라엘을 공략하라" <http://newslibrary.naver.com/viewer/index.nhn?articleId=1995072900329109001&editNo=40&printCount=1&publishDate=1995-07-%2029&officeId=00032&pageNo=9&printNo=15495&publishType=00010&doNotReadAnyMore=notClose> (Accessed: 2011/11/29)

[4] DART - Repository of Korea's Corporate Filings (<http://dart.fss.or.kr>) Hyundai Corporation 2010. 3. 30 Annual Report

[5] DART - Repository of Korea's Corporate Filings (<http://dart.fss.or.kr>) Daewoo International Corporation 2012. 3. 30 Annual Report

[6] GLOBES (2010/06/28) "Daewoo to build Israel Corp's Rotem Power Plant" <http://www.globes.co.il/serveen/globes/docview.asp?did=1000569996&fid=1725> (Accessed: 2011/09/19)

[7] KOTRA "가자공격, 이스라엘 바이어들 "조심스런 낙관"" (2008/12/30) [http://www.globalwindow.org/wps/portal/gw2/kcxm1/04\\_Sj9SPykssy0xPLMnMz0vM0Y\\_QjzKLd423CDQASYGZAR76kehiXiYIsSB9b31fj\\_zcVP0A\\_YLc0IhyR0dFAHPA0Kw!/delta/base64xml/L3dJdyEvd0ZNQUFzQUMvNEIVRS82X0VfoEw1?1=1&workdist=read&id=2055390](http://www.globalwindow.org/wps/portal/gw2/kcxm1/04_Sj9SPykssy0xPLMnMz0vM0Y_QjzKLd423CDQASYGZAR76kehiXiYIsSB9b31fj_zcVP0A_YLc0IhyR0dFAHPA0Kw!/delta/base64xml/L3dJdyEvd0ZNQUFzQUMvNEIVRS82X0VfoEw1?1=1&workdist=read&id=2055390) (Accessed: 2012/05/01)

[8] OhMyNews "두산중공업, 이스라엘에서 2000억원 탈황설비 수주" [http://www.ohmynews.com/NWS\\_Web/View/at\\_pg.aspx?CNTN\\_CD=A0001445398](http://www.ohmynews.com/NWS_Web/View/at_pg.aspx?CNTN_CD=A0001445398) (Accessed: 2012/05/01)

[9] Etoday "[공시] 두산중공업, 3428억 규모 공급 계약" (2011.3.29) <http://www.etoday.co.kr/news/section/newsview.php?TM=news&SM=0199&idxno=421541> (Accessed: 2012/05/01)

[10] DART - Repository of Korea's Corporate Filings (<http://dart.fss.or.kr>) Samyang Entech 2012. 2. 22



[illustration 3] The T-50 Golden Eagle

### **Korean Air Lines Co., Ltd.**

Korean Air is ranked as the world's number one in international freight shipping and as the 17th largest international passenger carrier.

Korean Air established a direct flight between Seoul and Tel Aviv, according to the 1994 bilateral airline agreement between Israel and South Korea.

In 1998, due to a downturn in South Korean economy, the airline terminated the Seoul-Tel Aviv flight temporarily and resumed its service in 2008. As of 2012, Korean Air provides the flight service three times per week.

Korean Air opened its branch in Tel Aviv for freight and passenger transport in 2008. The South Korean embassy in Israel estimates that there are about 30,000 visitors to Israel for so-called "pilgrimage" (see Chapter 10) from South Korea each year<sup>[11]</sup> and Korean Air is currently the only Korean commercial airline to operate a direct flight to Israel from South Korea.

| Company Website: <http://kr.koreanair.com/>

## **6.2 Companies Doing Business or Cooperating with the Israeli Defense Industry**

After the reopening of the Israeli embassy in 1992 what political and business circles in both countries have wanted most was to exchange military technology that they have developed under the pretext of wartime necessity. Through the exchanges, they hoped to improve their military technology and they expanded demand of their military

[11] Segye Ilbo (2010/11/23) "세계의 성지] ②개신교 '예루살렘'" <http://www.segye.com/Articles/NEWS/CULTURE/Article.asp?aid=20101123003979&subctg1=&subctg2=> (Accessed: 2011/09/21)

supplies in developing South Korea and Israel as new markets.

On August 27, 1995, the Korean and Israeli governments turned their hope into reality by signing a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in logistics and the defence industry. The activities of the companies below started after the signing of the MoU.

### **Korea Aerospace Industries, Ltd.**

Korea Aerospace Industries, Ltd. (KAI) is the largest aerospace company in South Korea. It is an outcome of an integration of Samsung Aerospace, Daewoo Heavy Industries (aerospace division), and Hyundai Space and Aircraft Company.

In 2003 KAI signed a memorandum of agreement with Elbit Systems, the largest arms producing company in Israel, regarding an exporting remodelled F-5 Jets<sup>[12]</sup> and in 2009 KAI awarded a \$7 million USD contract to Elisra for airborne electronic warfare systems.<sup>[13]</sup>

KAI signed an MoU with Lockheed Martin Corp. (a joint developer of T-50) and IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd). The MoU stipulated that Israel would evaluate the T-50 when it replaced its existing trainers.<sup>[14]</sup> The T-50 is the first Korean supersonic aircraft and trainer to be independently developed and produced and the deal with

[12] EBN Steel News (2003/11/05) [http://steel.ebn.co.kr/news/n\\_view.html?id=17770](http://steel.ebn.co.kr/news/n_view.html?id=17770) "한국 항공우주산업, 이스라엘 항공기 수출 추진" (Accessed: 2011/11/21)

[13] GLOBES, "Elbit unit Elisra wins South Korean contract" (2009.2.8) <http://www.globes.co.il/serveen/globes/docview.asp?did=1000423660> (Accessed: 2012.05.01)

[14] Naver News (2002.3.3) "이스라엘에 훈련기 공급.. 항공우주산업, MoU 체결" <http://news.naver.com/main/read.nhn?mode=LSD&mid=sec&sid1=101&oid=015&aid=0000484067> (Accessed: 2011/11/21)

Israel gained importance among political and business circles. However, despite reports that South Korea threatened to cancel all defence deals with Israel, if the Israeli Air Force did not purchase the T-50,<sup>[15]</sup> the Israeli Air Force eventually opted for Italy's Alenia Aermacchi M-346 Master, instead.

Though KAI failed to sell the T-50 it developed to the Israeli Air Force, the T-50 is equipped with avionics from Elbit Systems, an Israeli company with such a reputation for its involvement in the occupation and manufacture of UAVs (drones) that it has been divested from by Norway's State Pension Fund and the largest bank in Denmark.<sup>[16]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.koreaero.com/>

## Huneed Technologies

Huneed Technologies, established in 1968, focuses its attention on R&D and the manufacture of wireless communication equipment. In the military industry, it is engaged in military tactical communication networks, data links, C3N (Command, Control, Communication and Network-centered projects) and combat systems.

In May 2010, Huneed signed a contract worth of \$6.47 million USD with Elta Systems of Israel (Elta Systems Ltd.) to assemble and deliver a number of Transmit Receive Units (TRU) for Elta's Green Pine Early Warning Radar.<sup>[17]</sup>

Moreover, Huneed is expected to supply IAI, Israel's national aerospace & aviation manufacturer, with export-based electric equipment by February 2016 in accordance with an agreement worth \$1.2 million USD signed in February 2012 with IAI. Such a deal amounts to 2.4% of Huneed's total revenues of \$46 million USD in 2010.<sup>[18]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.huneed.com>

## Firstec Co., Ltd.

Firstec Co., Ltd. is a developer and manufacturer of products such as guns, guided weapons, mobile equipment and aviation.

