

Statement Vi

Mitten in Ulm befindet sich der Standort von Elbit Systems, Israels größtem privaten Waffenunternehmen. Während Ulmer Bürger*innen ihre Kinder zur Schule bringen, in den Fußgängerzonen ihre Einkäufe erledigen und in den Parks die Frühlingssonne genießen, werden in ihrer unmittelbaren Nähe, in den Hallen von Elbit Systems, Instrumente gebaut, die in Palästina und andernorts seit Jahrzehnten Menschen überwachen, terrorisieren und ermorden.

Der überwiegende Teil der in Gaza eingesetzten Drohnen, die ganze Nachbarschaften in Trümmer legten und vermeintlich sichere Orte, wie Krankenhäuser und Schulen bombardierten, wurde und wird von Elbit Systems produziert.

In Gaza gibt es keine funktionierende medizinische Versorgung mehr. Stellen Sie sich vor, Sie müssten einen Kaiserschnitt ohne Betäubung aushalten, Ihrem Kind würden ohne Betäubung ganze Gliedmaßen amputiert. Zustände, die mit Hilfe der von Elbit Systems hergestellten Mordwerkzeuge herbeigeführt wurden, durch welche diese Firma enorme Profite erwirtschaftet hat und weiter erwirtschaftet. Elbit Systems wirbt damit, dass die eigenen Produkte in Gaza erprobt wurden. Mord, Zerstörung und massenhafte Vernichtung der Zivilbevölkerung als besonderes Gütezeichen.

Tagtäglich sterben durch die Produkte von Elbit Systems Menschen wie Sie und ich. Zivilisten. Menschen mit Hoffnungen, Ambitionen, Träumen. Unter diesen vor allem Kinder, durch deren Ermordung eine ganze Generation ausgelöscht wurde. Ein in Gaza lebender Freund berichtete mir, wie Menschen, die kurz vor dem Hungertod, verzweifelt für das wenige noch verfügbare Mehl anstehend, durch Drohnenangriffe in die Luft gesprengt oder gezielt beschossen wurden.

In der besetzten West Bank werden Palästinenser*innen kontrolliert, schikaniert, ermordet und ihrer Würde beraubt. Auch hier maßgeblich ermöglicht durch die Produkte von Elbit Systems.

Und all dies nicht erst seit gestern. Seit 1948, seit 78 Jahren, werden Palästinenser*innen unterdrückt, ihrem Land und ihrer Kultur beraubt. Schwer bewaffnete Soldat*innen dringen in die Häuser der dort lebenden Palästinenser*innen ein und erzwingen deren

Herausgabe an die israelischen Siedler. Die Gewalt der israelischen Besatzer ist seit 1948 Alltag. Gaza und die West Bank sind Freiluftgefängnisse. Unzählige Märtyrer*innen starben und sterben im Widerstand gegen die entwürdigenden Lebensumstände und den Raub ihres Landes.

Schon vor 2023 flogen ununterbrochen Drohnen über Gaza und der West Bank. Stellen Sie sich vor: Sobald Sie aufwachen, hören Sie den Lärm der Drohnen. Es ist der Drohnenlärm, der Sie nachts nicht schlafen lässt. Während Sie kochen, schlafen, arbeiten, Hochzeiten feiern, auf Beerdigungen den Verlust Ihrer Angehörigen betrauern. Immer hören Sie den Lärm der Drohnen. Jene Drohnen, die Sie überwachen und jederzeit ihr Haus zerstören, ein geliebtes Familienmitglied töten können. Das ist nichts anderes als Folter. Es sind die Drohnen, deren überwiegenden Anteil Elbit Systems produziert.

Die in Gaza herrschende Realität ist für mich kaum in Worte zu fassen. Nach dem Massenmord, der Zerstörung, ist Gaza nichts weiter als ein Trümmerhaufen. Unter den Trümmern ungezählte Leichen. Zwischen den Trümmern elternlose Kinder. Die Böden, das Wasser, sind durch den Krieg vergiftet. Felder vernichtet. Nach der Auffassung führender Expert*innen würden 80 Jahre benötigt, um den vor dem Oktober 2023 bestehenden, ohnehin schon katastrophalen, Zustand der natürlichen und infrastrukturellen Lebensgrundlage der Menschen in Gaza wieder herstellen zu können.

All dies wäre ohne die durch Elbit Systems hergestellten Instrumente, durch deren Verkauf Elbit Systems enorme Profite erwirtschaftet hat, nicht möglich gewesen.

Wie kann es sein, dass Mitten in Deutschland, in Ulm, eine solche Firma existieren darf?

Die Bundesregierung unterstützt den Genozid politisch, militärisch und finanziell. Anerkannte internationale Institutionen wurden und werden durch die Bundesregierung delegitimiert. Trotz der Entscheidung des internationalen Gerichtshofs, der in Israels Vorgehen plausible Anhaltspunkte für das Vorliegen eines Genozides festgestellt hat, trotz der durch den internationalen Strafgerichtshof gegen Netanjahu sowie weitere Minister seiner Regierung erlassenen Haftbefehle: Deutschland unterstützt das Menschheitsverbrechen an den Palästinenser*innen.

All dies ist für mich als Mensch, der über Empathie und Mitgefühl verfügt, nicht auszuhalten. Es zerreißt mir das Herz. Dem Massenmord in Gaza tatenlos zuzusehen, ist für mich unvorstellbar.

Deshalb organisierte ich mich jahrelang politisch. Ebenso wie tausende anderer Menschen in diesem Land. Mein, unsere bisherige politische Tätigkeit, der Einsatz für ein freies Palästina, blieb nicht nur unerhört, sondern ich, wir, erfuhren extreme staatliche Gewalt.

Propalästinensische Demos durften nicht mehr durch die Straßen Berlins ziehen, wurden physisch niedergeschlagen oder gleich von vornherein verboten. Gegen friedliche Demonstrierende wurden aberwitzige Auflagen verhängt. So war zum Beispiel der Sticker einer Wassermelone ausreichend, von Polizisten geschlagen zu werden, propalästinensische Äußerungen über soziale Medien genügten, um die gewaltsame Durchsuchung der eigenen Wohnung richterlich absegnen zu lassen.

