



An unexploded MK84 bomb, dropped on the Al Rimal neighborhood by an Israeli F-16 on May 18, 2021 (AFP).

BULLETS, BOMBS, & MORTARS

MAERSK'S SHIPMENTS OF MUNITION COMPONENTS TO ISRAEL

8 June 2026
Palestinian Youth Movement

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Executive Summary

Since October 2023, Maersk has been shipping **weapon parts to Israel**. Parts that are central to weapons which Israel has used to kill many tens of thousands of innocent civilians in Gaza, and which are now also being used in Lebanon. The report documents that the shipments include, among other things, **parts for bullets, bombs, mortars and projectile bodies**. In other words, not just broad “military equipment,” but specific and key components of the types of weapons Israel has used in war crimes in Gaza.

A.P. Møller – Mærsk (hereafter, Maersk) has repeatedly insisted that they are not shipping “weapons or ammunition to active conflict zones,” albeit admitting to shipping military cargo more broadly. This was reiterated in March 2025, in a statement from Maersk claiming: “From the outset of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, we [Maersk] have maintained a strict policy of not shipping weapons or ammunition to Israel.”¹ This report conclusively demonstrates that Maersk’s claims and assurances are false, highlighting its shipments of munition components to Israel throughout Israel’s genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

From October 2023, and as of May 12, 2026, at least **72,742 people have been killed in Gaza and a further 172,565 injured**.² The destruction of civilian infrastructure has been catastrophic: 92% of assessed commercial and industrial establishments have been destroyed or damaged; 74% of the road network has been destroyed; 88% of above-ground water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assets and 76% of underground networks have been damaged; 83% of Gaza’s coastal zone has been fully or partially destroyed; 76% of assessed cultural and heritage sites have been destroyed or damaged; 90% of energy infrastructure – including the electricity distribution network and associated assets – has been destroyed; and 81% of information and communications technology (ICT) assets have been destroyed, with the remaining 19% damaged.³

With a ceasefire present in name only, Israel continues its military operations in Gaza through the sustained targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, alongside the systematic obstruction of humanitarian aid and the suppression of any conditions conducive to recovery. Recent announcements by Israeli authorities point to a further entrenchment of military forces along a newly designated perimeter known as the “orange line,” confining the population to increasingly smaller areas and severely curtailing the reach of humanitarian operations.⁴

An analysis of bills of lading and cargo documents uncovered **Maersk shipments of**

¹ [“Maersk statement on military-related cargo shipments” \(Archived\)](#), Maersk (2025).

² [“UNRWA Situation Report #222 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem”](#), UNRWA (2026).

³ [“Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip \(13 May 2026\)”](#), OCHA (2026).

⁴ [“Between the Yellow and Orange Lines”](#), GISHA (2026).

bullet cores and brass case cups, MK-80 and MPR bomb bodies, missile fuel-grade aluminum powder, and 120mm mortar components since October 2023—all destined for Israeli military manufacturer **Elbit Systems**. These findings fall into three categories: **bullets, bombs, and mortars** as outlined below.

Bullets

Between October 2023 and July 2025, Maersk shipped **over 1.42 million kg of bullet cores and brass case cups across 45 shipments** from U.S. suppliers (i.e., Aurubis/Wieland, Sierra Bullets, and Michigan Rod Products) to IMI Systems—an Elbit subsidiary in Ramat HaSharon. These materials supply Israel’s production of small arms ammunition, with confirmed use by Israeli snipers and tank-mounted machine guns in Gaza. Doctors in Gaza have repeatedly treated children with sniper-inflicted gunshot wounds to the head and have extracted 5.56mm rounds —the standard issue caliber for Israeli military infantry rifles — from the heads of killed Palestinian children.⁵ The same supply chain also feeds the 7.62mm ammunition used from tank-mounted machine guns, including in the killing of five-year-old Hind Rajab, her family, and the paramedics who tried to rescue her.⁶

Bombs

Between October 2023 and June 2024, Maersk transported **at least 1,996 bomb bodies, totaling over 1.1 million kg**, to Elbit Systems facilities in Ramat HaSharon and Yokneam Illit. This included MK-84 bodies from General Dynamics (Garland, Texas) and MPR series bodies from Elbit America (Ladson, South Carolina). In 2025, it also shipped 60,000 kg of **Type III Grade F Class 7 aluminum powder** from Sri Kaliswari Metal Powders Pvt Ltd, which is the specific grade used in MK-80 bomb propellant (tritonol). Both MK-80 and MPR series bombs have been widely used by Israel in Gaza.

Mortars

Between November 2023 and July 2024, Maersk delivered **nearly 40,000 kg of critical 120mm mortar components** — including tube forgings, breech cap forgings, and gasket assemblies—for delivery to Elbit Systems in Israel. These shipments originated from various suppliers across the U.S., including Trinity Forge Inc. (Mansfield, Texas), International Parts Supply Corp (Edina, Minnesota), and Ellwood National Forge (Irvine, Pennsylvania).

Projectile Bodies and Other Ordnance

In addition to bomb, bullet, and mortar components, other ordnance shipments classified under **HS code 9306.90**⁷ were also found. This includes **204 projectile bodies** and 42 miscellaneous general equipment items shipped by Maersk to Israel between November 2023 and May 2024. Most were consigned by the Government of Israel’s Ministry of Defense (IMOD), while 40 projectile bodies were sent from Laser Access LLC (Walker, Michigan) to IMI

⁵ [“BBC Examines Shooting of Children in Gaza”](#) (Available to view on [YouTube](#)), BBC News (1 August 2025).

⁶ [“The killing of Layan Hamada and Hind Rajab”](#), Earshot (2024).

⁷ HS 9306.90 pertains to: “Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions of war and parts thereof; cartridges and other ammunition and projectiles and parts thereof, including shot and cartridge wads”; “Other”. [“Harmonized System, Section XIX Chapter 93 Heading 9306”](#), World Customs Organization (2022).

Systems Ltd. Due to limited information, they could not be categorized under the three prior sections, but nonetheless form part of the broader pattern of Maersk-facilitated munition transfers to Israel.

Collectively, these shipments represent Maersk as a critical artery connecting U.S. military producers with Israeli military facilities, enabling the production and deployment of the very munitions used on the people of Gaza. The incidents described in this report engage core rules of international humanitarian law governing the conduct of hostilities. Where Israeli forces have used 5.56mm and 7.62mm small-arms ammunition, tank-mounted machine guns, aerial bombs, and mortar munitions against Palestinian civilians in Gaza, including children, journalists, medical personnel, displaced persons, ambulances and civilian homes, the conduct described implicates the prohibitions on directly attacking civilians and civilian objects, carrying out indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, and failing to take all feasible precautions in attack.⁸ In incidents where clearly identifiable children, journalists, paramedics and ambulances were shot or struck despite posing no imminent threat, the conduct may amount to war crimes, including willful killing and intentionally directing attacks against civilians, medical personnel, and humanitarian or medical transports.⁹

Indeed, Maersk actively facilitates the transport of military cargo to conflict zones, despite its claim to the opposite. Maersk has shipped the MK-80 bombs that Israel used in its regional war on Gaza, Yemen, Lebanon, and recently, Iran, yet Maersk continues to evade responsibility for shipping military cargo that support Israel's genocide in Gaza. This responsibility is compounded by the fact that the United Nations declared that Israel's actions in Gaza constitute serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian laws and risk complicity in international crimes, including genocide,¹⁰ and UN experts called on companies to cease activities that facilitate such crimes.¹¹ Maersk has already been named by the UN Special Rapporteur at the Human Rights Council as complicit in Israel's system of occupation and genocide.¹² Maersk possesses the ability to end shipments to active warzones, as it demonstrated when it halted services to Russia due to the Russia–Ukraine war.¹³ The findings in this report, documenting shipments of munition components, further underscore just how deeply entrenched Maersk's involvement is in Israel's onslaught — and that the company is misleading the public through false assurances.

