



DUTCH PUBLIC PROSECUTION RAIDS HEADQUARTER OF THE DUTCH COMPANY
RIWAL

PRESS RELEASE

Amsterdam, 14 October 2010 – On 13 October 2010, the Dutch National Crime Squad conducted a search of Riwal's offices in the Dutch town of Dordrecht. The Prosecution investigates whether companies of the Riwal Group committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Netherlands and/or the Occupied Palestinian Territories during the period of 2004 to present, by contributing to the construction of the Wall and the constructions settlements in the West Bank.

The Dutch Prosecutor is acting upon the criminal complaint lodged on 15 March 2010 on behalf of Al Haq, a Palestinian non-governmental human rights organization, against the Dutch private rental company, Riwal, for its alleged involvement in international crimes. The complaint was based on documentation collected by Al Haq and partner organizations, including witness statements and (aerial) photographs.

It is an established fact that Riwal machines were used in the construction of the Wall near Al-Khader and Hizma and the settlement near Bruqin. There are good reasons to assume that Riwal knew that the company's machines were used for the contested work. The fact that Riwal machines were used, with the company's knowledge, for the construction in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is not only evidenced by witness statements, but also by statements made by or on behalf of Riwal during the relevant period. These acts to which Riwal culpably contributed, constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity within the meaning of the International Crimes Act.

Al Haq, through their lawyer ms. prof. Liesbeth Zegveld of Böhler Lawyers, requested the Dutch Prosecutor to institute criminal proceedings against Riwal. Al Haq hopes that the Prosecutor's investigations will lead to a prosecution of Riwal. The Prosecutor has yet to make a decision as to whether to pursue the complaint further.

The complaint is part of Al Haq's on-going efforts to ensure accountability for the many corporations that are complicit in violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and whose activities facilitate the commission of international crimes by the Israeli authorities.

Contact information:

Wesam Ahmed – Al Haq; tel.: at 00972-2-295 4646

prof. dr. Liesbeth Zegveld – Böhler, Keizersgracht 560-562, 1017 EM Amsterdam; tel.: +31 (0)20-344 62 00, e-mail:
lzegveld@bohler.eu