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Press Release

Powering Injustice: [SOMO's new report](#) exposes the Role of Energy Trade in Enabling International Crimes in Palestine and calls for urgent action on energy supply chains supporting Israel's violations.

The report outlines how energy exports contribute directly to sustaining Israel's settler colonial regime and genocide against the Palestinian people.

Since October 2023, South African exports of coal to Israel, represent around 15% of Israel's total coal imports. These shipments, processed through the Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT) and supported by state-owned Transnet Freight Rail (TFR), supply Israeli thermal power plants like Orot Rabin and Rutenberg.

Governments and companies have a legal obligation to ensure they are not contributing to violations of international law. A global Energy Embargo for Palestine is a moral and a legal obligation.

Ramallah – A report released on Tuesday by the Dutch Research organization SOMO sheds light on how foreign trade and investment in the Israeli energy sector contribute to grave international crimes, including genocide in Gaza, unlawful occupation, and the maintenance of illegal colonial presence. The report confirms the urgent need to answer our collective call for a global Energy Embargo on Israel, stopping exports, imports and transits of energy to and from Israel.

This report is released against a backdrop of mounting evidence of Israeli crimes against humanity, including the crime of Apartheid and the crime of Genocide against the Palestinian people. In November 2024, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli war criminals, and in December 2024, Amnesty International concluded that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) handed down two critical rulings in 2024. The first was South Africa's case against Israel under the Genocide Convention on the possibility that a crime of genocide was being committed against the Palestinian people. The other reaffirmed the



illegality of Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem and its apartheid regime. Both rulings emphasized that third states must avoid economic and trade dealings that entrench this illegal situation

A genocide does not stand on its own. The report reveals that Israel's military operations heavily rely on imported crude oil and refined fuels, including jet fuel, gasoline, and diesel. The report outlines how energy exports, including coal from South Africa, directly sustain Israel's settler colonial regime and genocide against the Palestinian people.

Since October 2023, South Africa has exported 496.4 kilotons of coal to Israel, representing 15% of Israel's total coal imports. These shipments, processed through the Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT) and supported by state-owned Transnet Freight Rail (TFR), supply Israeli thermal power plants like Orot Rabin and Rutenberg. The electricity generated powers illegal settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and supports Israel's military operations, including AI-driven surveillance systems and drones deployed in Gaza. Israel's electricity grid—powered by natural gas (70%), coal (17.5%), and renewable energy (10%)—supplies both civilian infrastructure and illegal settlements. Trade in coal from South Africa directly supports this infrastructure, violating international obligations.

States must end the export and transit of military jet fuel, crude oil, and other fuels to Israel unless non-military use can be ensured. Likewise, States must stop coal exports to Israel where its use supports illegal settlements, considered a war crime. **Governments must regulate and prevent investments in energy projects that fuel genocide and entrench Israel's unlawful military occupation and colonial expansion in Palestine.**

The report also calls on all companies involved in the energy supply chain to conduct enhanced due diligence to ensure their operations do not contribute to international crimes, insisting that companies involved in supplying fuels or investing in Israel's energy projects risk being liable for complicity in international crimes.

"Richards Bay Coal Terminal's slogan 'coal to the world, growth to the nation' needs amending: 'coal to Israel, death to Palestinians' said Roshan Dadoo, Coordinator of the SA BDS Coalition

Inès Abdel Razek, co-director of the Palestinian Institute for Public Diplomacy (PIPD) said *"The findings of this report confirm what we know. States continuing energy trade with Israel are fueling genocide and Palestinian dispossession. It is not only a moral, but a legal obligation to use all means available, particularly for those states with strong economic ties, to divest and suspend their energy exports and imports. The international community remains complicit"*



ABOUT

The Global Energy Embargo for Palestine (GEEP) was created in response to a call from Palestinian organizations urging global action to disrupt energy flows enabling Israel's genocide. GEEP unites activists, researchers, and advocates to demand a total energy embargo on Israel until it ends its genocide, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing. The SA BDS Coalition works with GEEP and the global BDS Movement to end South African coal sales, for a trade, cultural, sports and academic boycott and targeted international sanctions against Apartheid Israel.

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