8 ICRC, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 1 (The Principle of Distinction between Civilians and Combatants), Rule 6 (Civilians' Loss of Protection from Attack), and related rules on civilian protection, available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1> [last accessed 21 May 2026]. Also, Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), arts. 48, 51, 52 and 57, available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/api-1977> and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-additional-geneva-conventions-12-august-1949-and> [last accessed 21 May 2026].

9 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8(2)(a) and art. 8(2)(b)(i)-(iv), (xxiv), available at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf> [last accessed 21 May 2026]. Also, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8(2)(b)(iii) and (xxiv), and art. 8(2)(e)(ii)-(iii), Available at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf> [last accessed 21 May 2026].

10 "Israel has committed genocide in the Gaza Strip, UN Commission finds", OHCHR (2025).

11 "States and companies must end arms transfers to Israel immediately or risk complicity in human rights violations", OHCHR (2024).

12 "Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel", OHCHR (2024).

13 "Maersk Stops Shipping to Russian Ports", The Wall Street Journal (2022).

Israel's continued occupation and settlement enterprise are unlawful under international law, as outlined in International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory note in July 2024 and UNGA Res. ES-10/31.¹⁴

We call on Maersk to,

- **Take concrete steps to immediately cease the transfer of ammunition components and all military cargo to Israel and end any business relationships that risk contributing to or creating a direct linkage to Israeli violations of Palestinian rights, including acts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. This is the minimum standard expected of companies that find themselves in business relationships with alleged perpetrators of international crimes.**
- **Conduct heightened human rights due diligence to identify and address business relationships that may contribute to maintaining Israel's unlawful occupation,¹⁵ including facilitating businesses located in or supporting settlements. Heightened human rights due diligence must cover the entire value chain and not be limited to Maersk's first tier of suppliers and clients, such as freight forwarders. In high-risk areas such as Israel, Maersk must conduct due diligence beyond its first tier of business relationships to ensure the ultimate recipient is not a settlement enterprise or other manifestation of unlawful occupation.**
- **Engage with Palestinians affected by Israel's occupation and ethnic cleansing to ensure the company is informed about the human rights violations to which Palestinians are exposed and how the company can ensure it acts to respect the rights of Palestinian rightsholders. This should include being transparent about the nature and scope of human rights due diligence and related measures the company has undertaken. It should also include cooperation with international and national authorities conducting investigations to ensure accountability for international crimes, including investigations into allegations of corporate complicity in such crimes.**

¹⁴ [UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-10/24](#) demands that Israel end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) no later than 12 months after adoption.

¹⁵ Israel's continued occupation and settlement enterprise are unlawful under international law, as outlined in [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\) Advisory note in July 2024](#) and UNGA Res. ES-10/31.

Methodology

The following research highlights evidence of Maersk’s shipments of munitions components to Israel, sourced mainly from bills of lading and associated cargo documents obtained through commercial shipping data providers.

A bill of lading is the contract between a carrier company like Maersk and its clients. It can provide crucial details about sea freight shipments, including the shipper address, receiver address, place of receipt, weight, and descriptions of cargo.¹⁶ This investigation analyzed dozens of bills of lading related to supply chains to Elbit and the Government of Israel’s Ministry of Defense to identify connections between Maersk and the production of munitions used in the genocide in Gaza.

The recommendations in this report are focused on halting arms transfers and ensuring corporate compliance with international humanitarian law and business and human rights standards.

All foreign corporations featured in this report were given an Opportunity to Comment. This was conducted between 14 May and 1 June 2026. Only Maersk responded on the 2nd of June reiterating its previous position,¹⁷ saying:

Maersk remains committed to following international standards for responsible business conduct and adheres to local laws and regulations. We continuously review our implementation of such standards, with a view to conducting business responsibly. Our compliance processes for military-related cargo are based on EU, US, and Danish laws including the Wassenaar Arrangement, the EUs common military list and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations as well as UN resolutions. Throughout the conflict between Israel and Hamas we have complied with relevant regulations and are guided by international standards. Specifically:

- *From the outset of the conflict, we have maintained a strict policy of not shipping weapons or ammunition to Israel.*
- *As the conflict escalated, we have further enhanced our screening and acceptance procedures and implemented additional compliance measures.*

¹⁶ [“Bill of lading - what is it and why is it important?”](#), Maersk (2023)

¹⁷ See Maersk’s July 2025 “Comment on report issued by UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese,” available under [“Maersk statement on military-related cargo shipments” \(Archived\)](#).



An Elbit Systems Ltd. Hermes 900 StarLiner drone. (Elbit Systems Ltd.)

Background on Elbit Systems

Elbit Systems Ltd. is Israel’s largest weapon manufacturer, ranking 25th in the world, as of 2024,¹⁸ and it positioned itself as a ‘one-stop shop’ for defense needs when it acquired Israeli state-owned Israel Military Industries (IMI) in 2018.¹⁹ Elbit’s largest client is the Israeli military, which accounted for 29% of its sales in Q3 2024.²⁰ Elbit’s revenue from Israel and its new business from signed contracts rose significantly over the course of the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Based on Elbit’s reporting from Q1 2025, Elbit’s revenue in Israel was \$1.99 billion in 2024, up from \$1.17 billion in 2023 and \$1.07 billion in 2022. Its new business from Israeli contracts was worth \$5.12 billion in 2024, up from \$2.25 billion in 2023 and \$1.01 billion in 2022.²¹ This increased revenue is the result of Israel’s shift towards domestic weapon production, following increased global pressure and embargoes.

Within the context of weapons restrictions from Western allies, such as the U.S. briefly suspending some weapons shipments to Israel and Canada pausing new arms export permits in early 2024, Israel's Defense Ministry accelerated a domestic procurement push with Elbit under a “made in Israel” policy aimed at what Defense Ministry Director-General Zamir called “greater manufacturing independence” in munitions production, efforts he

18 “[The SIPRI Top 100 arms-producing and military services companies in the world, 2024](#)”, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (2025).

19 “[With IMI acquisition, Elbit looks to be a ‘one-stop shop’ for defense needs](#)”, Defense News (2018) ([Archived](#)).

20 “[Israeli defence firm Elbit reports robust quarterly profit, looks to laser technologies](#)”, Reuters (2024).

21 “[Investor Presentation - August 2025](#)”, Elbit Systems (2025) ([Archived](#)).

described as “a key takeaway from recent events.”²² Elbit already had contracts for 155mm artillery shells, including a year-long, \$60 million contract signed July 2023.²³ This example highlights how Elbit, which already supplied the Israeli Ministry of Defense, grew more important and played a larger role in supplying the Israeli military since October 2023. Since 2023, Elbit has received many contracts from the Israeli Ministry of Defense, including:

- A group of contracts worth a total of \$760 million for the supply of ammunition to IMOD, announced in May 2024.²⁴
- A \$190 million contract for the “Iron String” laser and GPS-guided mortar munitions in July 2024,²⁵ specifically for use by the IDF’s ground forces as they used the “Iron Sting” in Gaza.²⁶
- A \$340 million contract for ammunition and munitions, with the development of a new factory in August 2024.²⁷
- Two contracts, worth a combined \$276 million, for heavy aerial munitions and the establishment of a new factory for raw materials with military use, including “explosive chemistry” for bomb production, in January 2025.²⁸
- A \$260 million contract for aerial munitions in August 2025.²⁹

These few contracts show Elbit receiving \$1.8 billion in contracts for ammunition, munitions, and mortars. Given that Elbit reported \$5.12 billion in new business in 2024 alone, these contracts represent a fraction of the total contracts. Still, they highlight Elbit’s central role in supplying the Israeli military as it kills civilians and destroys civilian infrastructure in Gaza.

