



Ms. Ann Veneman,
Executive Director
UNICEF

18 June 2009

Dear Ms. Veneman,

We are writing today to voice our concern about a matter that has been brought to our attention regarding the role that Motorola plays in assisting the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory while simultaneously supporting UNICEF as a corporate sponsor.

We are aware that Adalah-NY: The Coalition for Justice in the Middle East and the New York Campaign for the Boycott of Israel (NYCBI) have provided you with detailed information concerning Israel's use of Motorola technology to maintain the military occupation of the Palestinian territory. By supplying the Israeli military Motorola is effectively supporting and benefiting from Israeli military offensives against the Palestinian civilian population and the presence of illegal Israeli settlements which result in systematic violations of children's rights.

In the interest of promoting respect for the rights of Palestinian children, Defence for Children International (DCI) urge UNICEF to reject all financial support from Motorola and publicly renounce any connections with Motorola on the grounds of the company's unethical involvement in grave child rights violations committed by the Israeli government.

UNICEF cannot promote children's rights and respect for international humanitarian law while simultaneously accepting funds from a company abetting widespread and systematic child rights violations.

There is irrefutable evidence that Motorola provides communication equipment, surveillance systems, munitions and munitions components to the Israeli military. These products are used for the maintenance of illegal settlements which have a devastating impact on the lives of many Palestinian children.

Many settlers living in illegal settlements resort to violent intimidation methods to assert their presence and discourage attacks. Physical assaults are thus routinely perpetrated against Palestinian children living near Israeli settlements. On 9 February 2009, 15-year-old Ali from the village of Husan near Bethlehem was shot in the leg as he stood outside his home near Betar Illit settlement. He was shot by a settler riding a bus on a nearby bypass road. In a similar incident, 15-year-old Hamed from Hebron was shot in the leg by a settler while peacefully demonstrating against the confiscation of land by settlers in his village.

Since July 2008, DCI-Palestine has documented 13 settler assaults against children, including beatings, stone-throwing, and shootings. Israeli soldiers mandated to protect settlers are also responsible for numerous violations against children living near settlements. On 15 September 2008, 17-year-old Mahmoud from al-Jalazon refugee camp near Ramallah was walking with his friend Iyad 100 metres away from the settlement of Bet El. He was shot in the back by Israeli soldiers and Iyad was shot multiple times in his left leg.

Palestinian children also fall victim to military violence while attending non-violent protests against the construction of the Wall. On 29 July 2008, 10-year-old Ahmad Mousa was killed when Israeli Border Police shot him in the head with live ammunition as he took part in a non-violent demonstration against the Wall in Ni'lin. On the following day, 17-year-old Youssef Ameerah was shot twice in the head with rubber-coated steel bullets at close range during confrontations between stone-throwers and Israeli Border Police that began after Ahmad's burial. Days later, on 4 August 2008, Youssef died as a result of his injuries.

Motorola products, such as communication systems and munitions components, are also used to assist with military operations. Israel's most recent assault on Gaza claimed the lives of more than 1,300 Palestinians and injured over 5,300 more. DCI-Palestine has confirmed that 349 children were killed during Operation Cast Lead as civilian objects such as schools, mosques, and homes were targeted by the Israeli military. As a result of Operation Cast Lead, Israel's conduct is currently being investigated by a UN fact-finding mission led by Justice Richard Goldstone.

On 17 January 2009, two brothers, 5-year-old Bilal al-Ashkar and 3-year-old Mohammad al-Ashkar from Beit Lahiya were killed when Israeli forces shelled an UNRWA operated school in Beit Lahiya. Following the continued bombardment of their neighbourhood and the invasion of Israeli ground forces their family had sought refuge at the school. Before the assault, UNRWA had provided the Israeli military with the school's GPS coordinates to protect the school and families from shelling. Mohammad and Bilal were killed when a white phosphorus shell landed directly in a top floor classroom where they were living with their family.

Motorola products contribute to the commission of widespread and systematic child rights violations – some of which may amount to war crimes – by the Israeli military and settlers residing in illegal settlements within the occupied Palestinian territory.

DCI asks UNICEF to end its partnership with Motorola because of Motorola's role in abetting Israeli human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory. Motorola's conduct is diametrically opposed to UNICEF's mission and their corporate sponsorship should be publicly rejected.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rifat Kassis', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Rifat Kassis
President
Defence for Children International

Cc: Mr. Bernt Aasen, Chief of Staff, UNICEF
Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Regional Director MENA
Mr. Christopher de Bono, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director
Mr. Peter Mason, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director
UNICEF Jerusalem Office