

Rome, 3 December 2010

PIZZAROTTI & C SPA
Via A. M. Adorni 1
43100 Parma
Italy

To the attention of: Dr. Paolo Pizzarotti

Re: "A1 Fast Train Tel Aviv-Jerusalem"

Dear Dr. Pizzarotti,

We are writing to you after having received a number of representations from Israeli associations working for the defence of human rights and a peaceful negotiated solution to the conflict that for over 60 years has been destroying lives and hopes for the peaceful coexistence of Israelis and Palestinians.

We invite you to visit the Israeli website Who Profits from the Occupation? (.whoprofits.org) where you will notice amongst the headlines on the home page a report of the involvement of your company in the planned construction of a high-speed rail link between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

While our organisation opposes all forms of boycott, we cannot decline to defend the principles and values set out in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Conventions and Resolutions deriving from it; these define the rules whereby all civilised Nations coexist and actively work toward peace, security and development.

Those principles and values were adopted by the Board of Directors of your Company in its Ethical Code (Chapter 2 Paragraph 1) and they would undoubtedly be explicitly violated if you were to be involved in the construction of the new rail link by way of S.P.R., a company owned 50% by Pizzarotti SPA.

The railway line will run through three Palestinian villages, which means more land will be expropriated from Palestinian families and annexed by the State of Israel. This is in violation of UN Resolutions and the Oslo Peace Accords which define the territory of the future Palestinian State according to the borders existing before the war of June 1967, as well as being in violation of the Geneva Conventions on the duties of occupying powers who may not modify or construct settlements or any infrastructure works in the occupied territories unless strictly for direct military purposes.

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The problem of the occupation and the annexation of Palestinian land by the Israeli State, as you well know, is one of the most delicate and controversial points that have made a solution to the conflict impossible and for this reason there is a high degree of sensitivity, attention and complaint by the international community with regard to Israeli and international companies whose business activities take advantage of the system of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories beyond the so-called "green line" which fixes the internationally recognised borders of the State of Israel.

We therefore invite you to reconsider your participation in this project, given that it violates fundamental human rights and United Nations Resolutions, thus putting at risk the image and ethical credibility of your Group.

We await your response and take the opportunity to send cordial greetings.



Nicoletta Rocchi
International Department
CGIL



Walter Schiavella
Secretary General
FILLEA