Israeli Military Industries and the Elbit Systems’ Plant in Ramat Ha-Sharon

Israeli Military Industries (IMI) was a state-owned Israeli weapons manufacturer that produced weapons and ammunition for the Israeli military. IMI, headquartered in Ramat Hasharon, provided a large portion of the Israeli military ground forces’ ammunition, rockets, and precision ordinance.³⁰ The company was privatized and bought by Elbit Systems, and it now functions under the Elbit subsidiaries IMI Systems and Elbit Land Systems (ELS), both of which are headquartered in Ramat HaSharon according to Elbit’s site.³¹

The Ramat Hasharon facility includes IMI’s small arms ammunition division.³² According to

22 [“Defense Min. secures NIS 1b. deals with Elbit systems to boost military self-sufficiency”](#), The Jerusalem Post (2025).

23 [“Elbit Systems Awarded Approximately \\$60 Million Contract to Supply Artillery Shells to the Israel Ministry of Defense”](#), Elbit Systems (2023) (Archived).

24 [“ELBIT SYSTEMS REPORTS FIRST QUARTER 2024 RESULTS”](#), Elbit Systems (2024) (Archived).

25 [“Elbit Systems Awarded Approximately \\$190 Million Contract to Supply Iron Sting Guided Mortar Munition to the Israeli Ministry of Defense”](#), Elbit Systems (2024) (Archived).

26 [“Meet the IDF’s Newly Operational “Iron Sting” GPS and Laser-Guided Mortar Munition”](#), Israel Defense Forces (2023) (Archived).

27 [“Elbit Systems Awarded a Contract of Approximately \\$340 Million for the Supply of Ammunition to the Israeli Ministry of Defense”](#), Elbit Systems (2024) (Archived).

28 [“No more favors from Uncle Sam: Elbit to manufacture munitions for IDF”](#), Ynet (2025).

29 [“Elbit Systems Awarded Two Contracts in an Aggregate Amount of Approximately \\$260 Million for the Supply of Advanced Airborne Munitions to the Israel Ministry of Defense”](#), Elbit Systems (2025) (Archived).

30 [“Elbit buys state-owned arms maker IMI for NIS 1.8 billion”](#), The Times of Israel (2018).

31 [“Major Subsidiaries”](#), Elbit Systems (2025) (Archived).

32 [“IMI Systems Ltd”](#), LinkedIn (Archived).

+972 *Magazine*, IMI was the main small arms ammunition supplier for the Israeli military in 2018, prior to its acquisition by Elbit,³³ and the company LinkedIn mentions that they are the exclusive supplier to the Israeli military, mentioning manufacture of ammunition with calibers ranging from 5.56mm to 12.7mm.³⁴



Figure 1. The sign at Elbit’s IMI Ramat Hasharon Plant, listing “Combat Systems,” “Rocket and Missile Systems,” and “Munition and Ammunition.”³⁵

The Ramat Hasharon facility continues to play a significant role under Elbit’s management. The facility was supposed to be evacuated, replaced by housing units, and moved to a new facility in the Naqab (Negev) desert as part of the Elbit acquisition.³⁶ However, IMOD requested a postponement of the evacuation for a year and a half with an exemption from any resulting penalties to allow Elbit to continue ammunition production at all its facilities and fulfill its contracts.³⁷ In January 2025, the signing ceremony for Elbit’s \$276 million munitions contract took place at the plant between director general of IMOD Eyal Zamir and Elbit CEO Bezahel Machlis.³⁸

Soltam and the Elbit Systems’ Plant in Yokneam Illit

In 2010, Elbit acquired the artillery maker Soltam Systems Ltd.³⁹ Elbit took control of the Soltam plant in Yokneam Illit, which had extensive and unique experience with artillery.⁴⁰ As a subsidiary of Elbit Systems Ltd, Soltam has previously fulfilled artillery contracts for IMOD. In 2011, Elbit fulfilled a \$40 million contract with IMOD for the 120mm Cardom artillery system.⁴¹ In 2017, Elbit won a contract for the Atmos 155mm howitzer that would be performed in the Yokneam facility.⁴² In sum, Elbit’s Yokneam facility is a critical site of artillery production for IMOD.

33 “What’s causing unusual bullet wounds among Gaza protesters?”, +972 *Magazine* (2018).

34 “Small Caliber Ammunition Division- Israel Military Industries”, LinkedIn ([Archived](#)).

35 “היריב” [English: Gallery] ([Archived](#)), Yanki Ilan Shlomi Signs (2020)

36 “IMI brings Negev move forward two years”, *Globes* (2017).

37 “Evacuation and Rehabilitation of Israel Military Industries (IMI) Lands”, State Comptroller of Israel (2025) ([Archived](#)).

38 “No more favors from Uncle Sam: Elbit to manufacture munitions for IDF”, *Ynet* (2025).

39 “Elbit Systems Reports Third Quarter 2010 Results”, Elbit Systems (2010) ([Archived](#)).

40 “Defense Ministry wants only Israeli-made artillery”, *Globes* (2017).

41 “Elbit Systems Reports Third Quarter 2010 Results”, Elbit Systems (2010) ([Archived](#)).

42 “Elbit selected to develop IDF artillery capability”, *Globes* (2017).

Bullets: Transfers of Ammunition Components

Data from commercial shipping data providers shows that since October 2023, Maersk made at least 45 shipments of brass case cups and bullet cores, weighing over 1.4 million kg, to IMI Systems, a subsidiary of Elbit, at its facility in Ramat Hasharon, IL. Departing from the Port of Newark and arriving through the Port of Haifa (see **Table 1**), these 45 shipments consisted of 33 shipments of “BRASS CASE CUPS” from Aurubis Buffalo, Inc, 6 shipments of “CORES” from Michigan Rod Products, and 6 shipments of “BULLET CORES” from Sierra Bullets.

Goods Description	Number of shipments	Sender	Receiver	Route	Weight(kg)
Brass Case Cups	33	Aurubis Buffalo, Inc.	IMI Systems	Newark → Haifa	1,290,369
Cores	6	Michigan Rod Products	IMI Systems	Newark → Haifa	89,346
Bullet Cores	6	Sierra Bullets	IMI Systems	Newark → Haifa	45,837
Total Weight (kg)					1,425,552

Table 1. Identified Maersk Shipments to IMI Systems (Since October 2023)

Previous reporting exposed Maersk’s shipments of rifle cups directly to Israel’s Ministry of Defense, revealing 32 shipments weighing more than 590,000 kg between September 2023 and September 2024.^{43,44} This report reveals additional shipments of rifle cups and bullet cores, central to the supply chain of ammunition to the Elbit Systems. These shipments go to Israel’s main —potentially exclusive — supplier of small arms ammunition and directly to the facility carrying out ammunition contracts with IMOD. Thus, Maersk’s shipments enable the assembly of ammunition for the Israeli military while it is committing apparent war crimes in Gaza.