Allein in Berlin werden tausende Strafverfahren gegen Menschen geführt, die sich friedlich gegen den Genozid eingesetzt haben. Die meisten wegen sogenannter Äußerungsdelikte. Künstler*innen wurden ausgeladen und defunded. Professor*innen, die sich für die Recht ihrer Studierenden auf friedlichen Protest aussprechen, werden in der Presse als Antisemit*innen diffamiert und mundtot gemacht – dieselbe haltlose Unterstellung, mit der auch die Generalstaatsanwaltschaft unsere Aktion politisch und moralisch zu delegitimieren versucht.

Was konnte ich noch tun, um dieses furchtbare Blutbad, diesen Schrecken, dieses Menschheitsverbrechen zu stoppen?

Mir bleibt nichts anderes übrig, als mit eigenen Händen den Bau einer weiteren Drohne zu verhindern. In der Hoffnung, dass vielleicht ein Mensch weniger sterben muss. Dort einzuschreiten, wo die Produktion dieser einzig für Mord, Zerstörung und Überwachung entwickelten Objekte stattfindet. Und das in meinem Umfeld, mit meinen Möglichkeiten. In Deutschland.

Ich fordere ein Ende dieser schrecklichen Gewalt. Ich fordere ein freies Palästina. Ich fordere: Elbit Systems muss raus aus Deutschland.

Meine Genoss*innen und ich sitzen in Haft, weil wir ein Ende dieser nicht endenden, grauenhaften Gewalt fordern und uns hiergegen eingesetzt haben. Weil wir Menschlichkeit fordern. Unsere Kriminalisierung, unsere Inhaftierung, ist der Versuch, dieser Forderung, diesem Einsatz, die Berechtigung abzusprechen. Wenn Sie uns deswegen verurteilen, schützen Sie den Profit durch Massenvernichtung, Gewalt, die totale Zerstörung von Land und Menschen und das Antreiben der Kriegsmaschinerie und unterstützen so das Menschheitsverbrechen an den Palästinenser*innen.

Statement Leandra

First of all, I'm convinced at this point this is not going to be a fair trial, therefore I do not believe this court will properly listen to what I'm about to say. Nevertheless, that is not going to stop me from saying it. I would like to say that I had to pinch myself today, to confirm this is real. To confirm that I really am here, in court, sitting in a glass cage, after almost 9 months living in a prison cell for thinking and acting upon the thought that millions of Palestinians have the right to exist in their own land. I acted upon the certainty that war crimes and crimes against humanity were and are being committed by Israel's military offensive in Gaza; namely, the bombing of hospitals, schools, universities, homes and infrastructure, a full blockade of food, water, medicine and electricity, children being shot in their heads in cold blood by IOF soldiers, or being murdered by starvation, or having limbs amputated without anaesthetic. Those are facts. No political statements, no propaganda but facts.

Since October 2023 I joined almost every single legal protest in Berlin demanding to stop the genocide, only to be met with the blatantly unjustified police brutality we ended up getting accustomed to. We were not only ignored by the authorities but physically attacked and criminalised for speaking up against mass murder. Were we really expected to do nothing while the government continued to publicly and financially support those atrocities? While the German state continued to allow the flow of money and weapons that are making bloody murder possible?

As someone cleverer than me wrote, to stop the genocide is not, primarily, a political demand but an ethical one. Because, when the machinery of oppressive power is to be trained on whoever has the least power, there is an ethical duty to stop the gears by all means necessary.

On the 27th of November 2024, the international criminal court issued arrest warrants for the prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as the country's former defence minister, Yoav Gallant, for alleged war crimes relating to the Gaza war. By December 2024, an Amnesty International report concluded, that the "unprecedented scale and magnitude" of Israel's assault on Gaza amounts to a genocide. A conclusion Holocaust scholar Amos Goldberg had already shared earlier this year. Meanwhile, here in Germany, a democratic European country that has supposedly learnt from its genocidal history, a subsidiary fully owned by Elbit Systems Ltd, Israel's largest private weapons supplier, continued to operate on German soil without any consequences whatsoever. We are referring to some property where forced labour was imposed during the Holocaust. Corporate links with National Socialism didn't seem to be a problem for Elbit Systems, as it doesn't seem to be a problem now, for the German state in relation to other companies that are also profiting from the Palestinian genocide as they did from the Holocaust. Elbit Systems is a criminal corporation, a murderous business that

keeps growing its revenue out the hideous crimes we all got to painfully witness with our phones, in real time, every single day for almost two years prior our action.

But at the end of the day, I'm not Palestinian. I'm not part of the population that has been occupied, displaced, killed and tortured for the past 70 years. Still, I was born in a territory that became a state of many out of the most brutal colonisation process in history: Argentina. 80 to 90% of the indigenous population, millions of people, entire civilisations were exterminated and tortured to death in that part of the world by the Spanish empire. The very name of my city reminded me of this every day: The Kilme was a community that used to live around 1200 km north-west from where the city of Quilmes sits. As the story goes, the entire community was displaced from their own land in the Andes in a torturous manner. They were forced to walk bare foot without food nor water all the 1200km until most of them died on the way, and the last ones did it right there, where I was born. It is said that many of them had their feet amputated during the process and were forced to continue walking anyway. Not surprisingly, I grew up questioning the very meaning of my nationality, as it didn't seem to have any. Everything around me looked European: the architecture, the food, the people on the TV, the philosophers I studied in high school were European, and so most of the literature. But the Incas or the Kilme's knowledge and culture was nowhere to be seen. There was one thing that did not look European, that is the poor kids living on the streets, breathing from plastic bags with glue, asking for food and money in the train stations of Buenos Aires. I grew up with a society and a territory broken by colonisation through an enormous and shameful class gap between brown and white people.

That's exactly why fighting against it in the present time came as an opportunity to me. An opportunity to express my deepest beliefs on freedom, and, most importantly, indigenous freedom. All that seemed to be completely taken away from us in the territory I was born in, will not be taken away from the indigenous people of Palestine. The ancestral wisdom, the ways of life, in community, respectfully with the land.

