

FREE PALESTINE

The Wall Must Fall
www.thewallmustfall.org

Stop Connex & Alstom NOW!

FREE JERUSALEM!
STOP CONNEX & ALSTOM!

Connex and Alstom are the international investors in the Citypass consortium that won a 2002 tender put out by Israeli authorities for a light rail transportation project in Jerusalem amounting to around 500 million euros. Citypass will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the system for the next 30 years.

The path of the light rail incorporates a number of Jewish settlements around East Jerusalem, built on stolen Palestinian land. It ensures the contiguity of these colonies into the central areas of the city and provides them with a vital transport link. The project boasts that the "Ammunition Hill" station of the network will operate as the feeder station for settler traffic from Ma'aleh Adumim and from the Jordan Valley. The Light rail project plays a key role in **sustaining the settlements** and ensuring they become a permanent fixture upon Palestinian land.

The project, a private-public partnership (PPP) between the Israeli Occupation government and the consortium, is hinged upon the willingness of international business groupings to provide a huge injection of capital. In turn Connex and Alstom will reap significant profits and dividends over a thirty-year period, money stained with the blood and misery of **Palestinians under Occupation** and currently being expelled from Jerusalem.

The rail project must be stopped now!

The French companies decision to fund the project is an act entirely **contradictory to international law** and the rights of the Palestinians. Built on Palestinian land and as an integral part of settlement infrastructure, the rail project is tantamount to a war crime and forms a serious breach of international law including the Geneva Convention. Connex and Alstom directly support the ethnic cleaning of Palestinians, shut out of their capital by the Apartheid Wall and settler-roads, and the overall Zionist project to remove Palestinians from their lands.

Below: The Ghetto



Jerusalem was a hub of cultural, religious and commercial activity for thousands of years. The city reflected a diversity of cultures, a rich ethnic diversity, and served as the major **focal point for the three major religions**. Moroccans, Africans, Syrians and others made pilgrimages to the city. It was a centre for traders and a key meeting point between east, west, north and south. Religious, social and educational institutions and societies thrived. The city prospered and grew over centuries.

The ancient roads that spread out from the city recall the yearly pilgrimages of all religions. The caravans from Jerusalem to the north went through Bieroth (al Bireh today), through Shilo, a Canaanite city (and today settlement), and to Shakim (now Nablus). To the east, roads go to the city of Moon (Jericho) and beyond to the Arabian Desert, to Babylonia and beyond. To the south, through Habron (Hebron) to Bir el Saba, to Gaza, and from there

to the east, to the Pharaohs of Egypt. To the west, to Jaffa on the coast and out to the new world. Many of these routes are now **blocked by the Apartheid Wall**. New settlement roads and a railway are built to continue the efforts to render life in Jerusalem possible for Jewish settlers only.

Already after the 1967 war, when the Occupation annexed Jerusalem, it implemented systematic measures by which to control the city by **racist/discriminatory laws** that restricted Palestinian life. The old Moroccan neighbourhood of the Old City was demolished. Zionist neighbourhoods in the Old City were constructed. Historical mosques, archaeological sites, and historical buildings have all been demolished over the last 38 years. The Occupation replaced historical names with their own, not a new policy but the same measures taken when Israel was created in 1948. Then over 450 towns and villages were destroyed with the expulsion of over 800,000 Palestinians (the Nakba).

This same ideology has been responsible for land theft throughout the West Bank, secured by the Apartheid Wall and expanding settlements. In Jerusalem, Palestinian neighbourhoods have become fragmented as settlements are built around them. Now the Wall - **120kms** of it in Jerusalem alone - isolates and dissects communities. It rips through villages and neighborhoods, separating families, cutting social and economic ties, and leaves Palestinians suffocated. Some 120,000 Palestinians will be forced to leave the city as the Wall and the Occupation policies make life within the city impossible.



Destroying Jerusalem's diversity & history

The railway system **integrates the settlements into the centre of the city**, bypassing Palestinian areas, and securing the Judaization of the city. In August 2005, Ariel Sharon stated at a ceremony for the consortium that: "I believe that this should be done, and in any event, anything that can be done to strengthen Jerusalem, construct it, expand it and sustain it for eternity as the capital of the Jewish people and the united capital of the State of Israel, should be done." Occupation's Mayor Uri Lupolianski described the light rail to be "the fulfilment of Psalm 122", while the Jerusalem municipality views it as the realization of Herzl's Zionist dreams. Palestinians recognise it to be a concerted effort to eradicate their presence, history and culture in Jerusalem.

The Grassroots Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign and the National Committee To Resist The Apartheid Wall have called for immediate **action against Connex and Alstom** to halt the funding for the project. It is a crucial part of solidarity to ensure international support to Israeli violations of international law and Palestinian rights are stopped now.

Connex

Established in 24 countries with headquarters in France. Part of Veolia Group. Has significant investments in privatised service and transportation industries. Over 56,000 employees and around 2 billion passengers per year.

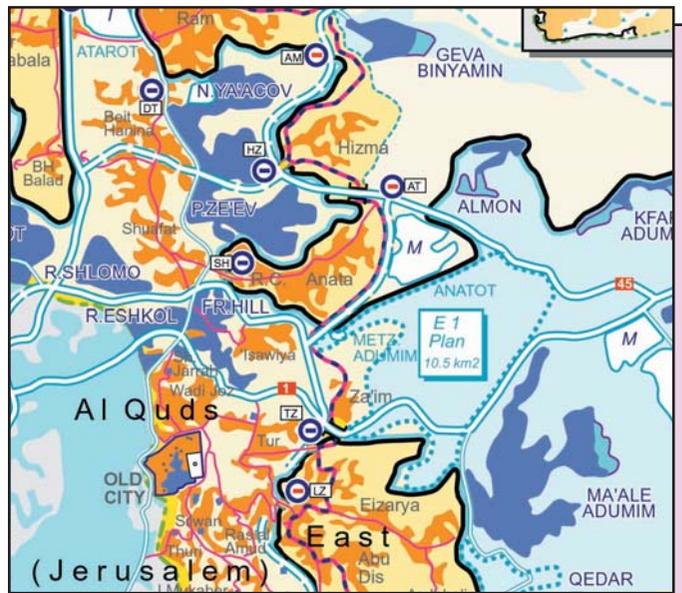
Alstom

Alstom is a smaller company, but a considerable player in the production of trains and rolling stock across the world. Employs some 28,000 people and sells its products in over 50 countries. Headquarters in France.

For years Connex have actively supported Israel with investments into various bus services. Connex states proudly that: "Controlling the art of movement in a spirit of public service is therefore our prime asset. Further, our company's personnel have a deep-seated sense of **civic responsibility and a commitment to local life**: these too are part of our strength."

The company describes how it "adapts its services to the needs of the community" and how they "strive to contribute to the enhancement of quality of life in places where we operate". Their rhetorical commitment to social justice is evident from their claim to "not focus only on the preservation of the environment and the protection of natural resources, but also assume our economic and **social responsibilities**, particularly at a local level, where we are committed to stimulating progress."

For Palestinians in Jerusalem "commitment" to the community is all too clear as Connex engages in a **project that sustains and support an illegal and brutal military Occupation**. The racism of a project that chooses to see illegal settlers as the "community", and shun the Palestinians currently being expelled from their capital is breathtaking. Connex and Alstom must be forced to withdraw their complicity and support for a racist, colonial project.



Above: The Wall in Jerusalem isolating Palestinian neighborhoods

Taking Action Against *Connex* - Halt their involvement in Israel's crimes

Australia

- Operates the entire Melbourne suburban train network.
- Runs Sydney's light rail and monorail networks under contract from Metro Transport Sydney, and a large bus network (previously *Southtrans*) in the southern suburbs.
- Operates the Southern Coast Transit bus line in Perth.
- Connex Brisbane runs buses using the former National Bus Company's fleet.

Belgium

- Operates bus services in contact to the government owned *de Lijn*.

Canada

- Connex runs *YRT Viva* bus rapid transit network in York Region
- Connex owns *GVS* and operates transportation services in Montreal.

Colombia

- Connex, in conjunction with three other operators, run a 35-km right-of-way bus line called the *Transmilenio* system.

Czech Republic

- Largest bus operator, after a 2002 take-over of Slezsko regional network.
- Runs 12 urban transport networks, 3 travel agencies and an international train service between the Czech Republic and Germany.

Denmark

- Copenhagen buses and half of all *Combus* services.

Estonia

- The transport network in city of Tartu.

Finland

- Helsinki Metropolitan Area as *Connex Finland* (previously *Linjebuss*).
- Ferry transport at *Finnmark*.
- Buses in Tampere, Seinäjoki and Jalasjärvi and express routes between Tampere, Pori, Seinäjoki and Kauhajoki.

France

- Tramways, light rail and buses in Rouen, Saint-Etienne, Nancy & Bordeaux.
- Bus networks in over 40 cities including Nice and Toulon (including *Creabus*).
- Owns 60% of Freight-transport Company at De Gaulle airport.

Germany

- Connex operates eight regional rail networks including *NordWestBahn*, *NordOstseeBahn*, *Lausitzbahn*, *Bayerische Oberlandbahn* and *InterConnex*.
- Tramways and light rail networks in Gorlitz and Berlin.

Ireland

- Tramways and light railways in Dublin known under name of *Luas*.

Lebanon

- Operates a major bus line in Lebanon called *Connex Liban*.

Netherlands

- *BBA* buses in Noord-Brabant, Tholen and Utrecht.
- *Connex SBM* buses in Stadsbus Maastricht.
- *Limex* buses (formerly *Arriva*) in south Limburg.
- *BBA Fast Ferries Zeeland* (Westerschelde ferry).

Connex also own 50% of *Eurolines*, a major coach service in Europe.

New Caledonia

- Connex created and runs the suburban bus network of Noumea.

New Zealand

- Operates Auckland's *MAXX* commuter rail service.

Norway

- Operates buses, ferries and car rental as *Connex Tog AS*, *FFR AS*, *Connex Vest AS*, *Østerhus Buss AS* and *Connex Buss AS*.

Poland

- Bus-lines in Warsaw and Tczew.
- Regional bus operations around cities of Kedzierzyn-Kozle, Sedziszow, Brzozow, Lancut, Sanok, Mielec, Torun, Kolobrzeg, Prudnik and Gorlice.

Slovenia

- Runs regional and urban buses through the companies *Certus* and *I&I*.

Spain and Portugal

- Operates in a joint venture known as *FCC Connex Corporacion*.
- Connex also operates Barcelona tramway, and the transport network in Pampelune under the name of *Montanesa*.

Sweden

- The Stockholm metro.
- Runs daily train operations from Gothenburg and Stockholm to upper Norrland and Narvik (Norway) and rail line Kinnekullebanan in the west.
- Ferry operations in Gothenburg archipelago, company called *Styrsöbolaget*.

Switzerland

- Runs urban buses in the city of Geneva, as well as charter traffic, through its subsidiary *Dupraz Bus Genève*.

United Kingdom

- Rail Authorities cut Connex's railway franchise at the end of 2003 due to "poor financial management".
- Now it operates *Bebb Travel*, small Welsh bus and coach operator that operates local bus routes with contracted coaches on behalf of *National Express*.

United States

- Connex subsidiary *MBCR* operates Boston commuter rail services under contract to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.
- In Los Angeles, Connex operates the *MetroLink*.
- Buses throughout New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, the Carolinas, Texas, California, and Colorado (including *Paratransit*)

Join the movement to stop Connex and Alstom destroying Jerusalem!

- Disseminate this information and the Call against Connex & Alstom in your local community and amongst commuters using their services.
- Write and telephone Connex and demand they pull out of the project immediately. Prepare locally led boycotts of the company and its services if Connex refuses to pull out of its support for the project (for telephone numbers and addresses see www.connex.net)
- Write and pressure your government and transport authorities urging them not to renew contracts awarded to Connex

- Write to newspapers, magazines and media outlets on the issue ensuring they cover and publicise Connex and Alstom's illegal support for **Israel's crimes**
- Work towards boycotts against other companies complicit and supportive of Israeli Occupation and Apartheid. To find out more look at www.stopthewall.org/boycotts and www.thewallmustfall.org
- Inform info@thewallmustfall.org of your activities so coordinated and effective steps can be taken to ensure the project is stopped now!