Taken together, this evidence establishes a direct chain from Maersk's shipments of brass case cups and bullet cores to Elbit/IMI's production of small arms ammunition and ultimately to their use by Israeli forces in Gaza against civilians. 5.56mm cartridges produced by IMI are standard issue for Israeli military infantry rifles and have been surgically removed from the heads of Palestinian children shot by Israeli snipers in Gaza, as documented by treating physicians.⁴⁵ In parallel, 7.62mm rounds have been used from tank-mounted machine guns, including in the killing of five-year-old Hind Rajab, her family members, and the paramedics

43 [“Evidence of Maersk Shipments to the Israeli Military”](#), Mask Off Maersk (2024)
 44 [“Bills of Ladings reveal Maersk’s cargo to Israel: Loaded with military hardware”](#), Danwatch (2025).
 45 [“BBC Examines Shooting of Children in Gaza”](#) (Available to view on [YouTube](#)), BBC News (1 August 2025).

who tried to rescue her.⁴⁶ These incidents form part of a wider documented pattern during the war in which children, including very young children, have been killed in homes, streets, ambulances and other civilian settings, with medical, UN and human rights sources documenting repeated cases where the victims' age, location and circumstances point to non-participation in hostilities.⁴⁷



Figure 2. Anatomy of a rifle cartridge.⁴⁸

Small arms ammunition, refers to ammunition used for small, man-portable arms, including pistols and rifles. This type of ammunition is composed of 4 primary parts, visible in **Figure 2** showing a deconstructed rifle cartridge. The projectile (also known as the bullet, bullet core, core, and slug) is the part of the round of ammunition that exits the barrel of the gun and moves toward the target. The weight of a bullet is measured in grains. The primer is a tiny metal cup that holds a priming compound, which ignites the powder when it is hit by the gun's firing pin. The powder is the explosive propellant that gets ignited by the primer and propels the bullet forward. Most modern cartridges use smokeless powder made of nitrocellulose or nitrocellulose and nitroglycerin. The case holds all the cartridge components together, and it is usually made of brass. All four parts combine to form a cartridge, also known as a round and sometimes referred to as a bullet. To disambiguate between projectiles and completed cartridges, the word bullet will only be used to refer to the projectile.

Israeli Military's Use of Small Arms Ammunition

The Israeli military mainly uses 5.56x45mm and 7.62x39mm ammunition for their small arms, including the rifles used by snipers and the machine guns mounted on tanks. Israeli snipers have fired rifle rounds at children. Doctors have repeatedly treated children with gunshot wounds to the head from Israeli snipers,⁴⁹ and they have extracted 5.56mm rounds—which are standard issue for all Israeli military infantry rifles—from the heads of killed Palestinian children.⁵⁰ Israeli snipers have repeatedly shot at displaced Palestinians, evacuating to so-called safe zones.⁵¹ Outside of the hand-held rifles of ground troops, the Israeli military uses

46 [“The killing of Layan Hamada and Hind Rajab”](#), Earshot (2024).

47 See [UN Commission of Inquiry, A/HRC/60/CRP.3](#), paras. 24–28 and 214–217; and [MSF, “Gaza: MSF survey shows almost half of people killed are children”](#), 9 July 2025. These sources document children killed in homes, evacuation routes, safe areas, rescue contexts and other civilian settings, including very young children and children shot in circumstances indicating non-participation in hostilities.

48 [“What Are the Basic Parts of Ammunition?”](#), Field & Stream (2023).

49 [“Opinion | What Doctors and Health Care Workers in Gaza Saw”](#), *The New York Times* (2024).

50 [“Not a normal war”: doctors say children have been targeted by Israeli snipers in Gaza”](#), *The Guardian* (2024).

51 [“Israeli snipers accused of attacking fleeing civilians in Gaza”](#), *Al Jazeera* (2024).

small arms ammunition in its tank-mounted machine guns. The Israeli military fired 7.62mm rounds at five-year Hind Rajab after killing her family in the car with her and killing the paramedics that came to save her.⁵² These stories provide a snapshot into the critical role of small arms ammunition in carrying out Israel's genocide in Gaza. These shootings must also be understood in legal terms. The use of 5.56mm and 7.62mm ammunition by Israeli snipers and tank-mounted machine guns against children, displaced civilians, journalists and medical personnel engages the fundamental rule of distinction, which prohibits making the civilian population or individual civilians the object of attack.⁵³ The concern is reinforced by documented cases where the victims' age, status, location and circumstances point to non-participation in hostilities, including very young children, displaced people on evacuation routes or in designated "safe" areas, journalists, and medical personnel responding to attacks. The same conduct also implicates the rule of precaution in attack, which requires all feasible precautions to verify that targets are military objectives and to avoid or minimize civilian harm.⁵⁴ Where such shootings were directed at persons known to be civilians, including children, clearly marked medics and journalists, they may amount to war crimes under customary international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.⁵⁵



Figure 3. Israeli soldier aiming a Merkava-mounted machine gun with an IMI ammunition crate during Israel's genocide in Gaza.⁵⁶

52 "The Killing Of Hind Rajab", Forensic Architecture (2024).

53 ICRC, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 1 (The Principle of Distinction between Civilians and Combatants), Rule 6 (Civilians' Loss of Protection from Attack), and related rules on civilian protection, available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1> [last accessed 21 May 2026].

54 Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), arts. 48, 51, 52 and 57, available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/api-1977> and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-additional-geneva-conventions-12-august-1949-and> [last accessed 21 May 2026].

Israel is not party the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, but these articles have counterparts in Customary International Humanitarian Law by which Israel is bound. Substantive counterparts to AP I Articles 48, 51, 52 and 57 thus exist as customary IHL rules on: Distinction between civilians/combatants and civilian objects/military objectives (Rules 1, 7–10). Prohibition of direct, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against civilians and civilian objects (Rules 1–2, 11–14). Precautions in attack, including verification, proportionality assessment and effective warning (Rules 15–21)

55 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8(2)(a) and art. 8(2)(b)(i)–(iv), (xxiv), available at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf> [last accessed 21 May 2026].

56 "Israeli British reservist [...], of the Kfir Brigade's 92nd Infantry Battalion 'Shimshon,' documented and posted his involvement in the Gaza Genocide", @trackingisrael, X (2024).

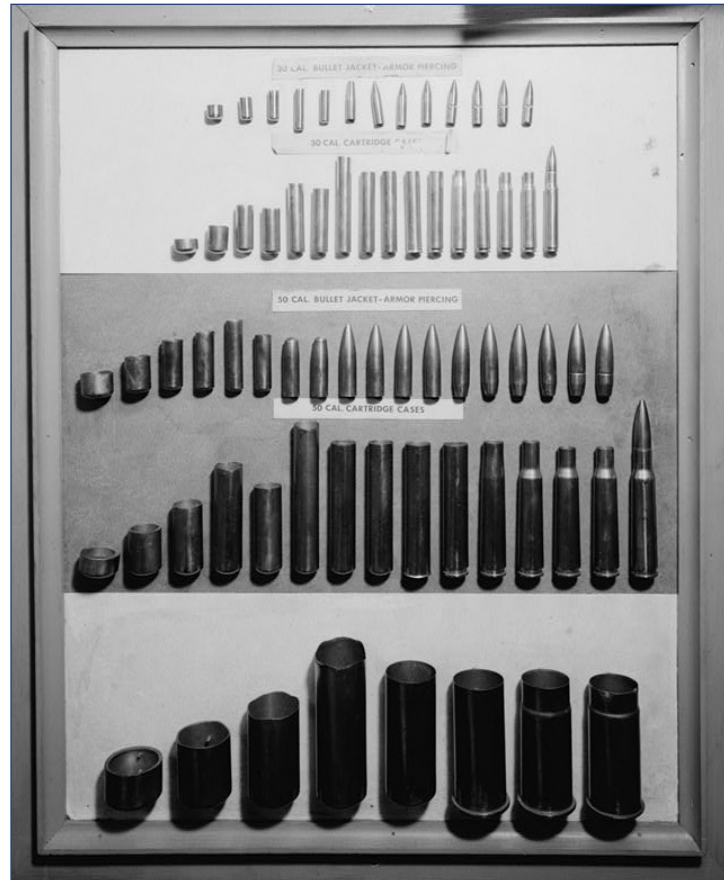
Key Suppliers

A supply chain of this magnitude is not anonymous. The transfer of over one million kilograms of ammunition components from American factories to an Israeli arms manufacturer is made possible by a specific network of corporate enablers. This network operates in two distinct but interconnected stages: the U.S.-based industrial manufacturers that produce the raw materials, and the global shipping lines that transport this cargo overseas. The following subsections identify the specific companies behind these shipments, detailing their roles in this lethal supply chain.

