

SPANISH WEAPONS EXPORTED TO ISRAEL



Israel gets armed...

Israel is the tenth main importer of arms in the world. In 2002 they imported arms for a total amount of 229,7 millions of euros, mainly from the EUA. Between 1993 and 2002, they spent more than 5.000 millions of dollars in this concept.

...Spain collaborates with them

Spanish companies sell weapons to Israel. From 1991 these sales have not stopped increasing, up to a total amount of approximately 170.000 million pesetas (more than 1000 million euros).

Implicated companies



Public Shipyards. The company is divided into two sections, one for civil construction, nowadays in crisis, and another one for military construction. AFLON, the company which is in association with, is from the USA.



Fabricaciones Extremeñas (FAEX) belongs to *Explosivos Alaveses (EXPAL)*. EXPAL is the head of the defense division of *Unión Española de Explosivos (UEE)*, which belongs to the investor group Pallas Investment. Pallas Investment has the central office in Curaçao, in Dutch Antillas, and is formed by Swiss Bank, AGF, Credit Lyonnais and Elf Aquitaine.

Political supervision of weapons exporting

In global terms, the 85% of weapons trade is approved by the governments. In Spain, this percentage is even higher and it is difficult to do any transfer without the government.

The authorization to export is given by the *Junta Interministerial de Material de Defensa y de Doble Uso (JIMDDU)*. This is composed by 10 members from different ministries: 5 from Trading, 2 from Foreign Affairs, 2 from Defense and 2 from Industry. By the leading members are those belonging to Trading Ministry. In Assembly there is no one related to International Cooperation or Human Rights; thus, you can easily suppose that export criteria are mainly the economic ones.

There is no international document to regulate weapons exporting, but we are on the way to reach the International Agreement on Weapons Trading, which is due to be signed in 2006. One of the election commitments of the new Spanish government was the signature of this Agreement. José Luís Rodríguez Zapatero made the announcement on July, the 9th 200, the World Day of Weapons Destruction, decreed by United Nations. Currently, Spain is asked to follow the recommendations of the Code of Weapons Exporting Behaviour, which dates of 1998, through the approval of two Proposals presented in the Parliament in 1997 and 2001. This Behaviour Code urges to avoid exports to those countries which have been seized by UN or other organisms, where there are tense or conflictive situations, or where human rights are violated and the International Humanitary Law is not accomplished.

Why should weapons exports to Israel be stopped?

Thousands of Palestinians have been killed and tens of thousand have been injured as a consequence of the indiscriminated use of strength by the Jewish army. Selling weapons to Israel:

- Is morally unacceptable for the way they are using them in the occupied territory.
- It infringes the 1998 Code of Weapons Exporting Behaviour of EU, which urges not to export weapons to those countries where there are tense or conflictive situations, or where human rights are violated and the International Humanitary Law is not accomplished.
- It puts the Spanish Government in a situation in the Near East conflict which goes against the majority of Spanish and makes it impossible to act as a credible. Selling weapons to Israel the Spanish Government does not solve the problem, but it is part of the problem.

Moreover, other EU countries are preceding experiences. Germany, France or United Kingdom have already applied a seizure to Israel sales of weapons (see annex 3). On the other side, the European Parliament resolution about the Near East on April, 10th 2002 asked the European Council to declare a seizure to Israel sales of weapons.