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9 March 2024

To: The CEO of Sygnia, Magda Wierzycka
The Chairperson of the Board, Prof Haroon Borat

We write to you with regards to concerns over the investment by Sygnia in the Israeli weapons company Elbit Systems and its subsidiaries.

Sygnia has invested in Elbit Systems over a period of time through funds that are sold to South African consumers. While we do not have sight of all funds public information shows that in December 2023 in the midst of the war in Gaza, Elbit was one of **the top 10 companies** invested in by the Sygnia 4IR fund.

Elbit Systems is Israel's leading arms company. It manufactures cluster bombs, mortars and drones used against civilians in Gaza as well as weapons such as white phosphorus that can cause serious harm. In December 2023 the company reported that it had been awarded a series of contracts by the Israeli Ministry of Defense for an "aggregate amount" and noted that since the beginning of the "Swords of Iron War" in Gaza, it has experienced considerable increased demand.¹ This is in the context in which the International Court of Justice has found a plausible risk of genocide in the relevant time period, and a period in which various war crimes by the Israeli military against Palestinian civilians have been documented

In addition, it should be noted that Elbit Systems produces 85% of the "killer drones" used by the Israeli military in extrajudicial executions. The company also supplies surveillance technologies and electronic equipment for Israel's Apartheid Wall in the occupied West Bank, which was ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004. Elbit Systems has various subsidiaries such as Elbit UK, whose factories in the UK have been the target of several protest actions.

In December 2018, HSBC, the largest British bank, divested from Elbit Systems after years of campaigning by British groups calling on HSBC to divest from companies arming Israel. More recently Japan's Itochu Corp ended strategic collaboration with Elbit in order to prevent acts of genocide against Palestinians following the ICJ ruling that there is a plausible risk of genocide. Several other companies such as transport company Kuehne + Nagel, recruiter iO associates, and the property manager of a UK factory Fischer German have also cut ties².

We request confirmation of which other funds sold by Sygnia is currently invested in Elbit Systems and its subsidiaries. We call on Sygnia to divest from Elbit Systems and its subsidiaries entirely. We believe that the supply

¹ Elbit Systems, Press Release, Elbit Systems Awarded Contracts from the Israel Ministry Of Defense in an Aggregate Material Amount, 18 December 2023.

² <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240202-transport-company-cuts-ties-with-israel-weapons-manufacturer-elbit/>

of technology, drones and munitions for use against civilians that is in breach of international law warrants exclusion from investments engaged in by South African companies.

Yours sincerely,

Roshan Dadoo
Coordinator
SA BDS Coalition