Aurubis Buffalo

The Aurubis Buffalo plant at 400 Military Rd, Buffalo, NY 14207 supplies metals for various industries, with a long history of producing brass cups for ammunition (see **Figure 4**).⁵⁷ In August 2024, Wieland Group, a German manufacturer of semi-finished products in copper and copper alloys acquired this facility from Aurubis,⁵⁸ and their North American website lists “first draw cups, bullet jackets and strip products for all commercial calibers and military calibers up to 20mm” as part of their ammunition product portfolio.⁵⁹

Figure 4. Display of ammunition produced in the Buffalo plant, showing the stages through which the products are drawn and formed, beginning with the cups on the left side of each row.⁶⁰



Sierra Bullets

Sierra Bullets is a manufacturer of bullet cores and completed ammunition for hunting, competition shooting, civilian defense, and military use, based out of 1400 W Henry St, Sedalia, MO. A history of supplying Sierra Bullets bullet cores to IMI Systems over many years has implicated the company in internationally condemned war crimes. During the 2018 Great March of Return protests, Israeli snipers fired live ammunition at civilian protestors, journalists, health workers, children and persons with disabilities, and a UN Commission of Inquiry report found that Israeli Security Forces violated international law

57 “[Aurubis Buffalo](#)”, Aurubis Buffalo.

58 “[Wieland acquires Aurubis' plant in Buffalo, NY](#)”, Wieland Group (2024).

59 “[Ammunition](#)”, Wieland Rolled Products NA.

60 “[Aurubis Buffalo](#)”, Aurubis Buffalo.

in what “may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity.”⁶¹ A report published in Forensic Architecture suggested that those snipers used IMI ammunition made with Sierra Bullets’ MatchKing bullet cores. MatchKing is Sierra Bullets’ line of ‘open tip’ bullets, which expand and flatten inside the human body.⁶² This finding is not merely historical. It is directly relevant to the current assault on Gaza because it demonstrates that IMI — now part of Elbit Systems — is highly suspected to have supplied sniper ammunition used by Israeli forces in Gaza against civilians, including children, journalists and medical workers.

MatchKing is Sierra Bullets’ line of ‘open tip’ bullets, which expand and flatten inside the human body. Dr. Basel Alaila, from the Indonesian Hospital in Gaza City, described the impact of these bullets on his patients during the Great March of Return: **“This bullet is more dangerous than the live bullets normally used... it breaks into many sections that can hit various organs and cause bleeding, which may lead us to remove the organ. These types of wounds often leave the surgeon in Gaza with very little choice; all bad choices.”**⁶³



Figure 5. An open-tip 7.62mm bullet found by Forensic Architecture’s researchers in Gaza during the 2018 Great March of Return, highly suspected to be from Sierra Bullets.⁶⁴

Michigan Rod Products

Michigan Rod Products specializes in manufacturing “wire form products and assemblies,” utilizing a process known as “cold heading.”⁶⁵ This manufacturing technique, which involves shaping metal wire at room temperature, is a common and efficient method for producing high volumes of precise bullet components.

The company’s role in the ammunition supply chain is well-documented. It has served as a vendor for the U.S. military, supplying copper slugs for the 5.56mm M855A1 cartridge.⁶⁶ Furthermore, shipping data shows that Michigan Rod Products has sent at least 6 shipments explicitly labeled as “CORES” to Israel Military Industries (IMI).

While the specific caliber of the cores sent to IMI cannot be verified, the company is known to produce components for some of the most lethal types of ammunition. For instance, a separate shipment on June 8, 2025, destined for Spain, contained “Steel Core .50 Api M8,” which are the core components for .50 caliber armor-piercing incendiary bullets.

61 [“Report of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the OPT”](#), UN Commission of Inquiry (2019).

62 [“Matchking: Warren B. Kanders And The Israeli Army”](#), Forensic Architecture (2019).

63 Ibid.

64 Ibid.

65 [“Home Page”](#), Michigan Rod Products.

66 [“Life-Cycle Environmental Assessment \(LCEA\) Cartridge 5.56mm Ball, M855A1”](#), U.S. Department of the Army (2010).



Figure 6. An Israeli F-16 carrying two MK 84-series bombs.⁶⁷

Bombs: Transfers of MK-84 and MPR Bomb Components

The United States continues to underwrite Israel’s air campaign with a sustained flow of heavy ordnance, most notably the MK-84 bomb. This 2,000-pound (907 kg) weapon is an instrument of wide-area destruction which cannot be used with discrimination, as is legally required, in densely populated areas. In early 2025, the U.S. administration declared an emergency status to authorize a more than \$2 billion arms package, fast-tracking over 35,000 of these bomb bodies to Israel and limiting opportunities for public or congressional debate.⁶⁸

While not the exclusive bomb production facilities, two U.S.-based manufacturing sites play a critical role in the supply of bomb components to Israel: the **General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems (GD-OTS)** site in Garland, Texas, and **Elbit Systems of America (“Elbit America”)** in Ladson, South Carolina. These facilities produce critical components for the MK-80 series and MPR family bombs, respectively. The use in Gaza of MK-80 and MPR-series bombs supplied through the chain documented in this report raises the same core prohibitions under the law of armed conflict. Direct attacks on homes, shelters, encampments, hospitals, schools or other civilian objects are prohibited unless, and only for such time as, they become military objectives.⁶⁹ Even where a lawful military objective is present, attacks expected to cause incidental civilian harm excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated are prohibited as disproportionate, and attackers must take all feasible precautions in the choice of means and methods of attack.⁷⁰

67 “OSMP728”, Open Source Munitions Portal (2024).

68 “Israel – Munitions and Munitions Support”, Defense Security Cooperation Agency (2025)

69 ICRC, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 1 (The Principle of Distinction between Civilians and Combatants), Rule 6 (Civilians’ Loss of Protection from Attack), and related rules on civilian protection, available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1> [last accessed 21 May 2026].

70 “Protection of Civilians”, ICRC.

Insofar as the incidents discussed in this report involve strikes on areas crowded with displaced civilians, repeated attacks on protected civilian infrastructure, or the use of heavy explosive weapons in circumstances where civilian harm was foreseeably massive, they may amount to indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, which may be war crimes.⁷¹

Maersk’s Shipment of Bomb Bodies

Between October 2023 and June 2024, over **1.1 million kg of bomb bodies were delivered to Israel by Maersk**. These shipments included more than 235 tonnes of **MK-84 bomb bodies** from the General Dynamics facility in Garland, Texas, and 925 tonnes of **MPR family bomb bodies** from Elbit America in Ladson, South Carolina. The cargo was delivered to the Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit Systems at its Ramat HaSharon facility (IMI Systems) and its Soltam Land plant in Yokneam Illit (Elbit Systems Land). Transportation was arranged by Maersk, which operated several vessels for portions of the route, including the MAERSK KENSINGTON (IMO 9333010), MAERSK KINLOSS (IMO 9333022), MAERSK CHICAGO (IMO 9332975), and MAERSK SELETAR.

Table 2 outlines these shipments, offering a view into Maersk’s involvement in bomb component transfers as a portion of the logistical operation underpinning Israel’s strikes on Gaza:

Goods Description	Sender	Receiver	Route	Weight	Departure Date	Arrival Date
EMPTY BODY ASSY (144 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	75,182 kg	17-May-2024	27-Jun-2024
EMPTY BODY ASSY (144 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	75,182 kg	17-May-2024	27-Jun-2024
EMPTY BODY ASSY (96 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	50,121 kg	3-May-2024	16-Jun-2024
EMPTY BODY ASSY (144 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	75,182 kg	26-Apr-2024	11-Jun-2024
EMPTY BODY ASSY (144 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	75,182 kg*	11-Apr-2024	15-May-2024
EMPTY BODY ASSY (620 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	323,700 kg*	3-Mar-2024	12-Apr-2024
BODY ASSY (160 pieces)**	General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems (GD-OTS)	Elbit Systems Land	Houston → Haifa	168,183 kg*	21-Jan-2024	24-Feb-24

⁷¹ “[Rule 1. The Principle of Distinction between Civilians and Combatants](#)”, ICRC.

