



Human rights accountability:

EPCOR's AMI Project



Ethical concerns

- EPCOR's AMI devices are made by the Arad Group
- The Arad Group has been violating Palestinians' rights for over 80 years
- Factory created in 1941 to finance a Jewish settlement; Palestinians living nearby were killed or displaced
- It helps surveil Palestinians trying to access water
- Its devices are part of illegal Israeli West Bank settlements



Legal concerns

July 2024 ICJ advisory to all nations:

- Israel's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank is illegal
- Do not aid or assist illegal Israeli settlement activities
- Abstain from trade dealings that may entrench Israel's unlawful presence
- Take steps to prevent trade or investment that maintain Israel's illegal occupation



Canada's Middle East commitments

- Promoting respect for human rights and international law
- Saving lives and alleviating suffering, especially for vulnerable citizens, refugees and displaced people
- A just solution to the Palestinian refugee issue
- Israeli settlements in the West Bank violate the Fourth Geneva Convention and are illegal under international law



Canada's position on supply chains

Even though Canadian businesses and government departments that import goods don't **control** the global supply chain, they still have the power and responsibility to make **ethical decisions** about it.

Businesses and government departments must comply with Canada's policies and positions.



Supply Chain Act

- Created to address “Canada's international commitment to the fight against forced labour and child labour”
- Came into force in 2024
- Onus is on businesses and government departments to show how they have prevented use of exploited labor:
 - Identify supply chains
 - Explain due diligence policies and processes
 - Describe areas of potential risk
 - Identify actions taken
 - Outline employee training
 - Provide measures for assessing effectiveness
 - Compensation for affected families



Learning for the future



What are the gaps that allowed EPCOR do business with a known human rights violator?

- Absence or failure of due diligence processes?
- Misunderstanding of universality of human rights?
- Insufficient consideration of alternatives?
- Prioritization of economics above other considerations?

In future, what will EPCOR commit to doing differently?