

*Anti-war activists smash into and
occupy Elbit's Leicestershire
drone factory*

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London, May 29 (RHC)-- In news from the UK, recent actions by the anti-war group Palestine Action have targeted Elbit's Leicestershire drone factory, UAV Tactical Systems. One contingent recently smashed through the fence and into the weapons manufacturer using a lorry. Simultaneously, another contingent scaled the building and are currently occupying the roof of the Israeli-owned drone maker.

In early May, red paint was sprayed across the building to symbolise the company's involvement in spilling Palestinian blood, while those on the roof used tools to break through it and expose the contents inside the "murder" factory.

“UAV Tactical Systems is majority owned by Israel’s largest weapons manufacturer, Elbit Systems, which manufactures 85 per cent of Israel’s military drone fleet amongst other lethal arms,” said Palestine Action in a media release. “Despite the company’s earlier attempts to obscure its relationship with Israel, previous export licences reveal that drone technologies are regularly exported from the factory to the apartheid state.”

According to the activist group, the Elbit and UAV Tactical Systems business model is based on, firstly, “Facilitating Israel’s war crimes including genocide and apartheid.” In doing so, it added, “Elbit develop its technologies through ‘battle-testing’ on Palestinians, before repackaging and selling on products used to fuel violence abroad.”

UAV Tactical Systems’ flagship drone, the Watchkeeper, has been used by the British military in Iraq, Afghanistan and the English Channel. “It is modelled on the notorious and deadly Hermes 450 drone, after the latter was ‘tested’ on Palestinians,” according to Palestine Action.

Elbit drones are used regularly by the Israeli military during the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Earlier this month, the U.S. briefly "paused" one shipment of munitions to Israel over the then impending Rafah invasion. Yet, the UK government has failed to impose a two-way arms embargo and continues to allow Elbit Systems to operate in the UK.

“This country is a signatory to the Genocide convention,” explained one Palestine Action activists ahead of its latest move against the Elbit factory in Braunstone, Leicestershire. “These laws are not to be discounted just because it’s politically expedient to do so. They were set up for a reason and I cannot accept that the country I was born in and have lived in all my life is deciding to flout those laws.”

Another protester insisted: “If the government isn’t going to act, it is my personal, moral and legal right to take direct action.”

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