

Statements *of the* Ulm5.

Zine by Scrappy Capy Distro
scrappycapydistro.info

Portraits by Ann Kiernan
annkiernan.com

April 2026



In the early morning of the 8th of September 2025, five individuals wearing kufiyehs filmed themselves breaking into the Elbit Systems factory in Ulm, smashing up the equipment and inventory, and spraying painting phrases like “Baby Killers” on the walls. This direct action was taken in response to Elbit’s involvement in the genocide in Palestine and other acts of Israeli military aggression. The five were arrested on-site then split up and sent to different prisons in Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. As of now, they remain in pre-trial detention with the trials starting at the end of April.

They are the Ulm5.

Elbit Systems, founded in 1966, became Israel’s largest weapons company in 2018 and is especially known for its aerial drones as well as smart munitions, surveillance, and tank technologies. Products of Elbit Systems directly promotes the apartheid inflicted on Palestinians and the genocide in Gaza.

Notably, Elbit supplies 85% of all drones used by Israel. They offer a wide range of drones for surveillance and with bombing capabilities, which have been used by the IDF since 2005. Palestinians use the word Zanana to describe the continuous “anxiety-inducing buzzing” of Israeli military UAVs, more specifically the Skylark models of Elbit Systems used for surveillance.¹ The Hermes 450 drone was developed for carrying bombs, and was extensively deployed during Israel’s the 2014 Gaza War, a 50-day conflict that resulted in the deaths of 2,200 Palestinians. Along with the Hermes 900, these drones are the backbone of bombing operations in Gaza since the 7th of October 2023.

The Ammunition used by drones to bomb Gaza is likewise developed by Elbit. Their subsidiary IMI Systems has a documented history of producing cluster munitions. In 2008, the Convention on Cluster Munitions prohibiting these weapons was signed, but despite this they continue to be deployed by non-signatory nations including Israel and the U.S. On the 19th of October 2023, it was reported that the Israeli Air Force was using Elbit’s MPR 500 bombs in its airstrikes on Gaza. The MPR 500 is a 500 lb. (230 kg.) multi-purpose rigid penetration and surface attack bomb, adapted for densely populated urban area warfare and launched from jet fighters.

Elbit Systems, like many Israeli arms manufacturers, markets its weapons as being “based on operational experience gained through tens of thousands of operational sorties by the IDF”² or simply as “battle-proven.” Their weapons’ claimed

¹<https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3794>, <https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/7639/sleepless-in-gaza>

²<https://www.elbitsystems.com/unmanned/aerial/tactical-uas/skylark-i-lex>

Prisoners are not places of justice, nor are they places of rehabilitation. And second, we do this to reduce the effects of repression against those who have taken action — any action — against oppression and domination. We do this not just to support them, but to make it clear to others that they too will be supported if the State comes after them with its violent acts of lawfare. Nobody will be left to face their fate alone.

If you would like to support the Ulm5, look for events in Berlin, or host one of your own wherever you are. You can also write letters directly to some of them who have made their names public or by sending an online letter through the prisoner support website. Information about directly sending letters, forwarding them through various solidarity groups, or directly sending online can be found at ulm5.info.

Repression against social movements is a constant, and with that, the threat of imprisonment. If your city doesn’t have a support group for prisoners, read up on the work of the Anarchist Black Cross around the world and start your own solidarity group. Or, if you know German, consider reading *Wege durch den Knast*.

We are moved and inspired by our comrades’ sacrifice, we hope you are too. We want them to know that they are not forgotten and the movement is behind them.

Until all are free, none are free!

The state is trying to make it as uncomfortable as possible for the Ulm5.

— Crow

Among other allegations, the Ulm5 being charged under §129 with membership in a criminal organization, something that carries up to five years imprisonment as its penalty. Bail has been denied for all them, and they are expected to remain in pre-trial detention through the end of proceedings. Therefore, the activists are facing up to 11 months of imprisonment — all before any verdict is reached.

The Ulm5 are incarcerated in separate prisons a minimum half day's travel from their community in Berlin. Each prison has different regulations for visitation, phone calls, books, entertainment, and recreational time. The overarching theme is that the prisons are slow, reluctant, and “under-staffed,” making them very difficult to navigate from both inside and out. Common realities for the five include visitations being approved last-minute despite requests being submitted weeks in advance, extremely limited visits (1–2 hours per month) that up until recently were held with a glass separation wall and no physical contact, a minimum of one month delay for receiving letters, negligent medical attention, and 20–23 hours a day spent in their cells.

