

Canadians block armored vehicle company over ties with Israel

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Protesters gather in front of the headquarters of the Roshel Armored Vehicles in Brampton, Canada on July 30, 2024.

Toronto, August 1 (RHC)-- In Canada, protesters have shut down all road access to a company of armored vehicles over its ties with the regime's weapons manufactures, calling on the government to

immediately halt arms sales to Israel.

They blocked employees from entering the Roshel Armored Vehicles facility, one of the largest manufacturers of smart armored vehicles in North America, on Tuesday. The demonstrators were holding banners and signs that read, “Roshel Arms Israel” and “Arms Embargo on Israel Now.”

“This week marks 300 days of Israel’s genocidal violence in Gaza,” said Rachel Small with anti-war organization World BEYOND War. “By continuing to arm the Israeli military, Canada is directly complicit in and profiting from the slaughter of over 15,000 Palestinian children.”

She said the demonstrators now demand the government of Canada to “do everything in its power to stop Israeli atrocities, starting with imposing an immediate and comprehensive arms embargo on Israel.”

The Roshel Armored Vehicles, headquartered in the Canadian city of Brampton, has long partnered with Israeli weapons companies, including the regime’s major aerospace and aviation manufacturer Israel Aerospace Industries.

The company attempted in October to export approximately thirty armored patrol vehicles to Israel, but the permit approval was stalled under immense public pressure to suspend arms sales to the regime.

However, no permits to export arms to Israel were officially denied by the Canadian government last year. Anti-war activists have raised concern that the government might have quietly approved the arms sale to Israel after the regime launched its genocidal campaign against the people of the Gaza Strip.

Ever since, UN experts have repeatedly warned that any transfer of weapons or ammunition to Israel that would be used in Gaza is likely to violate international humanitarian law and must cease immediately. They said that Israel’s “barbaric” attacks on civilians flagrantly breach the laws of war.

Israel’s military forces have killed more than 39,400 Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip since October 2023.

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