But no. I did not have to pinch myself today because the current events are, actually, not surprising at all. Because it would be naïve to believe that the ones making decisions on this matter, do so relying on their own moral intelligence, as if they had an. Because it must be a great relieve for them to say "there is no such a thing as Palestinian people" as they stand in front of them, to whom all the boring "genocidal hysteria" must be very inconvenient to their dream of owning a yacht; to whom there is and always have been a subcategory of people that is not only born to suffer but habituated to it. As it clearly shows the normalisation of the use of torture by Israel against Palestinians, torture is a structural feature of the ongoing genocide and broader settler-colonial apartheid which is possible because of the absence of meaningful measures taken by the European Union against the Zionist entity some of them created. This is no secret, the Zionist security minister, Itamer Ben Gvir, publicly describes the degradation of prisoner

conditions as one of his highest goals. In custody, Palestinians are not only kept constantly handcuffed in dark cells with iron beds and pit toilets, they are also held outdoors, without shelter or blanket or in capes, often referred to as “monkey capes”. Detainees are kept blind-folded and fully shackled for prolonged periods, sometimes causing injuries leading to amputations. Severe physical violence is routine. Israeli guards subject Palestinian prisoners to severe beatings, burn them with cigarettes and force them to take hallucinogenic drugs. Pepper spray, tear gas, electric shocks and assault dogs are also used. Sexual violence against children, women and men is systematic, as well as denial of medical care. I will not describe the sexual abuse to respect the victims. Senior Ministers of Israel describe torture as a “holy job” and abusers as “heroic warriors”. Since October 2023, torture in detention has been used to an unprecedented scale and videos of it share on social media.

Journalists and civilians have been allowed access to witness and even use phone to record the abuse of Palestinians. Since then, Israeli authorities have arrested more than 18500 Palestinians, including at least 1500 children. In addition, more than 4000 Individuals have been subjected to enforced disappearance, and it is likely that many are no longer alive. Specific groups have been targeted for detention and heightened abuse, sometimes resulting in violent death: activists, medial doctors, political figures, human rights defenders and journalists. Hundreds of health and rescue workers have been arbitrarily arrested while performing their medical duties. And let us not forget the new law recently passed imposing the death penalty on Palestinians only. According to the bill, those Palestinians sentenced to death will be held in a separate facility with no visits allowed.

Torture has always been a central feature of the dispossession of Palestinians by the Zionist entity, and it’s not confined to cells an interrogation rooms. Across the occupied Palestinian territory, Israeli Authorities, have engineered a “torturous environment”, designed to break resistance and dignity. Mass displacement, siege, denial of aid and food, military and settler violence, all tools of collective torture, have turned the Palestinian territory in a space of collective punishment. Punishment for existing and resisting the occupation of their own end.

Since October 2023 all Palestinians have been treated collectively as “terrorists” and “security threats”. By targeting the totality of people, across the totality of the occupied land, Israel’s settler-colonial genocide became the ultimate form of torture: continuous generational and collective. Over 150 years ago, the Zionist settlement project began as an ethnonational project addressing the Jewish question, which is anti-semitism in Europe. For Palestinians who were forced to host this project, to host is to be hostage, to host is to be erased, for the Palestinian story begins before the genocide, before the intifadas and the empty peace agreements and before Zionism and Israel.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Yoav Gallant, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Elbit systems executives are the ones that should be sitting in court in glas cages, not us.

On the 8th of September 2025 I not only took action against Israel's largest private weapons supplier, I took action against the extermination of the Palestinian people. I took action to insist upon the existence of a single human reality, populated by billions of sacred human beings to whom universal law of protection must and will be applied.

Long live the resistance

Statement Zo

Five days into this trial, I would like to preface my opening statement with disbelief, grief, disappointment, shock, offence and disgust.

Disbelief, that this court has done everything in its power to neglect us of our right to a fair trial and confidential, spontaneous communication with our lawyers according to Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights – a human rights deed binding for member states.

Grief, that Germany's fabric is so tightly interwoven with genocide that anti-genocide dissidents are an enemy of the state – allegedly threatening the State so greatly that we are being trialed in the Staatsschutzkammer, that we will be locked up for 16 months without a verdict, while condemned to a glass box in the court room like serial murderers, like animals, like scum.

Disappointment, that every single application to the judge on behalf of the accused has been rejected, except the one manipulated to humiliate us. What is the purpose of a trial when every single intervention from the defense representatives is rejected? What is the purpose of 42 scheduled trial dates over the span of 8 months, when we have been pre-judged? Is this a theatre or a court-house?

Shock, that an official of this court carried a rubber chicken in the pocket of his uniform, squeezing it to make noises outside the doors of our cells in the basement. I had immediate fear that someone was making monkey noises in a racially-motivated hatecrime. It was only when this "professional" of this high-security Oberlandesgerichtsgebäude was even daring enough to squeeze this toy inside this very court room that I saw the rubber chicken poking out from his uniform pocket. Was this also an attempt to humiliate us?

Offence, that this court interrupted the opening statement of Daniel – while talking about genocide, and suicide in a German prison – to humiliate a member of public by choice of using the time designated to our trial to punish a person not on trial. Should I not be the priority of this court to hear the perspective of the accused?

Should it not be the priority of this court to avoid holding people unscented in prison for longer than is necessary?

Disgust, that the state prosecutor laughed his way through the opening Statement of Mr. Düsberg, who was detailing the brutality of Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity – in particular the cold-blooded murder of children. Denying this on account of a misunderstanding – that the prosecutor was actually surprised which, coincidentally was expressed through smirking and suppressing laughter, he nonetheless relegated Mr. Düsbergs’s statement to “having no legal relevance”. Is not presenting the motivation of an alleged crime a core element of every legal proceeding? Or was it surprise in realizing the extent of the genocide and realizing his position in protecting profiteers of the genocide?

Such reasons and why my expectation of a fair trial is reduced with every passing day. Nonetheless, I will raise my voice and deliver my opening statement with pride and a heavy heart:

My name is Zo.

My ancestors are from Ethiopia, England and Scotland. I am a trans non-binary person, pronouns he/they.

As a proud African who has both suffered from British Imperialism and benefited from the institutions instructed through its imperial wealth, the liberation of my African siblings in Africa and the diaspora is my compass. My people’s history has been violently interrupted by Europe, and our continent’s destiny depends on bringing an end to imperialist extraction. It is European imperialism which has destroyed indigenous peoples’ communities, way of life, knowledge systems, languages, lives and livelihoods around the globe, and this is no different in Palestine. It is Britain who were colonising Palestine, signed away Palestine’s land to the Zionists that was not their land to sign away. This criminal deal is called the Balfour declaration of 1917. Almost two decades before the Balfour declaration the Palestinian public and political figure Yusuf Diyaa El Din Pasha Al Kahlidi wrote to the father of modern Zionism

extending sympathy for the plight of Jewish people in Europe, and pleading for Palestine to be left alone, warning Zionism would not only endanger Christian and Muslim Palestinians, but Jewish Palestinians, too, who constituted up to 5 % of the indigenous population. His concerns were ignored. Approaching the mid20th century when anti colonial liberation movements intensified around the world, the Zionist project rebranded itself from a colonial movement to a liberation movement. It is paradoxical nonsense for a movement to attach itself to British and late German and American imperialism, build a home on the rubble of stolen cities and villages, and call itself a liberation movement.

Thus, I will continue to stand against injustice and act in solidarity with people resisting imperialism and other forms of oppression around the world.

I am brought before the Landgericht Stuttgart today for civil disobedience against Elbit Systems. As an arms manufacturer and military technology developer, Elbit Systems is a key actor in the genocidal assault on Gaza and the military occupation of Palestine as a whole. A company which markets its weapons as „combat-proven“, using Palestine and Palestinian people for their sick military experiments. A company which profits from war crimes. A company which the German government has allowed to continue functioning on German soil. All the while saying „nie wieder“

I stand here in full solidarity with my Palestinian siblings in all of historical Palestine, those who have been forced into exile, and those who have been martyred since the colonization of Palestine. As we approach the 78th year commemoration of the Nakba - catastrophe in English - when the UN officialised the colonization of Palestine and over 700,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from their homeland, we - justice loving people - cannot repeat the fatal mistake of those who watched silently around the world. We can not rest while the state called Israel continues its colonial expansion into the West Bank, Golan Heights, Lebanon and Gaza through military terror. We refuse to normalize the racist brutality of Europe, US empire backed Israeli apartheid and massacre.

It is here in Europe and in the US empire where weapons used in genocide and other crimes against humanity are produced. It is here in the so called Global north that consent for the murder of our Palestinian siblings is manufactured. It is here in Europe that powers grant impunity to the state of Israel, making public clowns of themselves and their double standards.

We, the ordinary people of conscience, must continue to learn and share the history of Palestine and fight for her future - a future without military occupation, apartheid, settler violence, genocide and ethnic cleansing, forced starvation, environmental destruction, generational trauma, racism, intentional water shortage, harassment and torture, and most recently the fascist death sentence which has been added to the long list of grave injustices. We must fight for a future where children grow up hearing birds, not drones, where children grow up in homes, not refugee camps, where they aren't neglected of their education by forced hunger and two-ton bombs. A future where families can visit one another without tortuous military checkpoints, where celebrations are more frequent than funerals, where olive trees, Za'atar and Akkoub flourish. A future which greets the returning exiled Palestinians. A future with hope and dignity. A future with self-determination.

Life in Palestine is one of survival confronting settler-colonialism on the ground, and in existential struggle against erasure in rhetoric, literature and media. Understanding settler-colonialism is central to understanding how the Zionist project born in mid 19th century Europe realised the state of Israel, changing the fate of Palestine and her people ever since.

Colonialism describes the politico-economic relationship of a territory dominated by an external power, to extract its resources, human labour included. It is a process dependent on racism, dehumanization and exploitation.

Have you ever wondered how the cold miserable European states with little valuable natural resources and relatively small labour capacities are some of the richest, most powerful states globally? Surprise, colonialism. The British state has one of the largest bloodiest stains which is their colonial project. It is estimated that Britain accumulated today's worth of US\$54 trillion from the colonial pillaging of India

alone. Having colonized (including but not limited to) today's South Africa, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Nepal and Jamaica, it doesn't take a genius to figure out how Britain built its crumbling social welfare state - with stolen wealth.

Many are much less aware of Germany's colonial pillaging. In 1884 to 1885 German colonizer von Bismarck hosted the so called „Kongo“Konferenz - the negotiations which brought greedy racist European imperialists together to partition Africa. Despite colonialism only being possible through insane physical and psychological violence, within 20 years of the partitioning of Africa, Germany made its way to the top of the list for just how savage its colonial rule was. In 1904/1905 Germany committed the first genocide of the 20th century in a war of extermination against the Herero and Nama peoples of today's Namibia. Up to 80,000 Herero people and 10,000 Nama people were brutally murdered - 80% and half of their population respectively. This is where Germany trialled and perfected genocide by way of concentration camps. However, it took the importing of this method home 30 years later, to make „Nie Wieder“ relevant and even part of the „Staatsräson“.

Moving on to settler colonialism as a specific manifestation of colonialism, firstly it's clear from the name that this mode of colonialism relies on settlers - people immigrating to the territory in question and not just the construction of a colonial political administration. The settlers rely initially on external powers. In the 20th century before Palestine was partitioned and the state called Israel appeared on the map in 1948, the early Zionist settlers relied on military and diplomatic support from Britain, whose own highest priority was securing access to the Suez Canal and securing other geopolitical interest in the region. Similar relations can be traced in the early stage colonisation of turtle island - today's settler colonial State known as the USA and the state we know as Australia whose European settlers, too, relied initially on British support.

The second particular feature of settler colonialism is the motivation to control the land of the territory being occupied, and not just its valuable resources. This raises the unavoidable question of how to control the land when there are people, in this case the Palestinian people, who already inhabit and cultivate the land? Coercion,

land theft, forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, and finally culminating in genocide. The story is fundamentally the same in the origin of the settler colony „USA“ in which the European settlers committed genocide against the peoples indigenous to the land, forcibly displacing the surviving people out of their homelands and into allocated areas known as „reserves“.