During October 2007, Firstec signed an MoU with IAI for the manufacturing and marketing of UAV systems

[15] Haaretz (2011/10/06) "South Korea threatens to cancel all defence deals with Israel" <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/south-korea-threatens-to-cancel-all-defense-deals-with-israel-1.388404> (Accessed: 2011/11/21)

[16] Electronic Intifada (2010/2/19) "Scandinavian Financial Institutions drop Elbit due to BDS Pressure" <http://electronicintifada.net/content/scandinavian-financial-institutions-drop-elbit-due-bds-pressure/8685#.TsuiRVZAnt8> (Accessed: 2011/11/21)

[17] Financial News (2010/5/26) "휴니드, 이스라엘사와 73억 규모 공급계약" [http://www.fnnews.com/view?ra=Sent0301m\\_View&corp=fnnews&arcid=100526134653&cDateYear=2010&cDateMonth=05&cDateDay=26](http://www.fnnews.com/view?ra=Sent0301m_View&corp=fnnews&arcid=100526134653&cDateYear=2010&cDateMonth=05&cDateDay=26) (Accessed: 2011/11/30)

[18] Huneed website (2012/01/27) "휴니드, 이스라엘 IAI사와 전자부품 공급 계약 체결" [http://www.huneed.com/kor/board/default05\\_view.asp?uid=232&page=1&key=&tb=5](http://www.huneed.com/kor/board/default05_view.asp?uid=232&page=1&key=&tb=5)

in South Korea.<sup>[19]</sup> The UAV systems the MoU includes are the Bird Eye UAV family, and I-View Mk50 tactical UAV system.<sup>[20]</sup>

IAI has led the Israeli Air Force's UAS development over the last 30 years,<sup>[21]</sup> and Bird Eye 100, the first model of the Bird Eye UAV family, was developed by IAI under an Israeli Defence Force conceptual study.<sup>[22]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.firstecom.co.kr/>

## LIG Nex1

LIG Nex1 is a developer and manufacturer of products such as guided weapons, underwater weapons, naval combat systems, radars, and electro-optics. LIG Nex1 is one of affiliates of the LIG Group established by LG Insurance Co., the latter of which was spun off from the LG Group.

In September 2009, LIG Nex1 signed an agreement with Elta Systems Ltd. to purchase the ELTA EL-2032 and to localize aerial radar manufacturing technology. According to Cha Jae-byung, Director of T-50 Comprehensive System:

Radar monitors the enemy during combat missions, and is crucial for executing offensive aircraft operation. ELTA EL-2032 radar has been implemented in the TA-50, a combat aircraft jet, as well as in the FA -50 aircraft carrier, improving their offensive combat capacity.<sup>[24]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.lignex1.com/>

## EO Systems

EO Systems is engaged in the development and production of electro-optical devices for military and civilian use. It is developing a day & night sight (DNS), a night monocular scope (NMS), along with periscopes and tactical binoculars.

In October 2005, EO Systems formed a partnership with Elbit Systems Electro-optics-Elop Ltd., one of the leading

[19] Newspim (2008/1/28) "퍼스텍, 세계적 방산업체 IAI사 소형무인항공기 사업차 방문" <http://www.newspim.com/view.jsp?newsId=20080128000114> (Accessed: 2011/11/21)

[20] HanKyung.com (2007/10/16) "퍼스텍(주), IAI사와 소형무인항공기 관련 MoU 체결" <http://www.hankyung.com/news/app/newsview.php?aid=2007101638607>

[21] IAI website (2011/10/3) "The Israel Air Force marks 40 years of UAV operational use" [http://www.iai.co.il/32981-43199-en/MediaRoom\\_News.aspx](http://www.iai.co.il/32981-43199-en/MediaRoom_News.aspx) (Accessed: 2011/11/30)

[22] Defense Update "Birdeye 100 Backpackable UAV" <http://defense-update.com/products/b/birdy.htm> (Accessed: 2011/11/30)

[23] Kookbang Ilbo (2009/09/04) "LIG 텍스원 항공기용 레이더 최초 국산화" <http://kookbang.dema.mil.kr/kdd/HearTypeView.jsp?writeDate=20090904&menuCd=3004&menuSeq=1&kindSeq=7&menuCnt=30911> (Accessed: 2012.05.01)

[24] JOURNAL of DCN (2011/08/26) "한국 최초 전투기 FA-50 취재현장" <http://dcn.or.kr/a2/104029>



[illustration 4] Hyundai construction vehicle being used to demolish Palestinian houses in Beit Hanina, Occupied East Jerusalem on November 24, 2011.

Israeli companies in the area of electro-optical technology.<sup>[25]</sup> Under the partnership with ELOP, EO Systems plans to develop and market military equipment, which includes laser equipment, thermal imaging equipment, and electro-optics alarm system. The full details have yet to be confirmed.

| Company website: <http://www.ecosystem.com/>

### Dodaam Systems Ltd.

DoDAAM Systems Ltd. is a developer and a producer of simulators, intelligent robots, and aviation electric equipment, etc. In April 2001, DoDAAM Systems signed an MoU for a comprehensive business relationship with Elbit Systems.<sup>[26]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.dodaam.com/>

## 6.3 South Korean Companies Related to the Occupation

### Hyundai Heavy Industries co.,Ltd.

#### ► Involvement in House Demolitions

Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.'s construction vehicles are often witnessed at the demolition of Palestinian homes (for example, at All Isawiya on November 10, 2010<sup>[27]</sup> and at Wadi al-Ghrous on March 2, 2011<sup>[28]</sup>). The group Stop the Wall has documented several more of these occasions.

[25] ET News (2011/11/22) “이오시스템, 이스라엘 엘롭사와 제휴 체결” <http://www.etnews.com/200510200164> (Accessed: 2011/11/21)

[26] DoDAAM Systems website [http://www.dodaam.com/sub\\_0105.php](http://www.dodaam.com/sub_0105.php)

[27] FRS (2010/11/14) “East Jerusalem: Israeli occupation forces assault Al Issawiya, demolish housing” <http://revolutionaryfrontlines.wordpress.com/2010/11/17/east-jerusalem-israeli-occupation-forces-assault-al-issawiya-demolish-housing/> (Accessed: 2011/11/21)

[28] Arabia MSN News (2011/3/2) “Israel destroys wells near Hebron: witnesses” <http://arabia.msn.com/news/middleeast/afp/2011/march/4100040.aspx?region=featured> (Accessed: 2011/11/21)

Data on how those vehicles were supplied to the Israeli authorities is lacking, but according to the website of the Construction Equipment Division of Hyundai Heavy Industries, it consigns its products to the Israeli company Automotive Equipment and Vehicle Ltd. (AEV). According to AEV's website, this company is involved in the “import, marketing and service for Yale and Hyundai forklift trucks and spare parts” as well as in “import, marketing and service of Hyundai Heavy Industries and excavators, and earth moving trucks”.<sup>[29]</sup>



[illustration 5] Hyundai construction vehicle demolishing the road around Palestinian houses in At Tur, Occupied East Jerusalem on February 2, 2012.

#### ► Dead Sea Works Power Plant

As mentioned, Hyundai has been awarded a \$60 million USD contract to construct a part of a power plant at the Dead Sea by the Israeli Company Dead Sea Works Ltd. Not only is Dead Sea Works complicit in polluting the occupied West Bank through the emptying of sewage and waste in the northern part of the Occupied Territory, but it also works closely with Krashin Shalev Metal Industries.

[29] <http://www.aev.co.il/default.asp?catid=%7B739DDF56-B49A-455E-8714-BC67097306AC%7D> (Accessed: 2011/11/30)

[30] Ynet News (2011/3/7) “Dead Sea faces shrinking, flooding” <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4083265,00.html> (Accessed: 2011/11/23)

KSMI is actually located in the Barkan Industrial Zone, an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank.<sup>[31]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.hhi.co.kr/>

### Kia Motors Corporation

In 2011, Kia Motors supplied the Rio model sedan in large quantities to the Israeli military.<sup>[32]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.kia.co.kr/>

### Doosan Infracore Co., Ltd.

Doosan Infracore Co., Ltd., is mainly engaged in developing and producing construction and manufacturing equipment, industrial vehicles, etc.

Bobcat Company is operated by Doosan Infracore International, an affiliate of Doosan Infracore Co., Ltd. It has been documented that Bobcat Company provides construction equipment for the construction of checkpoints and settlement infrastructure in the West Bank.<sup>[33]</sup>

| Company Website: <http://www.doosaninfracore.co.kr/>



[illustration 6] Bobcat vehicle being used in Katerin settlement, Occupied Golan Heights.

## 6.4 Israeli Settlement Products in the Korean Market

South Korea's geographical distance from Israel serves as a limitation to the distribution of agricultural products produced in the Occupied Territories. However, so-called "popular" goods as shown below can easily be purchased via on-line shopping mall or at large retail stores and the average consumer's awareness of these products cannot be underestimated.

### Products of AHAVA

AHAVA is known to exploit natural resources from the Occupied Palestinian Territories for its products.<sup>[34]</sup> Consequently AHAVA has been the focus of numerous international campaigns, such as Code Pink's 'Stolen Beauty' Campaign.