EMPTY BODY ASSY (144 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	75,182 kg*	19-Jan-2024	14-Mar-2024
EMPTY BODY ASSY (144 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	75,182 kg*	19-Jan-2024	10-Feb-2024
EMPTY BODY ASSY (96 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	43,968 kg*	1-Dec-2023	23-Jan-2024
EMPTY BODY ASSY (96 pieces)	Elbit America	IMI Systems Ltd	Charleston → Haifa	43,968 kg*	3-Nov-2023	1-Jan-2024
BODY ASSY (64 pieces)**	General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems (GD-OTS)	IMI Systems Ltd	Houston → Haifa	67,273 kg	28-Oct-2023	4-Dec-2023
ESTIMATED TOTAL				1,160,611 kg		

Table 2. Maersk shipments of bomb body assemblies to Elbit Systems subsidiaries since October 2023.

*Estimated weight

**Identified as MK-84 bomb bodies, having weights comparable to pre-October 2023 shipments of MK-84 bodies (e.g., 112 bodies of MK-84s delivered to Israel via MAERSK COLOMBUS during March, 2023).

Elbit Systems of America's Ladson SC Facility

Elbit Systems of America, a subsidiary of Elbit Systems Ltd., opened a facility at 9028 Palmetto Commerce Parkway, Ladson, SC in May 2023. This facility is called the “Ground Combat Vehicle Assembly and Integration Center of Excellence.”⁷² The initial project of the facility was developing the Sigma mobile cannon artillery system for the Israeli military,⁷³ with a planned delivery date to Israel in 2025.⁷⁴

Besides this, the facility has the ability to manufacture and ship Elbit's MPR series bombs. Based on data from commercial shipping data providers, the facility has received 3 shipments of parts, machinery, and transport equipment for MPR500 bombs from IMI Systems Ltd. in Ramat Hasharon, Israel. These 3 shipments consisted of an August 2023 shipment of “9 CRATES OF MPR 500 PARTS 7 PLTS OF OF STATION TABLES & TOOLS FOR MPR500,” a May 2023 shipment of 150 “TOP & BOTTOM METAL PALLETS,” and a September 2025 shipment of 2475 metal pallets. The U.S. military uses MHU-149 metal pallets for transporting MK82 bombs, which the MPR500 is based on.⁷⁵ While these shipments were not handled by Maersk, they reveal the facility's capabilities. The receiver address for these shipments was “9028-M Palmetto,” corresponding to the section of the facility qualified for Foreign Military Financing (FMF), a U.S. government program under which grants are provided to partner countries for the purchase of U.S.-manufactured defense articles, service, or training.⁷⁶ Eight of the ten shipments of empty body assemblies

72 “[Elbit Systems of America to expand in Charleston, South Carolina](#)”, Elbit America (2021).

73 “[Elbit America Officially Opens Newest Facility in South Carolina](#)”, Elbit America (2023).

74 “[FA Technologies Spotlight: ElbitAmericas Sigma-Next Generation Howitzer](#)”, United States Field Artillery Association (2023).

75 “[USATCES - DRAWINGS - Bombs](#)” (Archived), U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center (2024).

76 Elbit's [website](#) listed “9028-D” as the U.S. side of the Ladson facility and “9028-M” as the FMF side of the facility.

that Maersk transported to IMI listed FMF in their invoice reference numbers, with a date such as “FMF20240129.” Additionally, two of the shipments included “HC 9306900080” in their descriptions, corresponding to the HS code for “Parts for bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines and similar munitions of war; parts of other ammunition and projectiles.”⁷⁷

The facility’s FMF side has the tools and parts to produce MPR500 bomb bodies and the metal racks to ship them, and these 10 deliveries were part of U.S. FMF. The 10 aforementioned shipments were delivered before the SIGMA delivery date of 2025, indicating that they are unrelated to the mobile cannon artillery system. Based on these factors, it can reasonably be concluded that the shipments of empty body assemblies are MPR500 bomb bodies specifically.

MK-80 Series Bombs

The MK-80 series is a line of general-purpose bombs, including MK-84 (2,000 lb / 907 kg), MK-83 (1,000 lb / 453 kg), MK-82 (500 lb / 227 kg), and MK-81 (250 lb / 113 kg) bombs. GD-OTS in Garland, Texas, is the principal U.S. producer of MK-80 bomb bodies, and has historically been awarded sole-source or sole supplier contracts for these casings by the U.S. Department of Defense.^{78,79} Once completed into completed bombs, these bodies can be fitted with Boeing’s Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) or with an Israeli-manufactured SPICE guidance kit, transforming the unguided bomb into a lethally precise, GPS-guided weapon.



Figure 7. An MK-84 bomb with a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) guidance kits mounted on an Israeli F-16, 3 March 2026.⁸⁰

77 “[9306.90.00.80-Parts for bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines and similar munitions of war; parts of other ammunition and projectiles](#)”, HTS Hub (2026).

78 “[MK80 Series General Purpose Bomb Bodies](#)”, SAM.gov.

79 “[CONTRACT to GENERAL DYNAMICS ORDNANCE AND TACTICAL SYSTEMS, INC.](#)”, USAspending.

80 “[OSMP2053](#)”, Open Source Munitions Portal (2026).



Figure 8. An unexploded MK-84 bomb in Gaza, 17 August 2024.⁸¹



Figure 9. An MK80 bomb equipped with an Elbit LIZARD guidance kit, used on an airstrike on a home in Jabalia, northern Gaza, 26 March 2025.⁸²

The MK-80 series, including the MK-84, was specifically named in the U.S. congressional “Block the Bombs” bill presented on 21 May 2025 (H.R.3565), proposing restrictions on these bomb variants being transferred to Israel.⁸³ The bombs have also been widely documented as used by Israel in its war crimes and atrocities,⁸⁴ including the Al-Mawasi massacre in 2024, in which Israeli F-35s dropped three MK-84 bombs in a designated humanitarian safe zone, killing at least 90 people.^{85,86}

MPR Series Bombs

The MPR series refers to a collection of multi-purpose rigid penetration and surface attack bombs produced by Elbit Systems, including up to 2000 lb (907 kg) bombs. These general-purpose combat bombs were designed by Elbit to have improved penetration and compatibility with common guidance kits, such as JDAMs. The family (i.e., MPR-500, MPR-1000, MPR-2000) is marketed as being interchangeable with standard MK-80 configurations for fighter jet carriage and guidance systems.^{87,88,89} According to the United Nations Human Rights Council, MPR bombs were used in Israeli strikes on Gaza as early as 2014, when a guided bomb struck a family home in Khan Younis, killing nine people, six of whom were children.⁹⁰ The Israeli Air Force has used the MPR 500 bomb extensively in its ongoing war crimes in Gaza.⁹¹ On March 27, 2024, Israel killed 7 paramedics in the town of al-Habariyeh,

81 “[OSMP707](#)”, Open Source Munitions Portal (2024).

82 “[OSMP1232](#)”, Open Source Munitions Portal (2025).

83 “[Text - H.R.3565 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): To provide for a limitation on the transfer of defense articles and defense services to Israel](#)”, Congress.gov (2025).

84 [MK80 Series use in Gaza during 2023-2025 Gaza genocide](#), Open Source Munitions Portal (2025).

85 “[What bombs did Israel use against the al-Mawasi ‘safe zone’ in Gaza?](#)”, *Al Jazeera* (2024).

86 “[Over 230 global organisations demand governments producing F-35 jets stop arming Israel](#)”, Amnesty International Australia (2025).

87 “[MPR 500](#)” ([Archived](#)), Elbit Systems (2025).

88 “[MPR 1000](#)” ([Archived](#)), Elbit Systems (2025).