Let us return to 19th century Europe when modern Zionism was transformed from a Christian religious vision into a Jewish nationalist settler colonial project. Palestine was just one of a few options of where to establish a Zionist colony. Other options included in Uganda, Azerbaijan, and various locations in the so-called Americas. In the context of increasingly violent antisemitism in Europe, it is no surprise Jewish people toiled with how to respond to this pervasive problem - to assimilate more deeply into the nations which they already belonged to, or to found a Jewish nation in of itself. Theodor Herzl, the man considered the father of modern Zionism advocated for the latter, likely inspired by the budding nationalist movements around Europe and his vision very quickly became one of settler colonialism.

Brought here today, accused of antisemitism by the state prosecutor in this anti-genocide and anti-colonial action against Elbit Systems, I want to be very clear about the following: I support self-determination wholeheartedly and for this reason it is not the Jewish nationalist pillar of Zionism we bring into question, but the settler colonial pillar of Zionism which has intentionally prevented Palestinians from self determination for around a century.

It is similar claims which the Palestinian liberation movement in Palestine and globally are accused of. In his book „10 myths about Israel“, historian Ilan Pappé comments on this, saying the following;

Begin quote

“The official Israeli narrative or foundational mythology refuses to allow the Palestinians even a modicum of moral right to resist the Jewish colonisation of their homeland that began in 1882. From the very beginning Palestinian re-

sistance was depicted as motivated by hate for Jews. It was accused of promoting a protean antisemitic campaign of terror that began when the first settlers arrived and continued until the creation of the state of Israel. The diaries of the early Zionists tell a different story. They are full of anecdotes revealing how the settlers were well received by the Palestinians who offered them shelter and in many cases taught them how to cultivate the land. Only when it became clear that settlers had not come to live alongside the native population, but in place of it, did the Palestinian resistance begin. And when that resistance started, it quickly took the form of every other anticolonialist struggle.”

End quote.

With this, let it be known, that no amount of repression and weaponizing antisemitism will separate us from our Palestinian siblings in the anticolonial struggle.

So after the Nakba - the initial partitioning of Palestine, and the 1967 war in which the remainder of historical Palestine became militarily occupied, the state of Israel has escalated its colonial aggression in the last few years. The genocidal assault on Gaza by the Zionist state has become widely dubbed the first ever live streamed genocide.

As Gazan Palestinians have been terrorised by two tonne bombs, drones, snipers, white phosphorus and jets, regardless whether elderly or newborn, waving white flags, or sick in hospitals, the world has been terrorised by the blinding violence too. Bombing so relentless multi generation families have been massacred all at once. Parents collecting the pieces of their children into plastic bags. Limbs amputated on kitchen tables without anaesthetic or other necessary medical supplies. Voices begging for help from under the rubble of their bombed homes. People. Burnt. Alive.

These are not anomalous occurrences. They are all fragments of the systematic and intentional erasure of every sphere of life in Gaza. **2/3 of murdered journalists worldwide** in 2025 were murdered by Israeli war criminals. **Every hospital in Gaza has been partially or completely destroyed by Israeli war criminals.** Hospital

staff and ambulance responders have been targeted by Israeli war criminals. Schools have been targeted by Israeli war criminals. Refugee camps have been targeted by ... Israeli war criminals. The project of so called Greater Israel. Emboldened Zionist politicians publically announce their intention to continue genocide and ethnic cleansing in the region surrounding Palestine. This is why immediate civil action is a must.

In January 2024 the international court of Justice accepted the case brought forward by South Africa, ruling provisionally that there was already probable grounds indicating the state of Israel was committing genocide. Since then, the genocidal assault has intensified and an international arrest warrant for war crimes has been issued for the architect of the genocide, Netanyahu. And what has the German government done since? Continued with state visits and diplomatically supporting the state of Israel. Continued exporting weaponry and military technology essential for sustaining the genocide. Continued profiting from this very genocide.

„Nie wieder“ and complicity in a genocide cannot coexist.

Theoretically an essential element of democracy is the separation of powers. So, while the executive branch, the German government has very clearly chosen complicity, what will the judicial branch, the Landgericht Stuttgart in this case, choose: Complicity (in genocide) or „nie wieder“?

Statement Daniel

Mein Handeln in dem Elbit-Betrieb in Ulm war ausschließlich durch dringende humanitäre Erwägungen motiviert. Sie wurzeln in der Erkenntnis, dass Israels Aneignung der palästinensischen Gebiete, die Unterwerfung einer Bevölkerung unter Apartheidgesetze, die Inhaftierung von Kindern ohne Anklage sowie die weit verbreitete Praxis sexueller Gewalt gegen palästinensische Gefangene - dass die Summe dieser Praktiken schlichtweg ungerecht ist. Und dass es falsch ist, sie materiell und diplomatisch zu unterstützen.

Da ich diese Tatsachen kannte, kamen für mich die Verhaltensmuster Israels nicht überraschend, als Israel im Oktober 2023 seine Offensive in Gaza startete. Zahlreiche internationale Gremien, darunter eine unabhängige UN-Untersuchungskommission, sind zu dem Schluss gekommen, dass Israels Handlungen im Gazastreifen mehrere Kriterien für Völkermord erfüllen, von denen jedes für sich genommen ausreicht, um zu dem Schluss zu kommen, dass ein solcher stattfindet. Dazu gehören die systematische Tötung von Angehörigen einer geschützten Gruppe, die systematische Zerstörung der für das Überleben notwendigen Lebensbedingungen, die Unterbindung jeglichen Zugangs zu Schwangerschafts- und Geburtshilfe sowie die Vorenthaltung von Nahrungsmitteln und Hilfsgütern in einer Weise, die eine künstliche Hungersnot begünstigt.

Wegzuschauen, wenn ein Völkermord stattfindet, ist verwerflich; die Ausrüstung bereitzustellen, um diesen durchzuführen, ist noch schlimmer. Angesichts der sich häufenden Beweise für Israels Völkermord in Palästina entschied sich Deutschland nicht nur dafür, Israels Streitkräfte weiterhin zu versorgen und zu unterstützen – es stockte seine Lieferungen von Waffen und Kriegsausrüstung an Israels Besatzungs- und Invasionsarmee sogar drastisch auf. Es gibt vieles, was ich an meiner Wahlheimat Deutschland liebe. Aber dass Deutschland den Massenmord an den Menschen in Gaza in Form materieller Hilfe unerschütterlich unterstützt hat und hochrangige Politiker zudem ankündigten, die vom Internationalen Strafgerichtshof erlassenen Haftbefehle gegen Personen, die der Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit verdächtigt werden, einfach zu ignorieren – das war und bleibt erschütternd und herzerreißend.