There has been a wide range of its products found in Korean consumer market. They can be easily purchased at popular internet shopping malls in South Korea such as Gmarket, InterPark, Auction, and 11ST. On August 2011, exclusive offline store of AHAVA was launched in Seoul. It is the first offline store of Israeli cosmetics in South Korea. Daesung Industrial Corporation, the leading company of energy industry in South Korea, imports and distributes the products of AHAVA. Daesung, signed an exclusive contract with AHAVA, announced that it would expand the offline stores of AHAVA through its own distribution network.<sup>[35]</sup>



[illustration 7] AHAVA, which makes its products from resources from the Occupied Palestinian Territories, has found itself the target of campaigns such as Code Pink's "Stolen Beauty Campaign."

### Sweetie

Distribution of Sweetie, an Israeli fruit product, is similar to that of AHAVA. South Korean customers can buy Sweetie, which is grown in the Occupied Territories and marketed by an Israeli Company, easily via South Korean internet shopping malls.<sup>[36]</sup> In South Korea, Sweetie of Jaffa brand are imported by South Korean fruits importer, Fruit

[31] WhoProfits "Krashin Shalev Metal Industries" <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/krashin-shalev-metal-industries> (Accessed: 2012/6/26)

[32] OIS "현대자동차, 이스라엘 자동차시장 판매량 1위 등극" [http://www.ois.go.kr/portal/page?\\_pageid=93,721498&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&p\\_deps1=info&p\\_deps2=&oid=1110411094740248916](http://www.ois.go.kr/portal/page?_pageid=93,721498&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_deps1=info&p_deps2=&oid=1110411094740248916) (Accessed: 2011/11/23)

[33] WhoProfits "Bobcat Company" <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/bobcat-company> (Accessed: 2012/06/26)

[34] Ibid "Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories" <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/ahava-dead-sea-laboratories> (Accessed: 2012/07/17)

[35] JangUp Shinmun (2011/08/06) "대성산업, 화장품시장 진출" <http://www.jangup.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=54350> (Accessed: 2012/08/04)

[36] Auction "스위티 자몽 8kg 22 과내외" <http://itempage3.auction.co.kr/DetailView.aspx?itemNo=A548953904&frm3=V2> (Accessed: 2011/11/23)

Bank.<sup>[37]</sup> This company is in a business partnership with LS Networks, one of the companies under the LS Group,<sup>[38]</sup> and managed by LS Networks' investment management business. The importer of Sweetie is credited by the LS Networks.<sup>[39]</sup>

### SodaStream

SodaStream is a manufacturer of home beverage carbonating devices. Its main manufacturing facility is located in the Mishor Edomim Industrial Zone inside Ma'aleh Adumim, an illegal settlement.

Israeli government supports companies operating in the settlements by giving them special tax incentives, enforcement of labor laws, and so forth. In an interview for *Globes*, the founder of the company explained that he chose to build the factory in Mishor Edomim because of the low real estate prices and lax bureaucratic regulations he found there.<sup>[40]</sup>

SodaStream is imported by KoreaTech, an importer of household products and cosmetics. According to its history page, it obtained the license to be the sole agency in South Korea, in May 2006.<sup>[41]</sup>

Like AHAVA, SodaStream can be easily purchased at many shopping malls in South Korea such as GS home shopping, Auction, and 11ST.



[illustration 8] SodaStream is also becoming the main targeting of international BDS campaigns.

[37] Fruit Banks <http://www.fruitbank.kr/> (Accessed: 2011/11/23)

[38] LS Networks <http://www.lsnetworks.com/>

[39] LS Networks (2010) "LS Network Annual Report"

[40] WhoProfits (2011/03) A Case Study for Corporate Activity in Illegal Israeli Settlements <http://whoprofits.org/sites/default/files/WhoProfits-ProductioninSettlements-SodaStream.pdf> (Accessed: 2012/07/28)

[41] KoreaTech website <http://www.coreatech.kr/company/history.asp> (Accessed: 2012/07/28)

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## Chapter 7

# Military Ties

The military ties between South Korea and Israel are very strong. Their cooperation seems to focus mainly on technical cooperation and weapons supply due to geographical distance. South Korea's cooperation with Israel regarding military aspects started in the late 1960s, but their relations 'developed' significantly after the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993.

### 7.1 Military Ties During the Cold War Era

The move to prepare for the start of military ties between South Korea and Israel could be found when both countries had not secured political and military stability. The cold war during the 1960s had a significant influence on their foreign policy. Both countries tried to strengthen their security by having closer relations with the West. Having such a strategic reason in common, South Korea and Israel began courting each other.

From this perspective, it was David Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel that first tried to establish military ties between South Korea and Israel, according to Yaacov Cohen.<sup>[1]</sup> After watching the People's Republic of China intervene in the Korean War to support the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ben-Gurion even suggested that IDF soldiers be dispatched to the Korean Peninsula. Back then, however, there was no national consensus in Israel on which side it would take during the Cold War, and a group of politicians including Mapam in the ruling coalition opposed Ben-Gurion's suggestion.

The diplomatic relations between South Korea and Israel were established in 1962 after then Israeli Foreign Minister Golda Meir suggested the need to establish full ties in 1961. The establishing of the relations was made possible in the process of both countries attempting to find more countries that would acknowledge their international legitimacy. South Korea, however, was concerned that its relations with Israel might pose an obstacle to forming diplomatic ties with Arab countries in the Middle East. As a result, the South Korean government delayed opening its embassy in Israel, even though Israel had hoped to have embassies open in both South Korea and Israel.

A turning point in relations between South Korea and Israel was the Vietnam War. President John F. Kennedy who had continued to oppose Israel's nuclear development, was assassinated and Lyndon B. Johnson became the new president. His administration pursued its policy in the Vietnam War by inviting its allies into the war. South Korea and Israel joined the war in what could be described as an effort to gain wider international recognition.

This shared ambition opened a door to military cooperation between South Korea and Israel, which began with Israeli Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin's visit to South Korea. The military cooperation benefited South Korea; for example, South Korea was supplied with the much coveted Uzi, an Israeli submachine gun. In addition, it is argued that Israel gave, not sold, South Korea weapons of the Soviet Union that Israel had captured from Arab countries at the end of the Fourth Arab-Israeli War.<sup>[2]</sup>

As stated in the Chapter 4.1, however, the South Korean government took a pro-Arab policy during the oil crisis. Disappointed by South Korea's decision, Israel closed its embassy in Seoul in February 1978.

### 7.2 Military Ties in the Post-Oslo Accords Period

In the 1980s bilateral relations between Israel and South Korea did not make any real progress. In South Korea, a fierce fight for democracy broke out against the dictatorship making the domestic situation unstable. Israel was dealing with the Intifada, a popular uprising by the Palestinian people started in the late 1980s. Both South Korea and Israel needed to respond to what was happening at home, and could thus not make any progress in bilateral relations.

From the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid in October 1991 to the Oslo Accords in August 1993, the relations between South Korea and Israel improved significantly. Amid the weakened momentum of the so-called 'Arab Boycott' by Arab countries, domestic situations in both countries were stabilized. Both began establishing policies to expand their cooperation in science and technology. With the Scientific & Technological Cooperation

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[1] Yaacov Cohen "The Improvement of Israeli-South Korean Relations," *Jewish Political Studies Review* 18 (2006): 1

[2] 드가모프 (skillelix) (2011/2/26) "이스라엘과 한국군의 군사적 협력사례" <http://blog.naver.com/skillelix/40124236483> (Accessed: 2011/11/30)



Agreement signed in November 1994, bilateral cooperation in the defence industry started to progress rapidly.

On August 27, 1995, South Korea and Israel signed the memorandum of understanding on Cooperation in Logistics and the Defence Industry. Under the MoU, South Korea and Israel decided to establish the Korea-Israel Joint Defence Industry Cooperation Committee (Hereafter referred to as the Joint Committee). With the establishment of the Joint Committee, an organization set to meet on a regular basis, the exchange of information on the industrialization of military technology started in earnest. Since then, as of 2011, the Joint Committee has held nine meetings.

#### ► Timeline of the [Joint Committee]

- 1996.5 The first meeting in Tel Aviv.
- 1997.5.19. The second meeting in Seoul; discussion on cooperation in various sectors including introducing Israeli weapons, MoU on cooperation in quality guarantee, MoU on science, technology and engineer exchanges, and cooperation in organizing information.
- 1999.3. The third meeting in Tel Aviv; discussion on signing quality guarantee of military equipment, increase in exports of South Korean military equipment, signing agreement on technical materials and technician exchanges.
- 200-. The fourth meeting (the date and location unknown).
- 200-. The fifth meeting (the date and location unknown).
- 2003.11. The sixth meeting in Seoul.
- 2007.1.22. The seventh meeting in Tel Aviv; review and discussion on possible business cooperation.
- 2008.8.4. The eighth meeting in Seoul; discussion on cooperation in various issues including a revision of quality guarantee agreement.
- 2010.5. The ninth meeting in Israel; discussion on current issues of the defence industry cooperation and the revision of the quality guarantee agreement.

