

For Immediate Release

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Palestinian Rights Advocates Hail Denver Water Board Decision to Drop G4S

July 13, 2016 - The Denver Water Board has announced that the \$2.5 million contract with the global security company Group 4 Securicor (G4S) to provide security at Dillon Reservoir in Summit County, Colorado, will not be renewed, based on cost and performance criteria. The decision was made after public testimony by activists from Coloradans for Justice in Palestine (CJP), Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) asking the board not to renew the contract with the notorious human rights abuser.

G4S has been criticized globally for its human rights abuses, including providing support for Israeli prisons and interrogation facilities to incarcerate and torture Palestinian political prisoners including Palestinian children. G4S is a target of the international Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanction (BDS) movement.

Institutions from the Methodist Church to the Gates Foundation have fully divested from G4S. The company has lost millions of dollars in contracts following BDS campaigns worldwide, and G4S recently announced plans to exit the Israeli market in the next 12 - 24 months. Given G4S's history of false promises, Palestinian rights activists have pledged to keep the pressure on G4S to ensure the company follows through and ends all contracts that support Israel's military occupation.

During the campaign, both Friends of Sabeel-Colorado and Front Range JVP cited G4S' long history of abuses and waste at G4S secured facilities globally. The contract was awarded to Allied Barton for armed guards at the Dillon Reservoir dam; G4S has held the contract since 2013. The campaign continues to call upon the Board of Denver Water to heed the Palestinian call for BDS and respect human rights by ensuring they do not renew other contracts with G4S or enter into new contracts with G4S or other companies participating in Israel's egregious human rights violations.

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