Fast noch schlimmer waren die gelegentlichen Äußerungen der Besorgnis seitens der Regierung sowie Aussagen, die so interpretiert werden sollten, als würden keine Waffen und andere Rüstungsexporte mehr zur Unterstützung des Völkermords geliefert. Bei genauerer Betrachtung bedeuteten diese etwas ganz anderes: Sie sollten den Anschein erwecken, Deutschland würde das Richtige tun und sich an das Völkerrecht halten, ohne dass die Regierung dabei ihr wirkliches Verhalten in irgendeiner relevanten Weise tatsächlich änderte.

Ich sah mich aus diesen Gründen gezwungen, etwas zu tun, das untrennbar und in komplexer Weise mit dem demokratischen Leben verbunden ist und für dieses unverzichtbar ist, gleichzeitig aber selten in seiner Bedeutung für dieses anerkannt und geschätzt wird: Ich ergriff direkte Maßnahmen. Durch die Beschädigung der Rüstungsproduktion von Elbit Systems in Ulm sollte deren materielle Unterstützung der Verbrechen in Gaza so weit wie möglich gestoppt werden. Denn diese bedeutet Beihilfe

zu einem Völkermord. Ich tat dies in der Hoffnung, hierdurch die weitere Belieferung der israelischen Streitkräfte wenigstens stören zu können. Und ich tat dies auch in der Absicht, öffentlich zu skandalisieren, dass die deutsche Regierung und in Deutschland ansässige Rüstungskonzerne den Krieg gegen Gaza aktiv unterstützen und Geld damit verdienen.

Seitdem befinde ich mich in Untersuchungshaft in Ulm. Es ist eine verstörende Erfahrung. Ich habe mich an das Geräusch einer Zellentür gewöhnt, die ins Schloss fällt und mich von der Welt wegschließt. Ich habe den Himmel, wenn überhaupt, nur eine Stunde am Tag gesehen. Ich habe gesehen, wie Freundlichkeit und tiefe Boshaftigkeit in diesem Mikrokosmos engstens nebeneinander existieren können. Ich habe gesehen, wie das Licht langsam aus den Augen hier inhaftierter Männer verschwand, während die Welt sie zu vergessen schien, und ich rang mit Schuldgefühlen wegen der Solidarität und Zuneigung, die ich selbst erfahren habe. Zwei dieser von der Welt vergessenen Männer unternahm Selbstmordversuche; einer hatte damit Erfolg. Fünf Monate lang sah ich meine Angehörigen nur durch eine Plexiglasscheibe - aufgrund eines Verwaltungsfehlers.

Als ich in der Anklageschrift las, dass der Staatsanwalt versucht, uns als antisemitisch darzustellen, ganz im Sinne eines ausgelaugten und trügerischen Arguments, welches in der deutschen Öffentlichkeit weit verbreitet ist, war ich nicht überrascht, aber dennoch empört. Es ist eine Schande, Widerstand gegen Besatzung und Massenmord als Antisemitismus darzustellen. Es war daher ermutigend, ergreifend und auch amüsant, diese deutsche Rhetorik des Antisemitismusvorwurfs mit der herzlichen Solidarität meiner vielen jüdischen Familienmitglieder zu kontrastieren. Besonders hervorheben möchte ich an dieser Stelle die tiefe Solidarität, die mein jüdischer Stiefvater mir gegenüber in den vergangenen Monaten zeigte. Sein moralischer Kompass, seine Herzensfreundlichkeit und seine Widerstandskraft haben mich seit meiner frühen Kindheit geprägt.

Es war im September 2025 von äußerster Dringlichkeit, die von Deutschland zugelassenen Ausrüstungslieferungen an die IDF zu stoppen, und sei es nur einen Tag oder eine Stunde lang. Was ich getan habe, erachtete ich als erforderlich, um viel Leid zu verhindern. Ich tat dies in dem Bewusstsein, dass diese Aktion einen enormen persönlichen Preis für mich haben könnte.

Es herrscht seit Oktober 2025 in Gaza ein angeblicher Waffenstillstand, der diesen Begriff nicht verdient. Neunhundert Gazans sind seitdem durch israelische Bomben ums Leben gekommen, nach wie vor der größte Teil davon Leute, die unmöglich Kämpfer sein könnten. Stromgeneratoren werden seit Beginn der 1990er von der IDF aus Gaza ferngehalten, und das, heute, in einem Gaza, in dem fast die gesamte Infrastruktur zerstört worden ist. Erst heute hat die israelische Regierung angekündigt, 70 Prozent des Gazastreifens einzunehmen. Ich trage keine rosarote Brille. Die Lage in Gaza ist ernst.

Ich stehe heute hier, erfüllt von der vorsichtigen, aber festen Hoffnung auf eine Zukunft, die sich grundlegend von unserer Gegenwart unterscheidet. Eine Zukunft, in der weder die Menschlichkeit noch die Rechte der Palästinenser:innen von den europäischen Mächten oder irgendjemand anderem lediglich als lästiges Hindernis betrachtet werden.

Eine Zukunft, in der Vertreibung und Verfolgung dieser Menschen nicht mehr als tragfähiges Geschäftsmodell angesehen wird. Eine gerechte und sichere Zukunft für ein freies Palästina.

Daniel Tatlow-Devally

Stuttgart, 29. Mai 2026

Statement Crow

I am here today as a member of the global community that stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and land. We are a community that acknowledges and resists against the 70 years of illegal occupation, the apartheid regime and the multiple genocides that have been committed and are currently ongoing in Palestine at the hands of the Zionist entity referred to as Israel. We are a community that since 2023 has witnessed thousands of violations of international law by the IDF and Netanyahu be justified by the German government and legal system.