The South Korean Defence Ministry installed its defence attaché in the Israeli embassy in Seoul for an around-the-clock communication channel. Non-regular exchanges, listed below, have been made.

#### ► [Other meetings and visits by high ranking officials]

- 1996.1.3. An Israeli delegation led by general Eitan Ben Elياهو visited South Korea and had discussion on cooperation in various aspects including military cooperation.

- 2001.10.12. An Israeli delegation led by Yossi Ben Hanan, the head of the Foreign Defence Assistance and Defence Export Department visited South Korea and had a meeting with then South Korea's Air Force Chief of Staff.
- 2002.6. Israeli engineers offered consulting services to South Korea on the Korea-Japan World Cup information system.
- 2005.11.29. Korea-Israel defence industry cooperation meeting was held in Tel Aviv. The current status and development of defence industry cooperation between the two countries was discussed.
- 2010.5.6. Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) commissioner Byun Moo-keun made an official visit to Israeli President Shimon Peres and discussed measures to strengthen defence and security cooperation.

### 7.3 Arms Trade

Due to the fact that both countries are in a quasi-state of war, both countries have a high demand for weaponry. Hence, South Korea and Israel cooperate in the defence industry in order to take advantage of each other as suppliers and also as testing grounds for weapons. In addition, both countries are highly dependent on the US for military supplies, and it can be argued that the increasing relations between South Korea and Israel were partly an effort to diversify the source of their military supplies.

In 2003 the *Hankyoreh*, a daily South Korean newspaper, quoted *Defense News* (a global newsweekly on defence technology) that 'Korea's imports of Israeli weaponry accounted for 12 per cent of total sales of military equipment and weapons by Israel'.<sup>[3]</sup> This shows that South Korea is important to Israel's arms trade. A 2011 article by *dongA.com* quoted the Israeli Newspaper *Haaretz* that "among the total trade volume of \$1.25 billion USD between the two countries, almost a third comes from Israel's exports of weapons to Korea."<sup>[4]</sup> This highlights the degree of importance to Israel of military exports to South Korea.

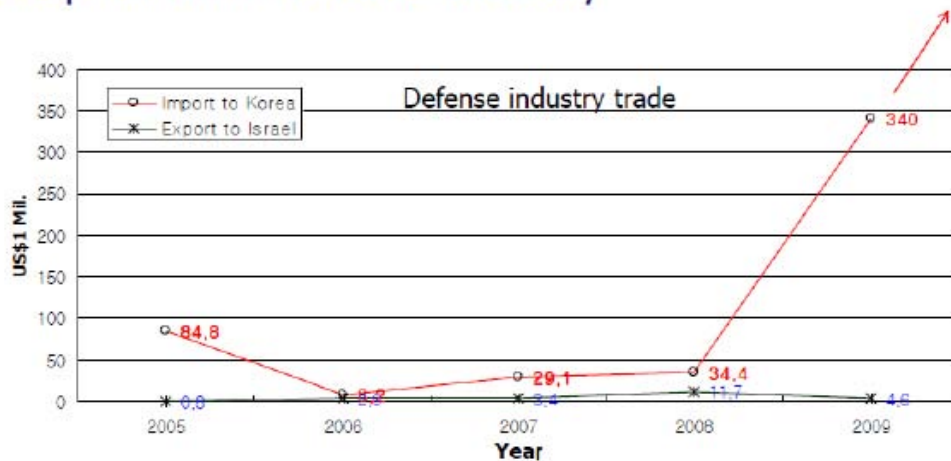
In addition to imports and exports, South Korea has had Israel remodel some of its old aircraft bought from the US.

#### ► [Israeli weapons that South Korea has purchased, owned or is considering to purchase. ]

[3] *Hankyoreh* (2003/11/18) "이스라엘 군사장비 한국수출 급증" <http://legacy.www.hani.co.kr/section-007100007/2003/11/007100007200311182208189.html> (Accessed: 2012/04/9)

[4] *Donga* (2011/1/13) "韓 이스라엘 무기도입 최근 급증" <http://news.donga.com/Politics/3/00/20110112/33888087/1> (Accessed: 2011/10/5)

## Cooperation in Defense Industry



- Uzi, an Israeli submachine gun made by IMI, an Israeli weapons manufacturer (a specific model has not been confirmed)
- Harpy, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) by IAI, Israel's aerospace and aviation manufacturer
- Searcher, a UAV by IAI
- Skylark II, a UAV by Elbit Systems
- Spike NLOS, a pinpoint target missile by Rafael (planning)
- Delilah GL, a ground-launched cruise missile by IMI (planning)
- 'SPS-1000(V)5', a radar warning receiver (RWR) by Elisra
- Super Green Pine, an early warning radar by IAI
- Condor 2, EO-X by Elop
- Airplane-related system by Elisra (a specific model has not been confirmed)

As an overall trend, though, it is Israeli military imports to South Korea which make up the vast majority of military-related transactions between the two countries. According to the following table (presented by South Korea's Ambassador to Israel) Israeli military exports to South Korea started to climb sharply in 2008.<sup>[5]</sup>

An article published by *Weekly Blitz* has suggested that Israel is set to become South Korea's main arms supplier.<sup>[6]</sup> The article quotes Kwon Oh-bong, the vice commissioner of the Defence Acquisition Program Administration, as saying:

The South Korean defence budget stands at \$30 billion USD, and the military acquisition budget stands at \$10 billion USD and grows as time goes by. In the past few years we have purchased the Green Pine radar and the Harpy UAV from Israel. The United States has been our main arms supplier for years, but in recent years Israel has become a key acquisition source together with European countries.

A recent increase in the South Korean Defence Budget and an expressed desire to diversify weapons suppliers could prompt an increase in such a trend.



[illustration 9] Elbit System's Skylark II: One of the many UAV's the South Korean Military has purchased.

[5] Ma, Y.S. "Korea Israel Economic Relations" [www.emeries.org/posts/downloadAttach/83402.do;jsessionid...localhost...](http://www.emeries.org/posts/downloadAttach/83402.do;jsessionid...localhost...) (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[6] Weekly Blitz News Desk (2011/08/23) "Israel Turning Into Main Arms Supplier to South Korea" <http://www.weeklyblitz.net/1677/israel-turning-into-main-arms-supplier-to-south> (Accessed 2011/09/16)

[7] Ibid (Accessed 2011/09/16)

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## Chapter 8

# Economic Relations

As explained in Chapter 1, over the years Israel and South Korea have signed various bilateral treaties and agreements and have encouraged cooperation in areas such as science and technology. An FTA undergoing preparation bodes well for an increase in this cooperation.

### 8.1 Korea Israel Industrial Research & Development Foundation

The Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation of Industrial Research and Development in the Private Sector was signed by Israel and South Korea in 1998. In accordance with the objectives set out in the Agreement, The Korea Israel Industrial Research & Development Foundation (KORIL) was created in 2001. KORIL is a joint-venture between the Republic of Korea and the State of Israel, with an objective of facilitating collaborative industrial R&D between the two countries. KORIL achieves such an objective by financially supporting Joint Research Projects between companies from both Israel and South Korea.

As soon as KORIL approves a project between two companies, it provides 50% of the proposed projects' required budget. Half of this money comes from South Korea, while the other half comes from Israel. The amount can be added up to \$1,000,000 USD. In fact, from 2002 to 2010, \$29,899,673 USD has been granted to 98 approved projects out of the 147 proposed.<sup>[1]</sup>

A number of Israeli companies, which have had their projects approved and funded by KORIL, are known to be complicit and directly involved in the occupation, apartheid and colonization of Palestine.

#### Techmer

In 2009, KORIL approved a full scale project between South Korean company, Midotech and Israeli company, Techmer.<sup>[2]</sup>

Techmer is part of the Mer Group, a conglomerate of groups, providers of security and defence solutions, and is a close partner for the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian

territories. Techmer also provides equipment to illegal settlers in East Jerusalem. According to "Who Profits" (an NGO which specializes in compiling information about corporations operating in the occupation), Mer Group's cameras are installed in a number of West Bank checkpoints and army bases and the company is providing surveillance systems to the "Ir David" Settlement Project in Occupied East Jerusalem.<sup>[3]</sup>

#### Tiltan Systems Engineering

In 2006 KORIL approved a full scale project between South Korean company, Virtual Building company, "Virtual Builders" and Israeli 3D mapping company, "Tiltan Systems Engineering". According to Whoprofits, Tiltan Engineering:

Develop(s) 2D and 3D geographic visualization applications for mainly military training, attack planning and field command. (Tiltan) Specifically developed a realistic full West Bank 3D model for the Israeli army, designed to help plan urban warfare.<sup>[4]</sup>

Matrix IT and Israeli Aerospace Industries own 70% of Tiltan Systems Engineering, between them. Matrix IT is one of Israel's largest IT companies, which runs its offshore outsourcing project out of the illegal Modi'in Illit settlement in the Occupied West Bank.<sup>[5]</sup> For information on Israel Aerospace Industries, see below.

#### Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)

In 2005, KORIL approved a full scale project between South Korean company Unison and IAI.<sup>[6]</sup> IAI defines itself as:

... a globally recognized leader in development and production of military and commercial aerospace and

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[1] KORIL "Approved Projects List" <http://www.korilrdf.or.kr/english/koril/index4.php?seq=4&subseq=1&PHPSESSID=41616...> (Accessed 2011/09/14)

[2] Ibid (Accessed 2011/09/14)

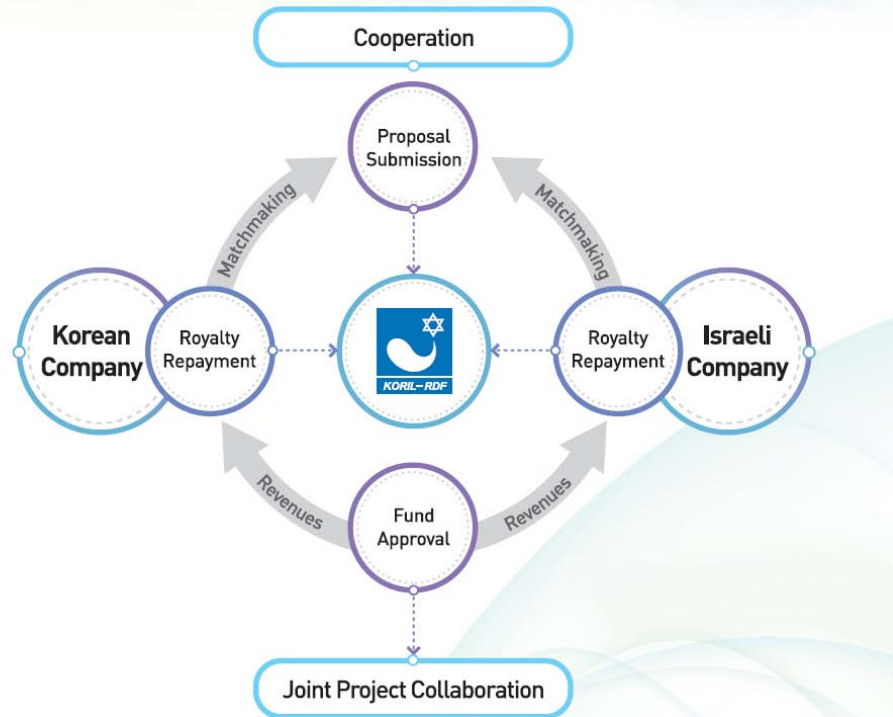
[3] Who Profits "Mer Group" <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/mer-group> (Accessed 2012/06/26)

[4] KORIL "Approved Projects List" <http://www.korilrdf.or.kr/english/koril/index4.php?seq=4&subseq=1&PHPSESSID=41616...> (Accessed 2011/09/14)

[5] Who Profits "Tiltan Systems Engineering" <http://www.whoprofits.org/company/tiltan-systems-engineering> (Accessed 2012/07/17)

[6] Who Profits "Matrix IT" <http://whoprofits.org/company/matrix-it> (Accessed 2012/07/17)

[7] KORIL "Approved Projects List" <http://www.korilrdf.or.kr/english/koril/index4.php?seq=4&subseq=1&PHPSESSID=41616...> (Accessed 2011/09/14)



[Illustration 10] Koril - RDF Collaboration Structure

defence systems.

In fact, IAI is Israel’s ‘prime’ aerospace and aviation manufacturer. IAI produces and markets both civilian equipment, but also a huge array of goods and services to the Israeli military, including:

1. Unmanned air vehicles (UAV)
2. Radars, mission aircraft and AEW aircraft
3. EW, ELINT/ESM, SIGINT and COMINT/COMJAM
4. Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missiles (ATBM)
5. Missiles and smart weapons
6. Satellites, ground stations and space launchers
7. Upgrading of military aircraft and helicopters

As mentioned in Chapter 5, IAI-manufactured drones have been used in the killing of Palestinian civilians. In addition to its manufacturing and servicing of military aircraft and weapons systems, IAI is directly involved in the construction of the Apartheid Wall.<sup>[8]</sup>

## 8.2 Joint Venture Capital Fund

In November of 2010, Israel and South Korea signed an

[8] Stop the Wall “Companies Building the Wall” <http://www.stopthewall.org/downloads/pdf/companiesbuildingwall.pdf> p.5 (Accessed 2011/09/14)

MoU to create a \$150 million USD joint venture capital fund, in order to help fund small and medium businesses in both countries. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, the then Korean Ambassador to Israel told reporters that “although bilateral relations are excellent, they can still be brought to the highest possible level with new technologies from both countries.”<sup>[9]</sup> Further information remains undisclosed at the time of this report.

## 8.3 Korea-Israel FTA

The South Korean government and its Israeli counterpart agreed to initiate a joint “feasibility study” on the potential economic effects of the Korea-Israel free trade agreement (FTA) at the fourth Korea-Israel Joint Committee held in May 2009. According to the South Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), Israel has been asking to pursue a Korea-Israel FTA since early 2000 making South Korea its starting point for its expansion into East Asia.<sup>[10]</sup>

In his interview with a business newspaper, Yigal Baruch Caspi, a former Israeli ambassador to Korea expressed his high

[9] Jerusalem Post. Casman, G (2010/11/22) “Israel, South Korea sign MoU to assist companies” <http://www.jpost.com/LandedPages/PrintArticle.aspx?id=196266> (Accessed: 2011/09/14)

[10] Newsis (2009/05/13) “외교부, 한-이스라엘 FTA협상 가능성 점검” <http://media.daum.net/economic/all/view.html?cateid=1038&newsid=20090513184311441&p=newsis> (Accessed: 2011/09/14)

hopes for the Korea-Israel FTA, saying “the Korea-Israel FTA is one of the most important issues to the Israeli embassy in Korea.”<sup>[11]</sup>

During the interview which was held soon after Israel’s invasion of the Gaza Strip, commercial attaché Alon Shlesinger said, “Disputes with Palestinians put little impact on the Israeli economy, and the fact that FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) did not decrease proves it,” and also said that the Korea-Israel FTA would increase trade and profits of companies from both countries.

The feasibility study was jointly conducted by Korea’s KIEP (Korea Institute for International Economic Policy) and Israel’s Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour.<sup>[12]</sup> With three meetings, the joint FTA study was concluded in August 2010,<sup>[13]</sup> and the MOFAT received the report on the study from KIEP, but the ministry has not made it public yet.<sup>[14]</sup>

South Korea and Israel planned to sign the FTA in 2011, having started negotiations in 2010. In an interview, Israeli Minister of Industry, Trade and Labor Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who accompanied Israeli President Shimon Peres during his visit to Korea in June 2010, said “the negotiations are making good progress and by the end of next year we expect to sign the agreement.”<sup>[15]</sup>

As of 2012, however, the negotiations are still going on. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon visited South Korea in July 2012 and said that he hoped the Korea-Israel FTA to be achieved by next summer. He also mentioned that he hoped to further the relationship with Asian markets through South Korea, which Israel had military cooperation with.<sup>[16]</sup>

At present, the details of the Korea-Israel FTA are not well known, but given that both countries have export-dependent economies and their bilateral trade is complementary, the FTA is expected to expand trade between the two countries significantly, mainly in the those areas of automobile and electronics industries.<sup>[17]</sup>

According to Ma Young-sam (former South Korean Ambassador to Israel) a 20-30% jump in trade and investment is expected as a result of the FTA.<sup>[18]</sup>

If the Korea-Israel FTA is achieved, South Korea would be the first Asian country to sign an FTA with Israel.

