



## [Norwegian Pension Fund KLP Divests from Companies Linked to Illegal Israeli Settlements in the West Bank](#)

Norway's largest pension fund KLP announced that it would no longer invest in certain companies because of their links to illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. KLP decided to divest funds on the basis that the companies in question were in breach of international law by aiding and being complicit to the occupation. They also expressed that it was an unacceptable risk to assist them due to their contribution to the grave human rights abuses being committed by Israeli authorities. The companies, which include Motorola among others, have enabled the illegal settlement behavior by offering telecom services, banking, construction, energy, and more. KLP manages around 95 billion dollars in assets, and divested an American equivalent of 32 million dollars from the aforementioned entities. The move by KLP has been welcomed by social justice and rights activists as a significant step towards accountability for those who provide support to Israel's unlawful actions.

Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal, in accordance with international law, because Israel is occupying and colonizing Palestinian land. Israel has forcibly displaced people from their land in order to make way for Israeli settlers. The United Nations has formally denounced this behavior and made clear that it is a blatant violation of international law. The actions have been exacerbated by Israel's human rights violations via the destruction of Palestinian homes and businesses. Furthermore, Israel continues to actively build new settlements in illegally-occupied Palestinian territory. Analysts point out that this is done with the aim of establishing a foothold there which could pave the way for future annexation attempts.

As a result of its activities, Israel has been condemned by many nations and organizations, establishing its reputation as a serial human rights violator. KLP's move this week is the latest effort to undermine Israel's abusive behavior, illegal occupation of Palestinian territory, and its sights towards potential annexation. If Israel annexes the land that contains unlawful settlements, then it could try to legitimize their existence. Israel not only believes the land that has settlements is part of its territory, but also continues to build new ones to grow its presence. In doing so, Israel is demolishing generational Palestinian homes and businesses, displacing people, and laying claim to territory that is not based in any lawful or concrete manner.

Due to its behavior, Israel faces criticism for both its human rights abuses as well as for violating international law standards. Its treatment of Palestinians under illegal occupation has been unjust and discriminatory. In addition to forced displacement and the theft of their homes, Palestinians have also been subjected to the Israeli government's use of unwarranted force, arbitrary detention, denied freedom of speech and peaceful expression, unfair trials, limitation on freedom of movement, and attacks against civilian and residential targets. This has brought about growing condemnation for Israel, and as such, the Norwegian pension fund KLP will likely not be the last noteworthy organization to call out companies that enable Israel's efforts.