Your inaction has forced our hand. We demand not only a real end to the current genocide, and efforts to establish the foregrounds for a Palestinian state, but we also demand that all land stolen by the state and settlers be returned to Palestinians, accountability be taken by those who have acted in and fueled war crimes, and reparations for Palestinians to rebuild their land and to heal from the last 70 years of violence.

To understand my motivation for this action we undertook against Elbit Systems, it is essential that we bring the context of what has unfolded in Palestine in the most recent two-year genocide in Gaza and the 70 years of occupation. Though I will not be able to convey the true history and the pain that Palestinians have lived through, I will reiterate and summarize the words of Ahmed Alnaouq, a Palestinian man, that recall what he and his family lived through.

The Israeli forces struck first in 1948, on the day we know as Nakba, in which Palestinians, who were previously under British colonial rule, were now being bombed from above by a new colonial enterprise. It is reported that hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives or were displaced from their lands under the threat of death.

Israel created settlements and restricted access of Palestinians to their land. 20 years later, Israel expanded its occupation in what is known as the Six-Day War of 67', in which tanks were introduced to murder innocent Palestinians and used to occupy the Gaza

Strip, the Sinai, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon. He recalls his mother's description of Israeli forces shooting indiscriminately through the streets, witnessing soldiers digging holes in walls of schools to shoot Palestinian children for sport, and his aunt recalls seeing soldiers betting on the gender of a baby still inside of a martyred Palestinian pregnant woman before slicing her belly open to find out. From the Six-Day War Israel further consolidated the apartheid regime by sectioning off certain areas through the use of checkpoints, and deliberately undermining local economies to foster dependency on occupation forces. Palestinians employed by Israeli companies were subject to humiliating strip searches by IDF soldiers and detained for hours in IDF checkpoints for no reason on the way to work.

His father recalls his Israeli boss saying: "God created Israeli as humans and the rest as animals to serve them. Israelis were disgusted with the animals and asked God to transform them into human beings and that's how you came to be." A statement and thought that is still expressed by the then Zionist Defense Minister Gallant when he declared in October 2023: "We are fighting human animals, and we are acting accordingly." A year before the Six-Day War, Elbit Systems, arms manufacturer of the IDF, was created specifically with the task of producing and developing weaponry to murder and oppress Palestinians and solidify and maintain the apartheid regime of the Israeli government and forces.

In 1987, with the escalating harassment by Israeli forces, the deaths of six Palestinians sparked the first Intifada by the Palestinian population demanding an end to the occupation and the second-class citizenship that was written and acted on through Israeli law. The Israeli military responded with mass arrests, curfews, violent crackdowns on freedom of movement which led to further economic strife and social unrest.

In 1994 under pressure from the international community the Oslo Accords were signed by both Israeli authorities and the Palestinian Authority stipulating the establishment of a Palestinian state by 1999 at the latest, which to this day Israel has refused to abide by. It stipulated areas that Palestinians would control and in theory be free of Israel's authority.

Israel refusal to abide by the Oslo Accords and allow a Palestinian state sparked the Second Intifada in September 2000 in which again the Palestinians called for freedom an establishment of their own state, and to live in dignity. The Israeli response was devastating, with the use of tanks, Apache helicopters and weapons developed and supplied by Elbit Systems to suppress the calls for freedom.

In 2007 Gaza fell under a total Israeli blockade, in which access to food, water, gas, electricity were deprived by Israeli forces. A two year genocide followed in which Israeli forces used internationally prohibited chemical weapons like white phosphorus on the civilian population. This war took the lives of 1400 Palestinians, injured 5000, and destroyed 47000 homes. In 2014 Israel launched another unprovoked attack on Gaza resulting in 2300 deaths. Following the 13 year siege on Gaza, Palestinians decided to protest peacefully along the apartheid wall built around them. It was a demand for the right to return to the land they had lost from the Nakba until the date it occurred in 2018. Israel responded by killing 300 Palestinians, 2 journalists, and countless paramedics, and introduced new weapons like the exploding butterfly bullet, resulting in 300 amputees.

Then, in October 2023 Israel launched its most brutal assault on the people of Gaza and increased the acceleration of its colonial endeavour in the region dramatically. To date, sources show that in the last two years at least 72000 innocent civilians have been martyred of which 30-40000 are children, they have and are currently starving the people of Gaza, refusing adequate aid into Gaza and refusing medical evacuations of 21000 people in critical condition in Gaza. In the last two years we have seen the bombing of civilian infrastructure including houses, hospitals, schools, places of worship, we have seen strikes on first responders, the weaponising of food and medical supplies, 300 journalists have lost their lives, families have been displaced multiple times after being issued illegal evacuation orders from Israel and then being targeted at the displacement camps.

The list goes on, all red lines have been crossed and Israel's impunity only gets stronger. Dr. Ghassin recollects operating on a child after an explosion on a house that had killed all family members and relatives of the three year old. He recollects hospital capacities and equipment running so low that family members had to choose which relatives to save and which to leave to die.

Not only in Gaza have effects been felt, but throughout the occupied Palestine, Israeli forces have been raiding villages and cities in the West Bank, stealing all foreign currencies from banks owned by Palestinians, demolishing houses and farms that have been lived on by Palestinians for centuries and funding and arming settler-militias to build illegal settlements in their wake. Palestinian political prisoners that are held in Israeli prisons are subject to torture and indignity in prison. A video was released by an Israeli lawyer of a Palestinian prisoner being sexually assaulted by an IDF soldier, the lawyer was labeled as antisemitic and a traitor to Israel whilst the rapist was named a hero by the Israeli Defence Minister.

The Israeli Zionist agenda has been clearly stated by both Israeli ministers and American officials, Israel will not stop until it has control over the entire Palestinian land, ethnically cleansed Palestinian people, and until it has achieved its bigger picture expansion to create a „Greater Israel“ in which it controls the entire Middle East. It continues to violate ceasefire deals and treaties like the one in October last year, killing close to 800 people since its signing. Though the killing by the IDF may have slowed down since the ceasefire, settler attacks and landgrabs in the first 4 months of 2026 were larger than the entirety of the last years' settler attacks. The legislated grip and apartheid regime has only strengthened since the ceasefire, seen in the Knesset's decision to reinstate the death penalty, a sentence only given to Palestinians, and the Knesset's decision to turn Palestinian territory, for example the West Bank, into state owned property.