[11] AJNews (2009/1/30) “FTA is the Key to Closer Ties between Korea and Israel” [http://www.ajnews.co.kr/view\\_v2.jsp?newsId=20090130000101](http://www.ajnews.co.kr/view_v2.jsp?newsId=20090130000101) (Accessed: 2011/09/14)

[12] South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2010/05/26) “주이스라엘 대사관, 한-이스라엘 경제·통상 현황” <http://isr.mofat.go.kr/webmodule/htsboard/template/read/hbdlegationread.jsp?typeID=15&boardid=5334&seqno=748066> (Accessed: 2011/11/23)

[13] FTA Korea “한-이스라엘 FTA” [http://fta.korea.kr/kr/situation/ready/history.jsp?a\\_id=21](http://fta.korea.kr/kr/situation/ready/history.jsp?a_id=21) (Accessed: 2011/11/23)

[14] There are Korean language reports on the FTA, which were outsourced by the MOFAT, available at the following blog: <http://blog.naver.com/soldat1219/50115827601>

[15] Maeil Business Newspaper (2010/06/10) “韓·이스라엘 FTA 협상 올해 개시, 내년 체결” <http://news.mk.co.kr/outside/view.php?year=2010&no=299958> (Accessed: 2011/11/23)

[16] JoongAng Ilbo (2012/07/27) “이스라엘, 아시아 첫 FTA 한국과 체결 희망” [http://article.joinsmsn.com/news/article/article.asp?total\\_id=8882594](http://article.joinsmsn.com/news/article/article.asp?total_id=8882594) (Accessed: 2012/08/04)

[17] MOFAT, African and Middle Eastern Affairs Bureau Middle East Division 1, (2010/06/03) “report on Israel” [http://mofaweb.mofat.go.kr/reg\\_report.nsf/webview01/07D02ECE7A9DB34649257737000C5159?opendocument](http://mofaweb.mofat.go.kr/reg_report.nsf/webview01/07D02ECE7A9DB34649257737000C5159?opendocument) (Accessed 2011/11/30)

[18] Ma, Y.S. “Korea Israel Economic Relations” [www.emerics.org/posts/downloadAttach/83402.do;jsessionid...localhost...](http://www.emerics.org/posts/downloadAttach/83402.do;jsessionid...localhost...) (Accessed 2011/09/16)

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## Chapter 9

# Academic Ties

Like KORIL (see Chapter 8) the academic ties between Israel and South Korea are characterized by close scientific cooperation in the form of research and development projects. In fact, on December 28, 2010 the two governments agreed to select, fund (putting forth \$460,000 USD each) and promote nine research projects in the areas of nano-technology and bio-science technology.<sup>[1]</sup> Among the institutions taking part in the research are KAIST, KIST, and Seoul National University, all of which are South Korean institutions; and from Israel, Technion, the Weizmann Institute and Tel-Aviv University.

All three Israeli institutions have been identified as lending support to Israeli occupation, colonisation and apartheid.<sup>[2]</sup> However, when Israeli President Shimon Peres visited Seoul in 2010, he paid particular attention to strengthening ties between Technion and KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology).

### 9.1 Technion's Complicity in Occupation, Colonialism and Apartheid

Technion, located in Haifa, is a prestigious Israeli institute of technology. Along with the Weizmann Institute, Technion was one of the few universities founded before Israel declared itself in 1948. It opened its doors in 1924. In 2012, Technion boasts a student population of 12,856.<sup>[3]</sup> Technion has been criticized for its close relationship with the military. Indeed, as Keller puts it: "Technion has all but enlisted itself in the military." It maintains research relationships with weapons companies and develops weapons technologies which can, and have been, deployed against Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.

Technion cooperates with a number of private weapons companies, including Elbit Systems and Rafael. Its

relationship with the former is grounded in research and development.

In 2008, Elbit Systems announced it would grant \$500,000 USD in grants to Technion Research students, over the next 5 years. In the same year, Technion and Elbit opened a joint research center,<sup>[4]</sup> the Visions Systems Research Initiative. The research involves tracking eye movements and research into computer vision.<sup>[5]</sup>

The Dean of Technion sees the partnership with Elbit Systems as just the beginning, saying:

We view the establishment of the new research center as a major upward step in our long-term partnership with Elbit-systems and with the Israeli high-tech industry. Facing growing technological challenges and an increasing global competition for innovation, it is essential for us to develop stronger ties and smooth integration between academic and industrial research.<sup>[6]</sup>

Joseph Ackerman, Elbit Systems' president and CEO, suggests that Elbit's relationship with Technion plays a vital role in ensuring the success of the weapons company in the global defence industry.<sup>[7]</sup>

Technion graduates staff some of the largest and most successful Weapons Corporations in Israel, and Elbit Systems is no exception. Elbit actively recruits from Technion and a considerable number of Technion graduates go on to work for Elbit.<sup>[8]</sup>

Technion shares a similar relationship with the weapons company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. In 2006 Technion launched a two-stage rocket which it built over

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[1] South Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (2010/12/30) "Korea-Israel S&T Cooperation Projects" <http://www.mest.go.kr/web/42207/en/board/enview.do?bbsId=265&pageSize=10&currentPage=3&boardSeq=20110&mode=view> (Visited: 2011/09/21)

[2] Keller, U "The Economy of the Occupation: Academic Boycott of Israel" <http://www.alternativenews.org/english/index.php/topics/economy-of-the-occupation/2223-the-economy-of-the-occupation-23-24-academic-boycott-of-israel> (Visited: 2011/09/13)

[3] Technion Division of Public Affairs and Resource Management "About Technion: Fast Facts" <http://www1.technion.ac.il/en/about> (Accessed: 2012/08/04)

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[4] Hayadan, (2008/06/06) "Elbit Systems And The Technion Found A New Research Center For Optics Systems" <http://www.hayadan.org.il/wp/elbit-donate-laboratory-to-the-technion-1606085/> (Visited: 2011/09/21)

[5] Tadamon (2010/10/26) "Structures of Oppression: Why McGill and Concordia Universities must sever their links with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology" <http://www.tadamon.ca/wp-content/uploads/Technion-English.pdf> (Accessed: 2011/09/21)

[6] Focus: Technion Magazine (2008/11) "Out of Sight" <http://www.focus.technion.ac.il/Nov08/technologyTransferStory3.htm> (Accessed: 2011/09/21)

[7] Technion "Elbit establishes Vision Research Center" <http://webee.technion.ac.il/news/Elbit-establishes-Vision-Systems-Research-Center> (Accessed: 2011/09/22)

[8] Ibid (Accessed: 2011/09/22)



[illustration 11] A poster advertising on of Rafael's recruiting days for Technion students. Technion openly encourages its students to join Israeli weapons companies.

five years in partnership with Rafael.<sup>[9]</sup> The project was supervised by Technion Professor Alon Gany and Yitzhak Greenberg from Rafael. In a twist that illustrates just how tightly intertwined Rafael and Technion are, it turns out that Greenberg is actually a Technion graduate, himself.

Like with Elbit, Technion openly encourages its students to join Rafael and has hosted various recruiting drives by arms manufacturer. Technion actually runs a 3-year MBA<sub>[10]</sub> Course specifically tailored for future managers of Rafael. This very fact demonstrates the revolving-door-type relationship between the University and the arms industry.

As can be expected, the technologies developed through the joint research projects carried out between Technion and Elbit, Rafael etc., are often found as used by the Israeli government and military, in brutalizing Palestinians. Technion developed the following weapons technologies, which were subsequently deployed by the Israeli military:

#### The D9 Bulldozer (remote control feature)

[9] J Siegal Izkovitch (2006/05/10) "Technion launches Ram-Engine Rocket" <http://www.jpost.com/HealthAndSci-Tech/ScienceAndEnvironment/Article.aspx?id=21379> (Accessed: 2011/09/21)

[10] Tadamon (2010/10/26) "Structures of Oppression: Why McGill and Concordia Universities must sever their links with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology" <http://www.tadamon.ca/wp-content/uploads/Technion-English.pdf> p.5 (Accessed: 2011/09/21)



[illustration 12] D-9 Bulldozer demolishes Gaza's radio station

Although the actual bulldozer is manufactured in the US, Technion students (in partnership with the IDF) designed a remote control feature for it. This highly controversial feature added to the D-9 makes it possible for the D-9 to be used in house demolitions in the Occupied Territories without a driver having to be present.

