

Sony Corp.

“Illegal Israeli settlers...to replenish their swimming pools and water their lawns while Palestinians, whose land has been appropriated for the settlements, lack drinking and cooking water.”

In 2000, a wholly-owned Siemens AG subsidiary called Siemens Enterprise Communications received a US\$1.2-million contract for communications systems used in US-made AH-64 attack helicopters. This variety of helicopter has been transferred to Israel and used in attacks against Lebanon (2006) and Gaza (2007).

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Canada Pension Plan Investments

2012 shares = \$42 million
(Direct & Indirect investments)

2011 shares = \$57 million
(Direct investments only)

Known largely for supplying consumer electronics products, like cameras, this Japanese multinational is the world’s fifth largest media conglomerate and has amassed total assets of US\$156 billion.

However, Sony’s camera consumers also include military, police and intelligence agencies. Between 2000 and 2009, Sony Electronics — owned by Sony’s US holding company — sold US\$67 million worth of products to the US military and US\$15 million worth to US law enforcement and spy agencies, such as the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. These contracts represented 85% of Sony’s sales to the US federal government.

Systems, Israel’s largest war industry. (See previous issue, pp.28-29.) LORROS is an elaborate remote-controlled sensor system used along Israel’s Separation wall and electronic detection fence. It uses night-vision infrared thermal sensing cameras, lasers for “accurate target ranging” and Sony cameras for “daytime” surveillance.

SIBAT, the Israeli Ministry of Defense, describes LORROS as being “ideal for border and coastal surveillance, critical infrastructure protection, intelligence gathering, artillery spotting & target acquisitions, reconnaissance of illegal activities.”

The type of Sony “image sensor” that is integrated into LORROS is described by Elbit as an “LRGC Day Camera.” To be exact, Elbit uses the “Sony EX view HAD CCD.” “EX view” is an “enhancement technology developed by SONY to improve [the] light sensitivity” of its CCD cameras. CCDs, or “charge-coupled devices,” are a major technology used in digital imaging. HAD stands for “Hole Accumulation Diode” which is a patented Sony technique for reducing “electronic



LORROS Surveillance System
Sony’s technology is also integrated into the products of other corporations that serve the military, police and intelligence forces. For example, in Israel, Sony video cameras are used in the Long-Range Reconnaissance and Observation System, or LORROS surveillance system, which is built by the “Security Systems” branch of Elbit

noise” caused by the absence of light falling on the CCD imaging sensors.

So, in quasi-layman’s terms, although these Sony cameras are ostensibly used by LORROS for “daytime”-surveillance functions, Sony says they can “film in the dark by irradiating near infrared light...onto the object being filmed” and are therefore also suitable as “night-time surveillance cameras.”



www.tarideal.com

TAR Ideal Concepts

Besides Elbit, another Israeli military industry, TAR Ideal Concepts Ltd., also sells Sony "surveillance cameras." In particular, TAR sells Sony's "Ceiling Dome" and "22x Zoom Cameras."

TAR describes itself as "a registered supplier with the Israeli [Ministry of Defense] MOD, Military & Police since 1990." TAR serves "all three branches of the Israeli Military: Ground Forces, Navy and Air force," "has an extremely close working relationship at all levels of the [Israel Defense Forces'] IDF's chain-of-command" and "maintains a high level of cooperation with the Israeli Police Department and Prisons Service."

TAR says its "unique field experience is derived from its staff members, who" it says "have extensive military backgrounds including Special Ops Units, Field & Operational Commands, Tactics and Weaponry." TAR's directors includes Major General (retired) Yiftah Ron-Tal, a former Chief of Israel's Army, who was an "Active Commander of Armored Divisions."

Previous directors included:

- Schlomo Aharonishki, the retired Former Chief of the Israeli National

Police who spent 35 years in the Israeli military, serving in command positions over the Negev, Tel-Aviv and Central districts, and

- Chaim Adar who, during 30 years in the Israeli military was Head of the Ministry of Defense's (MOD's) "Procurement and Production Directorate" and Director of MOD's mission in New York.

Agent Vi

Sony is also partnered with another Israeli "homeland security" company called Agent Vi. It integrates dozens of varieties of Sony cameras into its mass surveillance products. Previously known as Aspectus, and then Agent Video Intelligence, this corporation is "the leading global provider of comprehensive video analytics solutions."

"The people behind" this company, says its promotional material, have "operational background[s] in military, intelligence, anti-terror, Mossad and other security bodies." *Business Week's* online resources reveal that the firm's cofounders, Zvika Ashani and Gadi Talmon, are indeed alumni of the Israeli military and intelligence forces. Ashani's bio notes that he was a "technical officer" in the Israeli air force. Talmon's "executive profile" elusively reveals that he "worked with the law enforcement and Special Forces community worldwide" and served in the Israeli military's "intelligence corps."

All five of the firm's "key executives" had careers in Israel's military and/or its "homeland security" companies, like Raytheon Israel and Elisra, a subsidiary of Elbit. Agent Vi's CEO, Itsik Kattan, who used to work for Israel's Ministry of Defense and several Israeli arms companies, now "utilizes his familiarity with the defense market to advance the company's activities and involvement in that field."

Agent Vi integrates Sony cameras and video-analytics software into

its surveillance products. In 2011, Agent Vi listed 40 kinds of Sony security cameras used in its video surveillance systems. These high-tech Sony cameras used by Agent Vi are affixed to ceilings, walls or posts, and can pan, tilt or zoom by remote control.

An example of how these companies have meshed their "intelligent video analysis technology," was announced in 2009 when Sony said it

"provides intelligent cameras embedded with its unique video analysis architecture.... [Sony's] cameras process the video in the camera and transmit the metadata to the Agent Vi application."

Agent Vi says its products and programs are "especially designed for large scale installations" using "up to thousands of distributed cameras." Its software instantly analyses video data as it streams in from these huge camera networks. For instance, its "city surveillance" programs detect everything from the gathering of groups, to "suspicious activity" such as loitering, or the "movement of suspicious people." Agent Vi's surveillance systems are used by private companies and governments in 25 countries. Its clients include numerous military institutions, such as air force bases and naval yards, as well as government agencies, like prisons.

In 2006, Frost and Sullivan, a "global growth consulting company," reported that Agent Vi's

"technology has been successfully installed in leading enterprise-grade organisations, including: The Israeli Ministry of Justice [and] The Israel Prison Service."

These institutions oversee the prosecution and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinian political prisoners.

In 2002 and 2003, Sony received contracts for "Video Recording and Reproducing Equipment" valued at US\$1,223,040 for use aboard US-made F-15 fighter bombers. The US has ex-

Israel's Agent Vi integrates dozens of varieties of Sony cameras into its mass surveillance products



www.agentvi.com