89 “[MPR 2000](#)” ([Archived](#)), Elbit Systems (2025).

90 “[Report of the detailed findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution](#)” ([Archived](#)), United Nation Human Rights Council (2015).

91 “[הדע תעצורב MPR-500-ה תצפכ שמתשמ ריזואה ליה](#)” [“The Air Force uses the MPR-500 bomb in the Gaza Strip”], Israel Defense (2023).

Lebanon with an MPR 500.⁹² On 19 April 2024, Israel dropped an MPR 500 bomb on the four-story home of the Abu Radwan family in the Tal al-Sultan neighborhood in West Rafah, killing six children, two women and one, which Amnesty International said constituted evidence of war crimes.⁹³



Figure 10. Fragments of the MPR 500 bomb from an airstrike on the Abu Radwan family home.⁹⁴

Maersk’s Shipment of Aluminum Powder

In addition to shipments of bomb bodies, Maersk has also been found to have shipped atomized aluminum powder to Israel’s Elbit Systems—a key metallic fuel used for missile and rocket propellants. Based on data from commercial shipping data providers, on 19 August 2025, **Maersk delivered 3 shipments of type III aluminum powder weighing a total of 66,600 kg** from Sri Kaliswari Metal Powders Pvt Ltd to Elbit Systems in Ramat Hasharon, Israel. Each shipment consisted of a 20’ container with 80 drums, holding 20,000 kg of Type III Grade F Class 7 AP50 Aluminum Powder. Type III aluminum refers to atomized aluminum.⁹⁵ The company’s website lists the production of AP50 Aluminum Powder for “Heavy explosives.”⁹⁶

⁹² [“Israeli airstrike that killed seven health workers in Lebanon used U.S. munition, analysis reveals”](#), The Guardian (2024).

⁹³ [“Israel/OPT: Israeli air strikes that killed 44 civilians further evidence of war crimes – new investigation”](#), Amnesty International (2024).

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ [“B08 Attachment 0002 – Military Specification MIL-DTL-512D”](#), Defense Logistics Agency (2023).

⁹⁶ [“Explosives AP”](#), Sri Kaliswari.

Goods Description	Sender	Receiver	Route	Weight	Departure Date	Arrival Date
80 PACKAGES (EIGHTY PACKAGES ONLY) TYPE III GRADE F CLASS 7 ALUMINIUMPOWDER GRADE AP50 (80 New Drums X 250 Kgs each)	Sri Kaliswari Metal Powders Pvt Ltd	IMI Systems Ltd	Tuticorin → Colombo → Algeciras → Tangier → Port Said → Ashdod	22,200 kg	18-June-2025	17-Aug-2025
80 PACKAGES (EIGHTY PACKAGES ONLY) TYPE III GRADE F CLASS 7 ALUMINIUMPOWDER GRADE AP50 (80 New Drums X 250 Kgs each)	Sri Kaliswari Metal Powders Pvt Ltd	IMI Systems Ltd	Tuticorin → Colombo → Algeciras → Tangier → Port Said → Ashdod	22,200 kg	18-June-2025	17-Aug-2025
80 PACKAGES (EIGHTY PACKAGES ONLY) TYPE III GRADE F CLASS 7 ALUMINIUMPOWDER GRADE AP50 (80 New Drums X 250 Kgs each)	Sri Kaliswari Metal Powders Pvt Ltd	IMI Systems Ltd	Tuticorin → Colombo → Algeciras → Tangier → Port Said → Ashdod	22,200 kg	18-June-2025	17-Aug-2025
TOTAL				66,600 kg		

Table 3. Maersk shipments of aluminum powder to Elbit Systems subsidiaries in June 2025.

The fillings for MK80 bombs consist of tritonal — an explosive powder composed of 80% trinitrotoluene (TNT) and 20% aluminum powder, specifically requiring Type III grade F Class 7 aluminum powder. U.S. contracts for MK80 bombs and tritonal kits specify the NATO Stock Number (NSN) 6810-00-628-3382 for this aluminum powder,⁹⁷ which includes “3 type and f grade and 7 class” in its specification.⁹⁸ As a result, it is evident that **these shipments by Maersk contribute to Elbit’s production of explosive filling for its MK80 series bombs.**

Product descriptions for these shipments also specified **UN number 1396**, which refers to “Aluminum powder, uncoated” that is classified as **hazardous when wet**. These hazardous goods were transferred between 5 ships on their journey from the port of Tuticorin to the port of Ashdod. They traveled on the KUO LUNG from Tuticorin to Colombo, on the MAERSK SEOUL from Colombo to Algeciras, on the SANTA INES from Algeciras to Tangier, on the GSL TRIPOLI from Tangier to Port Said, and on the MAERSK JABAL from Port Said to Ashdod.

Mortars: Transfers of Mortar Components

Since October 2023, Maersk has facilitated a direct industrial pipeline from the United States to Israel, shipping foundational components for 120mm mortar systems. American suppliers—including Trinity Forge Inc., International Parts Supply Corp., and Ellwood National Forge—sent raw forgings and essential parts directly to Elbit Systems Land LTD to support its production of battlefield artillery.

⁹⁷ “MK80 General Purpose Bomb and BLU-109 Tritonal Bomb Kits”, SAM.gov.

⁹⁸ “Technical Aluminum”, NationalStockNumber.info.

Table 4 details these shipments, which include breech caps, gasket access covers, and adapters. To provide a comprehensive view, the data includes entries from both before and after October 2023. The two pre-October entries are crucial because they explicitly label the forgings as “120mm,” establishing a critical dimensional context that is not specified in the more recent shipment records.

- **120MM FORGING:** a raw material forging used to manufacture mortar barrels, forming the structural base of the weapon’s firing tube.
- **BREECH CAP FORGING:** critical for sealing the breech of the mortar during firing, preventing blowback and ensuring pressure integrity.
- **GASKET ACCESS COVER, ADAPTER:** used to insulate and secure components, maintaining the mortar’s internal alignment and structural integrity.
- **MORTARS TUBE, K-1:** a reference to the mortar tube (barrel) itself, central to launching the explosive projectile.

Goods Description	Sender	Receiver	Route	Departure Date	Arrival Date	Weight
Breech Cap Forging	Trinity Forge Inc,	Elbit Systems Land Ltd	New York → Haifa	2024-06-18	2024-07-17	5,856 kg
Gasket Access Cover, Adapter	International Parts Supply Corp	Elbit Systems Land Ltd	Newark → Haifa	2024-04-17	2024-05-15	6,871 kg
Forgings RM	Ellwood National Forge	Elbit Systems Land Ltd	Newark → Haifa	2024-03-27	2024-04-25	7,639 kg
Gasket Access Cover, Adapter	International Parts Supply Corp	Elbit Systems Land Ltd	Newark → Haifa	2024-03-13	2024-04-13	1,435 kg
Forgings Rm	Ellwood National Forge	Elbit Systems Land Ltd	Newark → Haifa	2024-03-13	2024-04-12	7,012 kg
Gasket Access Cover, Adapter	International Parts Supply Corp	Elbit Systems Land Ltd	Newark → Haifa	2024-01-19	2024-02-24	5,110 kg
Forgings RM	Ellwood National Forge	Elbit Systems Land Ltd	Newark → Haifa	2023-11-14	2024-01-01	3,818 kg
Forgings RM	Ellwood National Forge	IMI Systems	Newark → Haifa	2023-09-28	2023-11-25	2,182 kg
Forging120mmm, Rm, Mortars Tub	Ellwood National Forge	IMI Systems	Newark → Haifa	2023-08-14	2023-09-27	3,818 kg
120mm Forging, RM	Ellwood National Forge	IMI Systems	Newark → Haifa	2023-02-24	2023-04-09	1,165 kg
						44,906 kg*

Table 4. Maersk Shipments of 120mm Mortar Components to IMI Systems, Israel, since 2023.