#### The ROEE

Developed at Technion, this light all-terrain vehicle is remote controlled and equipped with a mounted machine gun. The *Defense Update* describes the vehicle as follows:

ROEE can rapidly deploy firing elements and sensors to positions located at high risk, exposed locations, thereby reducing the risk to soldiers without risking the mission. The robot can be integrated in a security system, as a part of perimeter defense system, or be deployed as an ambush platform, to monitor, and secure enemy susceptible movements paths.<sup>[11]</sup>

#### Rahfan

This micro-robotic helicopter was developed by Technion's Faculty of Computer Science; it can be used for tracking, observations and special operations.<sup>[12]</sup>

#### UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or "Drones")

Students recently designed and tested a UAV complete

[11] Defense Update "ROEE Light Tele-Operated Robotic Weapon ATV Platform: Technion Land Systems Division, Israel" <http://defense-update.com/products/r/roee.htm> (Accessed: 2011/09/22)

[12] Technion University Press Release (2009/12/03) "Technion Students and Researchers Build Rahfan: A Micro-robotic Helicopter that Navigates, Photographs and Maneuvers Independently," [http://www1.technion.ac.il/\\_local/includes/blocks/news-items/091130-cs/news-item-en.htm](http://www1.technion.ac.il/_local/includes/blocks/news-items/091130-cs/news-item-en.htm) (Accessed: 2011/09/22)



[illustration 13] Israeli President Shimon Peres at KAIST. During his visit in 2010, he was outspoken about his desire to expand cooperation between KAIST and Technion.

with a payload.<sup>[13]</sup>

### Snake Robot

At present, Technion Researchers are developing a snake robot. The robot will soon enter the lab, where it will undergo testing, after which it will be tested by the IDF's Defense Research & Development Directorate urban terrain robotics program. According to Lt Col. Gabi Dobresco, head of the Advanced Concepts Branch at the Land Systems Division, the robot will be able to be used in urban warfare and "... will be able to identify specific targets while remain virtually unnoticed, and leave behind delayed activated explosive charges for employing lethal effect."<sup>[14]</sup>

## 9.2 Technion and KAIST

Although the relationships that South Korean universities currently have with Technion are minimal, it is quite obvious that Technion and KAIST intend to expand the relationship they already have. According to KAIST's website, on June 9, 2010, Shimon Peres visited KAIST, as part of his South Korean visit. Peres talked of the need for expanding cooperation between the universities in the areas of Space, Biotechnology and Nano-Technology.<sup>[15]</sup>

Accordingly, the president of KAIST has not only pledged

[13] British Technion Society (2011/03/13) "Technion Students Build and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Capable of Carrying a Payload" <http://www.britishtechnionsociety.org/ReadNews275.aspx> (Accessed: 2011/09/22)  
 [14] Defense Update "Smaller, More Powerful Snake Robot Demonstrated by Technion Lab" [http://defense-update.com/wp/20101110\\_snake\\_robot\\_brml.html](http://defense-update.com/wp/20101110_snake_robot_brml.html) (Accessed: 2011/09/22)  
 [15] KAIST "President of Israel visited KAIST on June 9, 2010" [http://www.kaist.ac.kr/english/01\\_about/06\\_news\\_01.php?req\\_P=bv&req\\_BIDX=10&req\\_BNM=ed\\_news&pt=17&req\\_VI=2777](http://www.kaist.ac.kr/english/01_about/06_news_01.php?req_P=bv&req_BIDX=10&req_BNM=ed_news&pt=17&req_VI=2777) (Accessed: 2011/09/22)

to set up stronger ties with universities in Israel, but has been very specific about Technion's desire for more collaboration between KAIST and Technion.<sup>[16]</sup>

The severing of academic ties with Israeli institutions is not a new idea. In fact, on March 23 2011, the South African University of Johannesburg chose to end its 25 year old relationship with Israel's Ben Gurion University. The decision was made after a petition was held and signed by 400 prominent South African academics, intellectuals and public figures. Among these was Arch-Bishop Desmond Tutu.<sup>[17]</sup>

Suh Nam-pyo, the president of KAIST, said in his New Year's Address:

We must reaffirm KAIST's mission: To contribute to Korea and the Korean people by becoming one of the world's leading S&T universities and by solving the most challenging problems facing humanity.<sup>[18]</sup>

Assuming that this plan is not driven by simply scientific ambition, but is underpinned by basic humanistic values, one might suggest that the ability of KAIST to solve the most challenging problems facing humanity may be severely weakened should it continue ahead with its plans to increase ties with Technion.



[illustration 14] Desmond Tutu was one of 400 prominent South Africans who called for The University of Johannesburg to sever ties with Israel's Ben Gurion University.

[16] Ibid (Accessed: 2011/09/22)  
 [17] Laing, A "South African University severs ties with Israel" <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/southafrica/8404451/South-African-university-severs-ties-with-Israel.html> (Accessed 2011/09/06)  
 [18] Nam Pyo Suh (2011/10/6) "President's Message" [http://www.kaist.edu/english/01\\_about/01\\_president\\_07.php?req\\_P=bv&req\\_BIDX=48&req\\_BNM=ed\\_president&req\\_VI=3472&req\\_PC=0](http://www.kaist.edu/english/01_about/01_president_07.php?req_P=bv&req_BIDX=48&req_BNM=ed_president&req_VI=3472&req_PC=0) (Accessed 2012/04/09)



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## Chapter 10

# South Korean Religious Tourism to Israel

Since the 1990s, South Korean tourists numbered larger than those tourists from the rest of Asia combined.<sup>[1]</sup> The majority of the Korean tourists are Christians on pilgrimage. In Israel, tourism is one of its main revenue sources, and pilgrimages to Jerusalem are critical to the industry.

### 10.1 Excavation in the Holy Land

With the foundation of the State of Israel in 1948, excavations on biblical sites were actively carried out throughout the country. The fever of archaeological excavations in the 1950s helped construct a common history for a country whose population is composed largely of immigrants from many parts of the world. It fostered a sense of consensus in political, religious and military perspectives and a national pride prompting immigrants to feel that they belong to the State of Israel. These excavations included excavations in Jerusalem.

After the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, Israel's military opened an office and started to conduct excavations as part of its efforts to strengthen its occupation policy. Temporary camps which were set up for the excavations on Shiloh, an ancient city, became Khirbet Seilun, the largest settlement in the West Bank today. In addition, a large settlement in another ancient city, Beth El has become an area where some of the largest military bases are located. Under the Israeli Antiquities Law established in 1978, the Palestinians' lands were confiscated on the pretext of archaeological excavations, which violates the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Conventions.<sup>[2]</sup>

### 10.2 Policy to Exterminate Christians in Bethlehem

"It is unconscionable that Bethlehem should be allowed to die slowly from strangulation."

-Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 2005

As the birthplace of Jesus, Bethlehem is one of the major

holy sites for Christians and it is a city closely related to Jerusalem historically, religiously and economically. The town is inhabited by one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. In 1948, 37% of the Palestinian Christian population were forced out of Palestine and 20% of the remaining Christian population decreased further between 1967 and 1994, while 10% of the Christian population left Bethlehem between 2000-2004.<sup>[3]</sup> In 1947, Christians made up 75% of the population, but by 1998 this figure had declined to 23%.<sup>[4]</sup>

The major reason of the decline was the Israel's military occupation and its subsequent deprivation of resources for economic activities for Christians. Tourism is one of Bethlehem's main income sources. Prior to the Second Intifada in 2000, an estimated 25% of the working population was employed directly or indirectly in the industry, and tourism accounted for approximately 65% of the city's economy and 11% of the revenue of the Palestinian National Authority.<sup>[5]</sup>

Israel, however, isolated Bethlehem with eight-meter tall walls cutting routes to Jerusalem, and also blocked movement within Bethlehem by building roads only for settlements and settlers.

When tourists attempt to exit Bethlehem, they must pass through revolving doors, two metal detectors and one turnstile.<sup>[6]</sup>

When a visit is made on pilgrimage tours, roads for settlers from Jerusalem to Bethlehem would be taken. Since the majority of pilgrims and tourists coming on tours to Bethlehem spend about 20 minutes to two hours in the town, quickly looking around a few churches and holy sites and then leaving the city, they bypass the smaller family-run accommodations, shops, restaurants and

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[1] Yaacov Cohen "The Improvement of Israeli-South Korean Relations," *Jewish Political Studies Review* 18 (2006): 1

[2] Ghattas J. Sayej (2010) "Palestinian Archaeology: Knowledge, Awareness and Cultural Heritage", <http://www.presentpasts.info/article/view/pp.22/32> (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

[3] Open Bethlehem "Bethlehem today: A state of Emergency" [http://openbethlehem.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=4&Itemid=28](http://openbethlehem.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4&Itemid=28) (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

[4] Andrea Pacini (1998) *Socio-Political and Community Dynamics of Arab Christians in Jordan, Israel, and the Autonomous Palestinian Territories*. Clarendon Press. pp. 282

[5] Aljazeera (2007/12/25) "Bethlehem's Struggle Continues" <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2007/12/2008525184727570657.html> (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

[6] Negotiations Affairs Department (2005) "STRANGLING BETHLEHEM, FORECLOSING PEACE" <http://www.nad-plo.org/etemplate.php?id=66> (Accessed: 2011/11/28)



[illustration 15] Settler-only road in the Occupied West Bank

souvenir shops and contribute little to the local economy.<sup>[7]</sup>

Although more and more people are travelling to Israel and Bethlehem, the Christian community in the city is reducing in size due to the presence of the Israeli military, occupation policy and deprivation of economic opportunity, and some predict that the Christian population will disappear in the city within 15 years because the community is reducing at such a fast pace.<sup>[8]</sup>

“If other holy sites are gems, Jerusalem is the jewel in the crown.”

