

26.3.2021

Dear President Sassoli,

We are deeply concerned about the fact that the Anglo-Danish group G4S provides security to the European Commission/European External Action Service in several European countries.

G4S is a dually-traded company with worldwide security service operations, frequently accused of human rights violations, starting by violent abuses in the prisons and detention centres it runs. In the UK, where the firm manages a great number of facilities, the government took back the management of a youth facility in Kent after staff members were accused of physical and emotional abuse against several teenagers. A year later, a BBC investigation exposed poor staff behaviour in G4S's Brook House immigrant detention centres. This was following an investigation on the death of **Jimmy Mubenga**, who passed away during his deportation from the UK in 2010 due to bad treatments inflicted by G4S guards.

The UK is not the only place where those abuses have been documented. In South Africa, the company owns and operates the second-largest private prison in the world, Mangaung Correctional Centre. In 2013-2014, a year-long investigation has uncovered violent practices by G4S security teams, including the use of electric shocks and forcible antipsychotic drug injections. A public investigation also exposed a cover-up of several prisoner deaths following such torture and prompted a suit by 43 prisoners against the company for torture.

In the US, the firm had secured a \$117m contract to run the services at the controversial Guantánamo Bay US naval base, where suspected terrorists are held without charge. Less than three months later, G4S sold its US subsidiary after the human rights charity Reprieve submitted a formal complaint to the UK government claiming the firm's staff may "contribute to the ongoing human rights violations" at Guantánamo.

G4S is complicit with the training of the Israeli police, through its partial ownership of Policity, which built and now operates the new Israeli National Police Academy. Technics instructed include crowd control, house raids, interrogation techniques, target shooting and undercover operations, often exclusively violating the human rights of the Palestinian community.

The company is also implicated in labour rights violations in different states such as Malawi, Mozambique, and South Africa, including alleged racial segregation and poverty wages.

Despite G4S' role in human rights abuses across the world, the company won a new contract in 2015 from the European Commission and has since become the largest provider of security services for the

EU and its institutions. Four years later, the European Parliament contracted the firm to provide fire safety and external surveillance of the building.

It is unacceptable for the European Institutions to have contractual relations with a firm that is engaged in providing support for activities that constitute breaches of human rights. We therefore urge you to take action to that end.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

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