

Why Sacramento Regional Transit should end its contract with G4S

Who is G4S?

British-Danish G4S is the world's largest private security corporation. They are [complicit in and profiting from violations of human rights and international law around the globe](#). They have also been involved in violations of labor rights, mismanagement of government contracts, abuse and neglect of inmates at privatized U.S. juvenile prisons, misconduct, and other abuses. These abuses are [well documented](#), including by the [American Friends Service Committee which has written to the SacRT board](#).

G4S abuses are so egregious [that churches, the Gates Foundation, university organizations and others](#) have divested or dissociated themselves from G4S.

What does G4S have to do with Sacramento Regional Transit?

In 2002, G4S bought Wackenhut, the national company that was providing private security personnel on light rail trains and at stations. In 2013, [Sac RT entered into a 3-year \\$12+ million contract with G4S for these services](#). That contract expires on June 30, 2016 unless the Regional Transit board extends it; two one-year extensions were provided for in the 2013 contract. In order to provide time for a new request for proposals to go out, the SacRT Board should announce now that it is not going to extend the contract.

Why should we care?

G4S has clearly demonstrated its flagrant disregard for human rights, rights of the child, international law, and labor rights and profits from the violation of these basic laws and rights.

Public entities have a responsibility to insure when they contract with private business that those companies are responsible not only in their business practices, but in their relationship to the community as a whole. Public funds should not be used to profit irresponsible companies like G4S.

Contracting with locally-owned companies can help keep taxpayer funds in the local community as well as provide for closer scrutiny. G4S is not locally owned – it is a British-Danish corporation.

G4S is involved in privatized prisons where inmates have been abused. For profit prisons take away public jobs and contribute to mass incarceration from which they profit. The Guardian notes that G4S “has been accused of [running a “disgraceful” juvenile detention centre in Florida](#)”.

“**G4S has been implicated in [labor rights violations](#)** at several of its global sites. Official complaints under OECD guidelines from G4S sites in Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa (and others) including testimonies of racial segregation and poverty wages, led to a G4S commitment to workers’ rights in 2008, but despite this, in the following years G4S was implicated in labour rights abuses in Uganda, South Korea, and South Africa.” ([American Friends Service Committee](#).) “A 2007 [report](#) entitled “Who Protects the Guards? The Facts Behind G4S in Southern Africa” showed that the company was ... maintaining policies that keep guards in poverty, and violating labor laws concerning overtime and time-off.” ([Global Exchange](#))

Opposition to G4S also reflects a stand against racism. [1000 Black activists, artists and scholars](#) have recently called for joint actions against G4S, because “G4S harms thousands of Palestinian political prisoners [illegally held in Israel](#) and hundreds of Black and brown [youth held in its privatized juvenile prisons](#) in the U.S. The corporation profits from incarceration and deportation from the U.S. and Palestine, to [the United Kingdom](#), [South Africa](#), and [Australia](#).”

G4S profits from environmental destruction. A sustainable environment is crucial to people’s ability to live and exercise their human rights. Human rights are key to enabling people to be able to be effective in protecting the environment as noted by the [United Nations and others](#). In contrast, G4S profits from the violation of human rights. G4S’ complicity with Israel’s unlawful occupation and [illegal settlement building](#) also makes it complicit with [significant environmental damage](#). Israel has destroyed over a million Palestinian olive trees, drained and polluted the area’s aquifers, and destroyed water-conserving cisterns and hundreds of thousands of acres of land.

What about the workers?

SacRTs G4S workers deserve to either 1) be rehired by a company that does not violate human rights, rights of the child, labor rights or contribute to environmental degradation or 2) be hired by Sac RT. They deserve the benefits and wages of other public employees. Their right to organize must be assured.

For more information: SacRideHuman@gmail.com / www.SacRideHuman.org