Dear HSBC branch manager,

HSBC must end its business relationships with companies selling weapons and military technology to Israel used in violations of Palestinians’ human rights.

Israel uses military force to maintain its oppression of Palestinians. It targets people with tear gas grenades, rubber-coated bullets and live ammunition, and carries out mass arrests, house demolitions and extrajudicial executions. This brutality lies at the heart of Israel’s systematic violations of Palestinian rights, amounting to serious breaches of international law, and even war crimes.

HSBC **owns shares** worth £831 million in companies selling weapons and military technology to Israel, including:

* £180 million of shares in BAE Systems, involved in the manufacturing the F16 fighter jets used by Israel to attack Palestinians in Gaza
* £69million of shares in Raytheon, whose ‘bunker buster’ bombs were used to target Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

HSBC **arranged loans** worth at least £19.3 billion to companies selling weapons and military technology to Israel, including:

* Caterpillar, whose specially modified bulldozers are used to demolish Palestinian homes in the oPt and Israel.
* United Technologies, who produce UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters used by the Israeli military in assaults in Palestinian civilians.

We are aware of the existence of HSBC’s Defence Equipment Sector Policy, but obviously the screening mechanisms in that policy are not enough to ensure that HSBC is not causing, contributing or directly linked to adverse human rights impacts.

As you surely know, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) apply to banks as well as to other companies, meaning that HSBC has a responsibility to take action to end its business relationships with human rights abusing companies.

**HSBC must divest from and stop lending funds to companies involved in the arms trade with Israel. Please pass on this message to the HSBC central office.**

Signed: