Connex and Alstom are the international investors in the Citypax 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. Citypax 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 cleansing 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.

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 fulfillment of Psalm 122”, while the Jerusalem municipality views it as the realization of Herzl’s Zionist dreams. Palestinians recognize 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.

**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 activity for thousands of years. The city reflected a diversity.
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.

### 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 Finmarck.
  - 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 Görlitz 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 Stadssbus Maastricht.
  - Linex buses (formerly Arriva) in south Limburg.
  - BBA Fast Ferries Zealand (Westerschelde ferry).
- **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-Koźle, Sedziszow, Brzozow, Lancut, Sanok, Mielec, Torun, Kolobrzeg, Prudnik and Gorlice.
- **Slovenia** - Runs regional and urban buses through the companies Certus and IBI.
- **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 Styrösöbolaget.
- **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/buyboycotts 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!