For two weeks after their arrest, Daniel was not informed by the prison of their family's persistent attempts to contact them, and wasn't allowed any form of contact for a month. Zo was denied lawyer contact upon arrest, and for the ten weeks to follow was refused adequate medical attention for acute tonsillitis. Zo also regularly encounters racism from cellmates and prison staff. Crow reported that the amount of food provided to new prisoners leaves them all hungry and struggling to sleep, as they don't have access to commissaries yet. For Crow and Zo, access to frequent showers is randomly restricted or is conditional on them performing prison labour. Vi must receive lawyer phone calls in a cubicle with no ceiling, allowing prison staff to hear their conversation, violating attorney-client confidentiality.

Friends and family of the Ulm5 help coordinate support efforts for the five including fundraising for their commissaries, legal defense fees, pet care, and the cost of transit for loved ones to be able to visit them. They also facilitate letter writing events and forward letters to and from the prisoners.

We — friends, family, unknown comrades — do what we do for many reasons. First, no one deserves prison, and everyone incarcerated deserves support.

efficiencies at killing Palestinians are used to bolster sales and increase profits. They openly admit the use of their technology in Gaza and speak of “military challenges” they had to overcome since October 2023. Liraz, Head of the Mortars, Munition, and Precision Guided Munition (PGM) Sector is quoted in saying she “can sleep quietly knowing that our troops are using an excellent product that can help them achieve victory on the battlefield.”

Elbit has been deeply involved in maintaining Israel's border surveillance industry since 2002, when Israel began building its illegal separation wall in the occupied West Bank. That year, Elbit subsidiary Ortek was awarded a \$5 million contract to build a “smart” electronic barrier around part of Jerusalem, thereby cutting off Jerusalem's Palestinian residents from the occupied West Bank.

Elbit's influence in genocides reaches beyond West Asia. Their technology was used by Azerbaijan in Armenia and in Myanmar in the 2017 Rohingya massacre.³ This has not stopped the EU from showing massive interest in Elbit technologies. Consequentially, Elbit has expanded its network of subsidiaries in various European countries, including production.

Elbit Systems has been targeted by activist groups with over 45 documented actions across the UK, with about 700 activists arrested for these actions.⁴ They have used impactful strategies like tertiary targeting, direct action at Elbit subsidiaries and putting pressure on businesses to sever ties with them. While the actions have prevented major military Elbit arms deals with the UK their sales to the European market have grown by over 106% from 2021 to 2024 and was able to increase their profits in Europe by 24.6% in 2025.⁵

Actions against Elbit have mostly been focused in the UK, yet there have been pockets of resistance in Germany, indicating that a decentralized, pan-European trend is emerging. The Ulm5 are just one example from Germany.

Before the Ulm5 took their actions against Elbit, they filmed statements that were posted online in the weeks following their action explaining their reasons for doing what they did. What pushes a person to take action like this? Let them tell you in their own words.

³<https://visualizingpalestine.org/visual/field-tested-elbit-systems-2024-update/>

⁴*Putting Bodies on the Line: The Landscape of Direct Action and Civil Disobedience for Palestine in Britain*. https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/6364ebb4927fbc4330221d8f/69443b32ce87252c18f2e569_PUTTING-BODIES-ON-THE-LINE-v8.pdf

⁵<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israels-elbit-systems-profit-jumps-gaza-war-more-european-spending-2025-11-18/>, <https://www.ainvest.com/news/elbit-systems-1-635-billion-euro-contract-catalyst-global-defense-leadership-long-term-profitability-2508/>



Zo

I refuse to accept the genocidal German state's ongoing attempt to disempower and criminalize those who march, boycott, disrupt, occupy, and take action against the settler-colonial zionist project.

I am taking part in this direct action to shut the Elbit factory in Ulm down because first and foremost it is my duty to our Palestinian siblings, elders, and martyrs who have been resisting land theft, displacement, and genocide for decades.

After almost two years of taking to the streets to protest Germany's ongoing complicity in this escalated stage in genocide in Gaza, it is time we realize and actualize our collective power and organize as ordinary people to shut down factories such as Elbit. It is warmongering companies like Elbit which enable the land and life thieving colonial projects. We, the people, must organize to force every war profiteering government, company, and individual out of Germany and, in fact, off the face of the Earth.

So join Palestine Action Germany today. We want '48, and we will get '48.

Free Palestine, glory to our martyrs, and long live the resistance.

Crow

We refuse to sit aside and allow the German government to proclaim it condemns the death of Palestinians in Gaza and throughout occupied Palestine while at the same doubling down its complicity.

My name is Walter. I'm here with my comrades taking action against Elbit Systems, the arms manufacturer that is supplying 80% of the military equipment used by the IDF to commit genocide in Gaza and the rest of the occupied Palestine.