- Quote from a brochure published by the Israel Ministry of Tourism

According to the Israel Ministry of Tourism, Jerusalem is the most popular tourist destination in the country. 77% of all tourists visit the Western Wall, and 61% go to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, both in Jerusalem’s Old City.<sup>[9]</sup>

Minister Mizezhnikov of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism made sure to position Israel as the holy land with Jerusalem at its center, as tourists from around the world flock to Jerusalem.<sup>[10]</sup>

Like other Palestinian areas, East Jerusalem was occupied by Israel in 1967, and the UN Resolution 242 requested Israel to withdraw from it. The Knesset (the Israel’s national assembly), however, passed a bill that announced Jerusalem as its capital on July 30 1980, and in response, the UN adopted Resolution 478 declaring the law invalid. Nevertheless, a campaign to establish a Jewish state on the entire Palestinian territories was actively carried out, particularly in East Jerusalem.

East Jerusalem includes several holy sites of three religions,

[7] ENI News “Bethlehem visitor numbers soar in 2008 says Israel” <http://www.eni.ch/featured/article.php?id=2500> (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

[8] Catholic Herald, (2009/12/24) “Boycott Israeli tourism” [http://www.catholicherald.com/opinions/detail.html?sub\\_id=12141](http://www.catholicherald.com/opinions/detail.html?sub_id=12141) (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

[9] Shalom Life (2010/12/28) “Tourism Boom enjoyed by Israel” <http://www.shalomlife.com/news/14367/tourism-boom-enjoyed-by-israel/> (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

[10] Ynet, “2010: Record year for tourism”, <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4005177,00.html> (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

Christianity, Islam and Judaism. In particular, the Old City, Gethsemane, which contains several tombs assumed to be Jesus’, is a holy site essential to pilgrimage programs as well as to income sources for Israel. Jerusalem has been called a microcosm of the occupation, due to the various and intense occupation policies being carried out in the city.

### 10.3 Israel’s Tourism and South Korea’s Pilgrimage

With 3.45 million tourist arrivals in 2010, Israel was able to generate \$400 million USD in revenue from tourism.

The number of South Koreans visiting Israel is in sharp contrast to the number of Israelis visiting South Korea. In 2007, as many as 33,925 South Koreans went to Israel, whereas 6,757 Israelis visited South Korea. The numbers in 2008 went up to 37,500 and 7,095 respectively. This imbalance is explained by South Korean pilgrim tourism.

Among Asian countries, K South orea has the largest number of pilgrims to Israel. South Korea competes with Jordan and India, the latter of which witnessed a recent increase in pilgrims, for the first and the second place as the country with the largest pilgrims visiting Israel.

Although the number of South Korean visitors to Israel decreased between 2000 and 2004, during the Second Intifada, and the total number of visitors to the country declined, the South Korean figure has been increasing at a consistent rate since 2004.

South Koreans constituted the largest number of visitors to Israel among Asian countries from 2006 to 2008. In 2006, 141,546 people from Asia visited Israel and 28,008 of them were Koreans. In 2007, 33,925 out of total 175,382 Asian visitors and 37,500 of 220,100 were South Koreans.

In July 2006, Israel invaded Lebanon, but 2,122 more South Koreans visited Israel than the previous year, which is in contrast to a decline in the total number of Asian visitors from 146,721 in 2005 to 141,546 in 2006.

In 2008, South Korea broke its previous record of the year 2000.<sup>[11]</sup> 2008 was also the year when Korean Air resumed non-stop flights to Tel Aviv, Israel.

In 2009, the total number of visitors to Israel declined because of Israel’s invasion into the Gaza Strip, from December 27, 2008 to January 18, 2009. Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics acknowledged the decline during the first half of 2009.

[11] Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (2011/01/12) “Record Number of Tourists in Israel Almost 3.5 Million Visitor Arrivals in 2010”, [http://www.cbs.gov.il/hodaot2011n/28\\_11\\_005e.pdf](http://www.cbs.gov.il/hodaot2011n/28_11_005e.pdf) (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

**Table 1: The number of Koreans who visited Israel from 2003 to 2010**

	Grand total	Tourists			Day visits	
		Total	Thereof:		Total	Thereof: land
			Air	Land		
2010	38,400	30,000	13,900	16,100	8,400	8,400
2009	21,000	17,300	10,300	7,000	3,700	3,600
2008	37,500	30,800	10,500	20,300	6,800	6,600
		Total	Air	Sea	Land	
2007		33,925	8,679	0	25,246	
2006		28,008	6,886	1	21,121	
2005		25,886	6,512	6	19,368	
2004		18,503	6,635	1	11,866	
2003		2,104	809	0	1,296	

- \* Source: Israel Central Bureau of Statistics <http://www1.cbs.gov.il>
- \* Statistics on day visits by nation to 2007 are not available
- \* Statistics are available by 100 people from 2008, but statistics on tourists arriving by sea are not available

## 10.4 Korean Air Completes Pilgrimage with its Flight to Israel

Korean Air began non-stop flights to Israel in November 1995, but cancelled them in February 1998 because of the Korean financial crisis in late 1997. For the next decade, the number of Korean visitors to Israel increased gradually and the company resumed its non-stop flights, three times per week on September 25, 2008. With the resumption of the flights, Korean Air published a press release with the title, “Korean Air completes pilgrimage with its flights to Israel.”<sup>[12]</sup> With its radio commercials advertising that “Nazareth, Jerusalem, Galilee and the Jordan are all places we are familiar with from the Bible’s stories”, Korean Air focused its flights to Israel as part of pilgrimage.

After the resumption of the non-stop flights on September 25, 2008, the number of South Korean visitors to Israel has skyrocketed. As mentioned above, the number went down during the invasion into the Gaza Strip in 2009, but it bounced back during the latter half of 2009, and in 2010, the total visitors peaked and broke the previous record high.

## 10.5 Promotion of Pilgrimage

Given the importance of the industry related to pilgrimage, Israel is also actively attracting tourists intent on pilgrimage. The Israel Ministry of Tourism held a seminar in 2010 with the title ‘Seminar for Church leaders with the Israel Ministry of Tourism’ at major cities in South Korea such as Seoul, Daejeon, Gwangju, and Pusan. The Ministry pledged to “... provide more support to church leaders such as reverends

[12] HanKyung.com (2009/09/25) “대한항공, 이스라엘 취항으로 성지순례 완성” <http://pr.hankyung.com/newsRead.php?md=A01&tm=1&no=361359> (Accessed 2011/11/30)

**Table 2: The number of Koreans who visited Israel from July to November, 2008**

	Grand Total	Air	Land
July	1756	737	1019
August	1974	559	1415
September	2483	1059	1424
October	2500	1500	1100
November	2100	1200	900

\* The number of day visits was excluded.

and fathers, and provide local guides and transportations to pilgrims.<sup>[13]</sup>

The Israel Ministry of Tourism also set up an office in Seoul and a Korean website,<sup>[14]</sup> published booklets on pilgrimage and participated in travel trade shows held by South Korea trying to attract pilgrims.

More and more pilgrims are visiting Israel, and more South Koreans are also joining them. However, even when they visit holy sites in the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, under the current tourism trends, profits from those visits largely benefit Israel.

Israel is prolonging its occupation policy by exploiting tourism and confiscating the land of the Palestinians under the pretext of the Holy Land excavation. As a result, the current pilgrimage is closely related to the occupation policy such as the deprivation of the right of residence, and demolition of Palestinian houses.

[13] Way Global (2010/8/17) “이스라엘, 성지순례에 더 집중” <http://www.21cifm.org/chnet2/board/view.php?id=27&code=p34> (Accessed: 2011/11/28)

[14] <http://www.israel.co.kr>

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[illustration3] [http://www.flights.com.br/?action=show\\_custom&id=15&cat=6](http://www.flights.com.br/?action=show_custom&id=15&cat=6)

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