From what I read in German newspapers, what I hear in speeches from politicians and from what is stated in the indictment written by the prosecutor, there is a false notion that the history of this two year genocide called a „conflict“, started on October 7th. With the context I have transmitted here, my motivation for this action should not only be

understandable but also necessary considering the 70 years of unanswered calls for freedom and sovereignty for the Palestinian people.

My motivation to undertake this political action against Elbit Systems stems from the silence of the German state in the face of Israeli atrocities and from the understanding that no matter how many red lines are crossed and war crimes committed, the German and Israeli states choose profits over the lives of Palestinians, therefore minimising these profits would pressure the state to rethink its actions. We protested multiple times a week demanding at the very least sanctions from the German state on Israel and to hold companies that supply and fuel Israel's genocide, such as Elbit Systems, accountable for their direct role. We held protest-camps outside the Bundeskanzleramt for months, literally chanting our demands to Chancellor Merz only for him to leave his balcony and go back inside. We made petitions. We sent direct emails to government officials. We participated in local boycott and sanction campaigns of Israeli companies profiting off of Palestinian suffering. No method that was in line with German law worked, and the death toll in Gaza only increased as our demands were conveyed. The German state made itself clear, it would protect the companies that armed a military undertaking, a genocidal company, over the protection of Palestinian rights.

The German legal system also showed its true colours as a vehicle to legitimise this violent policy of the state and incriminate those calling for an end to the genocide. We did not wake up and act in a „blind rage“ as the prosecutor noted in the indictment, we reflected on our two years of campaigning and came to the conclusion that the enormous profits that companies like Elbit, and states like Germany, are accumulating from this genocide are far too large for them to voluntarily give up. We realized that Germany and Elbit are guided by a compass based on profits rather than morality. We realized that the only way to reduce the killing and martyrdom of our brothers and sisters in the Gaza Strip was to directly encroach on these profits and prevent the shipping of weapons from Germany to the Gaza strip.

Outside of the direct effect our action would have in contributing to the end of the most recent genocide, my motivation was to have these court proceedings in which the nature

and ethos of Elbit Systems and position of Elbit Systems within the Israeli state structure can be brought to light in the hopes that action will be taken against it. We know that Elbit Systems is the direct associate of a PM and Ministers that have been issued arrest warrants by the International Court of Justice and we know that Elbit Systems is the main supplier of weapons and technology of the IDF.

But Elbit Systems also directly encourages and advocates for the continuation of a genocide in Gaza as they see Gaza as a weapons testing side and a laboratory. Throughout the genocide committed over the years on Palestinian people, the international community has given a free pass to Israel and thus Elbit to use any weaponry it chooses to crush and murder Palestinians. A free pass stemming from the fear of coming under attack from the Israeli lobby, and from the false labeling of governments that stand as anti-Zionist as antisemitic. Gaza is virtually defenceless and due to its blockade by Israel cannot receive any weaponry or other means to defend itself with. Elbit takes advantage of this free pass and the enclosure of Palestinians in Gaza with nowhere to escape, to test its latest developments in weaponry and technology to receive its „battle tested“ status with minimal to no losses or damage to its equipment.

With this „combat proven“ status achieved from senseless killing of Palestinians, Elbit can then sell its weaponry to other nation states and private militia in Europe and to the USA at a much higher price. The evidence for this can be seen in the development and use of the „Hermes drone“ by Elbit in Gaza used to attack schools, hospitals, homes, and kill innocents. After it achieved its battle status in Gaza it was then modified and sold to the British military and mass produced by a subsidiary company in the UK, and used in military opps by the British in Afghanistan and Iraq. Even in the current genocide on Palestinians Gaza, Elbit is testing its autonomous-AI-controlled-drone swarms before selling the software to European countries through subsidiaries like the factory in Ulm. Elbit is expanding into Europe firstly to build its weapons away from the instability of the Middle East but also to access new markets. Factories like the one in Ulm were built and maintained by the killing of Palestinians and new profits coming out of these factories go out to maintain the apartheid regime.

The hand that Elbit Systems has in this 70 year occupation and most recent genocide of Palestinians is much larger than a private arms provider with no knowledge of the atrocities enacted with its weapons, the direct role in operations can be seen in an Israeli General's direct quote in which he states: "We operate day and night in cooperation with unit 9900, Elbit, and the administration to perfect the systems...we carried out 30 operations."

My motivation for this action was to have this court date and shed light on the inner working of Elbit Systems in the hopes that the courts will take action against it and stop it of the use Palestinian people as a testing ground, stop its encouragement of the genocide in Gaza, and to stop its profiteering off an illegal occupation.

My motivation surfaced from the reality of where the power and decision making actually lie in our society, and this power is acted on outside of legal or governmental oversight, and is in the hand of the arms dealers. Our domestic politics and foreign policy undertaken by governments globally are heavily influenced by the transnational network of private arms manufacturers that are enmeshed within our government structures, and lobby and promote the manufacturing of wars, genocides, increased police repression, and colonization of Global South lands and people, that result in enormous profits for these companies that supply them.

The governments justify and camouflage their fulfillment of these profit driven aims set by the private arms dealers through the manipulation of pre-existing social constructs and divisions based on race, gender, sex, or through the labeling of groups opposing these agendas as „terrorists“. This methodology and manufacturing of a culture of fear disguises their atrocities as acts of „national security“ or „self-defense“.

From the 70 year occupation and multiple genocides in Palestine to the mass killings and years of neglect of Kurdish peoples' rights to life and to their land, to the foreign funded wars in Congo and Sudan that have killed hundreds of thousands of innocents and displaced millions.

All of this pain and suffering I explained above was orchestrated, profited from, and lobbied into action by the Lockheed Martins, the Rheinmetals, the BAE Systems, the Boeings, and the Elbit Systems. They prevent our society from achieving real democracy. This action was a part of a global movement that aims to reduce violence at its source. They choose profits over the lives of our peoples. My motivation for this action was when I saw the courts, the police, and other state apparatus working side by side with, and following directions from, these companies, to operate with this agenda and protected their right to do so.

If you will not hold these companies accountable, then the people will.