The German state is the second largest supplier of arms to Israel, and at the same time, it is signing 230 million euro contracts only a month ago with Elbit. They do not care about ending the genocide. They care about stockpiling weapons and making a profit from the lives of the Palestinian people, so we are here to hold them accountable. We are here to take action against them. This is your call to action. This is all of our calls to action, to organize, to mobilize, to do whatever it takes to end the genocide and to free and liberate Palestine entirely.

We want '48. We don't want any two states. We want complete and utter liberation for Palestinian people. That's all we're asking for.

We need to defend the Palestinian people's right to not only exist, but to live freely and not under an occupation and not to have to go through roadblocks and checkpoints and to be constantly oppressed by a settler state. We need to defend this right — with them, by their side obviously.

I'm just here asking you guys to join in whatever capacity you can. Get in contact with the Instagram pages that you need to.

Viva Palestina.



This statement was translated from German.

I hate violence, but unfortunately direct action is the only remaining possibility that remains for me as an individual to take against this whole damn massacre.

Elbit Systems produces, supplies, and is backed by Germany. This horrible company is Israel's largest private weapons manufacturer.

Hi. If you're watching this video, I was probably arrested. For two years, Palestinians have been massacred. Two years of live-streamed genocide. For two years, we've been on the streets, two years of rising police violence, silence of artists and journalists.

The involvement of Germany, the land I grew up in and as result repeatedly learned about the Holocaust and fascism's takeover. This country is developing in exactly the same alarming direction.

Where the hell is everyone's outcry, everyone's anger?

Protesting in the street so far hasn't changed much, other than my friends and I have been beaten requiring hospitalization and arrested.

I've decided now, after two years of protesting according to the rules of the system, to take matters into my own hands. And I call on all of you to stand up for humanity, to fight against Elbit Systems and for the end of the genocide, for the freedom of all Palestinians, for the freedom of all oppressed people.

What is the worth of my bodily safety while we continue to bask in our privileges based off the blood of others? If you can't take action yourself, support us, those who can take it.

Free Palestine from the river to the sea.



Daniel

My reason is simple. Germany's support for Israel, uncritically along military and diplomatic lines has been a stain on the country for a very long time and a sign that it has failed to learn from its past.

My name is Daniel, and if you are watching this, I'm in custody for having taken action at the Elbit arms factory in Ulm.

None of me or my comrades are undertaking this lightly. It comes in the wake of decades of German suppression of pro-Palestinian voices in Germany, of its wholesale buying into a fairy story about Israel's right to Palestinian land, and about its constant dehumanization in its media of Palestinians. I could fill half an hour with ever more ridiculous examples of all of these. As the genocide reaches a stage of artificial famine, the German state has occasionally thought to distance itself from Israel's actions, feigning some sort of a concern. This concern has led to nothing. It is purely symbolic in nature. It has not stopped nor even slowed the delivery of arms from this country to a genocidal ethno-state.

It's not obvious what's going to happen to myself and my comrades. We are going to need your support in the coming weeks and months, not just for ourselves, but also to show Germany the people of good conscience in this country are not behind what it is doing. And know that we are right to do what we did. And also so that Germany understands that people are more concerned about what is going on in Gaza than we are afraid of Germany.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.



Leandra



I would like to believe that at this point most of you already know what is Elbit Systems. But in case you don't: Elbit Systems is the largest private weapon supplier of so-called Israel.

Hi. My name is Leandra, and you are watching this video because last night I took action against Elbit Systems in Ulm, Germany. And I will be honest with you, this is not how I imagined spending my days here in Germany because I love the life I built in Berlin. But I also know that my comfort, my freedom, and my safety are not more important than the comfort, freedom, and safety of the children, men, and women that are being murdered, that are being tortured and starved to death in Gaza by the Zionist entity.

This criminal corporation makes millions of dollars year after year — especially since 2014 — out of the extermination of the indigenous people of Palestine and the occupation of their land. Most of the drones bombing the hell out of Gaza are being made by Elbit Systems. The surveillance systems of the walls that made Gaza an open air prison and that made humanitarian aid blockade possible are made by Elbit Systems. The technology that is making life impossible in the West Bank with hundreds of checkpoints all over the Palestinian territory are made by Elbit Systems.

The existence of this company is not only heinous, but it's just plain illegal. So-called Israel is the only settler colonial state active in the world.

What we did last night was fulfilling our duty as people of conscience. We know we have the moral ground to take action. It is written law that allows to take action against war criminals. And if you feel the same, you can join Palestine Action in Germany today. Please don't look away at the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Gaza, and take action with us.