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## Bezeq



ezeq, which describes itself as "Israel's largest and leading telecommunications group," has total assets of US\$1.1 billion. Until 2005, it was a state-run enterprise with a monopoly on the Israel's land-line telephone system and the country's internet-access infrastructure.

The online database, "Who Profits from the occupation," sums up Bezeq's military links saying it provides "telecommunication services to all the Israeli settlements, army bases and checkpoints in the West Bank and to Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights."

The "Who Profits" database also reveals that Bezeg's wholly-owned subsidiary, Pelephone Communications, built almost 200 antennas and telecommunication facilities on occupied land in the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Pelephone provides cell services to Israeli soldiers and settlers in the occupied territories, including such illegal "outposts" as Havat Gilad near Nablus in the West Bank.

Bezeq also owns YES, an Israeli company that provides satellite broadcasting services to some Israeli checkpoints and to all Israeli settlements.

A high-profile Israeli who was on Bezeq's board between 2005 and 2007, is retired Brigadier General Pinchas Buchris. Upon leaving Bezeq's board in 2007, Buchris became the general manager of Israel's Ministry of Defense, where he remained

until 2010. (Buchris was also a director of Gilat Satellite Networks, which provides its services to Israeli military and intelligence agencies.)

Until 2008, Bezeq was the Israeli military's sole provider of communications services. Israel's *Globes* business paper said Bezeq was "considered the [Israel Defense Forces'] IDF's in-house telecommunications services provider for many years" because there was "no alternative network large enough to provide service to the IDF bases and sites where the army needs telephony services."

A Bezeq subsidiary, Bezeq International, is the Israeli military's exclusive provider of internet access and secure telecommunications infrastructure. It also supplies landline and cellular modems for thousands of military subscribers. Bezeq International has laid at least 2,700 km of fibre-optic cable for Israel's military.

In 2009, when Bezeq won the



The Palestine Solidarity Campaign,
A Just Peace for Palestine, Jews for Justice
for Palestinians, and War on Want,
are all calling on British Telecom (BT)
to cut ties with Bezeq International.

five-year contract to become the Israeli military's exclusive internet services provider, *Globes* reported that the company would provide "[i]nternet access and secure telecommunications infrastructure based on both landline and cellular modems for thousands of IDF subscribers."

That same year, Bezeq reported that to conduct its "communications operations" it "holds 60 properties in Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria, in a total area of approximately 9,300 sq[uare] m[iles] of land." This is the area known outside Israel as the occupied West Bank. Bezeq's report went on to unashamedly state that "No written arrangement of the contractual rights in these properties exists, but in the Company's opinion this does not constitute a significant problem."

In 2010, Bezeq won a three-year contract from the Israeli military's "Home Front Command." In reporting on this, Israel's *Haaretz* newspaper explained that the tender was "for the rapid deployment during emergencies of an advanced communications network at distribution centers."

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# Bharat Electronics Ltd.

Canada Pension Plan 2011 Investment \$1 million

ith annual military revenues of US\$998 million, this state-owned firm is the second largest war industry in India and the 63rd largest in the world. About 82% of its total revenues come from military sales, which include missiles, sonar, weapons-firing systems, radar, optoelectronics and training simulators.

The close military links between India and Israel are exemplified by partnerships, joint ventures and contracts between Bharat and some of Israel's largest war industries.

(1) Rafael: In 2008, Bharat announced a joint venture with Rafael. (See "State-owned Israeli War Industries," pp.48-49.) They agreed to jointly produce "missile electronics and guidance technologies." In 2010, India Defence Online noted that the "joint venture will produce missile seekers or 'Homers' for both the country's needs." These homing devices, for use by the Indian and Israeli militaries, are guidance systems used in interceptor missiles. These radar systems control "the core actions of the missile" such as the "detection of enemy targets." They also guide "the missile to destroy the target." Bharat holds 74% in the venture, while Rafael owns the rest.

(2) Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI): Bharat is making subsystems for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles built by Malat, a subsidiary of state-owned IAI. Another Bharat-IAI project was to upgrade India's Schilka tank weapon system, including its radar, weapons-firing systems, engines, optronics and displays. (See "State-owned Israeli War

Industries," pp.48-49.)

- (3) NICE Systems: Bharat is the "strategic partner" and "prime contractor" for this Israeli "homeland security" company on a "video surveillance" system which uses "advanced video analytics" and "multimedia incident information management." (See table "CPP Investments," p.53.)
- (4) Elisra Electronics: Bharat and Elisra, a subsidiary of Israel's largest war industry, Elbit Systems (see pp.28-29), are working together on "various airborne electronic warfare programmes."
- (5) Aryt Industries: Bharat has a ten-year cooperation agreement with this Israeli military electronics and electro-optical equipment maker. The joint project will supply one million electronic artillery fuses for

While some of these relationships between Bharat and Israeli military firms serve primarily to promote Israel's export of weapons systems to India, there are

spin-off effects which build the capacity of Israel's war industries to meet the needs of their own government's military forces.

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