**Total weight of shipments after 7 October 2023: 39,923 kg*

Heavy mortars, particularly the 120mm Soltam K6 produced by Elbit Systems, are among the most destructive infantry weapons in modern warfare. Capable of firing 14kg high-explosive shells over distances exceeding 7 kilometers, their impact is indiscriminate and devastating, especially in densely populated urban environments like Gaza. Each mortar round has a lethal radius of approximately 30 meters, but the actual zone of destruction often stretches much further, killing families and destroying infrastructure like homes, hospitals, and

schools.⁹⁹

Mortars are inherently imprecise weapons. At long ranges, a significant percentage of 120mm rounds miss their intended targets by more than 100 meters, making them tools of indiscriminate destruction when deployed in urban areas.¹⁰⁰ More broadly, a study by Action On Armed Violence on global explosive violence from 2015 to 2024, which included Gaza as a case study and mortars as a weapon category, found that more than 90% of those killed or injured by explosive weapons in populated zones are civilians.¹⁰¹ This is not an unintended consequence; it is the predictable, systematic result of how these weapons are used. The same legal framework applies to the 120mm mortar systems and components discussed in this report. Mortars are not unlawful weapons per se, but their use in densely populated civilian areas without adequate target verification, discrimination, and feasible precautions may breach the prohibitions on indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks.¹⁰² Where mortar fire is directed at civilians or civilian objects, or launched in a manner incapable of distinguishing between military objectives and civilians in the circumstances prevailing at the time, such attacks may constitute war crimes.¹⁰³

The lethal consequences of these specific systems are well-documented. On October 13, 2023, the Israeli military fired 120mm tank rounds at a group of clearly identified journalists in south Lebanon, killing Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah and injuring six others.^{104,105} An investigation by Amnesty International concluded that the attack was likely a direct strike on civilians that should be investigated as a war crime. In this investigation, Amnesty concluded that the munition used was “most likely” a 120mm M339 round manufactured by Elbit Systems — the same company receiving the mortar components from Maersk’s shipments, and Reuters confirmed that it was an 120mm round manufactured by Elbit Systems.

Israel’s 120mm Arsenal: The Soltam K6 and The Iron Sting

The Soltam K6 Heavy Mortar

Developed by Israel’s Soltam Systems (now part of Elbit Systems), the Soltam K6 is a 120mm mortar that has become a standard weapon for the Israeli military. Weighing 320 lbs and typically crewed by 5 soldiers, the K6 can sustain 4 rounds per minute.¹⁰⁶ It outranges smaller mortars and packs far greater explosive force, effectively bridging the gap between infantry firepower and artillery. The K6 was also adopted by the U.S. Army in 1991, where it is

99 “[Press Release: Use of heavy explosive weapons, killing civilians in towns and cities, must be prevented](#)”, International Network on Explosive Weapons.

100 “[Press Release: Use of heavy explosive weapons, killing civilians in towns and cities, must be prevented](#)”, International Network on Explosive Weapons.

101 “[Civilian casualties from explosive weapons in populated areas: a decade in review \(2015–2024\)](#)”, Action on Armed Violence.

102 Such a use of an explosive weapon breaches the core rules on distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack, see [Additional Protocol I](#) arts. 48, 51(4)–(5), 57; see also [Customary IHL](#), Rules 1, 7, 11, 14, 15.

103 ICRC, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 1 (The Principle of Distinction between Civilians and Combatants), Rule 6 (Civilians’ Loss of Protection from Attack), and related rules on civilian protection, available at: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1> [last accessed 21 May 2026].

104 “[Lebanon: Deadly Israeli attack on journalists must be investigated as a war crime](#)”, Amnesty International (2023).

105 “[Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah killed by Israeli tank, investigation finds](#)”, Reuters (2023).

106 “[K6 Israeli 120mm Mortar](#)”, OE Data Integration Network.

designated the M120 in its towed form and the M121 in its vehicle-mounted form.¹⁰⁷ Similarly, Elbit's Cardom Recoil Mortar Systems integrates the 120mm mortar,¹⁰⁸ and the Israeli military has deployed the Cardom system to launch Iron Sting munitions towards Gaza.¹⁰⁹ Each 120mm bomb produces a powerful shockwave and sends out a **storm of deadly metal fragments** in all directions. The disarmament research organization Article 36 puts a single 120mm mortar's lethal radius at roughly 30 meters, with blast and fragmentation effects extending further still, and a 10% probability of incapacitation out to 100 meters.¹¹⁰ Mortar shells aren't limited to explosives. They can also carry smoke or fire-starting materials. The Soltam K6, for example, can fire white phosphorus rounds, an agent infamous for causing fires and severe burns.¹¹¹ Ultimately, 120mm mortars like the K6 give armies a portable yet highly destructive indirect fire capability, a capability that the Israeli military has deployed in Gaza.



Figure 11. Display of the 120mm Soltam K6 (120mm M120 mortar).¹¹³



Figure 12. Iron Sting rounds being used against Palestinians in Gaza.¹¹⁴

The Iron Sting 120mm Mortar Bomb

In recent years, Israel introduced a so-called precision mortar munition to its arsenal: the Iron Sting. The Iron Sting itself weighs approximately 17 kilograms and is equipped with multi-mode fuses, designed to penetrate reinforced structures.¹¹⁵ The munition can be fired from a standard 120mm mortar but uses onboard guidance to adjust its flight toward a designated target. Iron Sting has a range of up to 10 km and is advertised as being able to penetrate 20 cm of reinforced concrete, allowing it to destroy fortified positions with a single hit.¹¹⁶ Israeli officials like former defense minister Benny Gantz have claimed this guided mortar “engages

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ [“Elbit Systems to Supply the Israeli Ministry of Defense with Cardom Systems for Approximately \\$40 Million”](#), Elbit Systems (2011) ([Archived](#)).

¹⁰⁹ [“Israel unveils the 'Iron Sting' laser, GPS-guided mortar munition”](#), The Jerusalem Post (2021).

¹¹⁰ [“Explosive Weapons - Factors that produce wide area effects”](#), Article 36 (2020).

¹¹¹ [“K6 Israeli 120mm Mortar”](#), OE Data Integration Network.

¹¹² [“120mm Soltam K6”](#), Weaponsystems.net.

¹¹³ [“160808-F-VH066-018”](#), U.S. Air Force (2016).

¹¹⁴ [“IDF uses Iron Sting precision mortars for first time against Hamas”](#), The Jerusalem Post (2023).

¹¹⁵ [“Iron Sting's Precision Counters Tunnel-Shafts”](#), Elbit Systems (2023) ([Archived](#)).

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

targets precisely...while reducing the possibility of collateral damage.”¹¹⁷

However, even purportedly surgical weapons like Iron Sting cannot negate the fundamentally indiscriminate nature of bombardment in Gaza, a reality reflected in the massive civilian death toll. The Iron Sting was combat tested for the first time in Gaza: on October 22, 2023, during Israel’s genocide on Gaza, the Israeli military’s Maglan unit publicly showed footage of Iron Sting rounds being used against Palestinians in Gaza.^{118,119} Antony Loewenstein writes in *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World*, “Israel has developed a world-class weapons industry with equipment conveniently tested on occupied Palestinians, then marketed as 'battle-tested'.”¹²⁰

Elbit Systems’ Complicity

Elbit Systems, Israel’s largest private arms manufacturer, plays a central role in the production and export of both traditional and advanced 120mm mortar systems used by the Israeli military. The company has long branded itself as a provider of tools that minimize collateral damage, mentioning it in the description of MPR bombs for example.¹²¹ However, the company’s weapons are linked to immense destruction and significant civilian casualties through their routine deployment by the Israeli military. Elbit cemented its influence in this field after acquiring Soltam Systems in 2010, the original developer of the K6 120mm mortar, one of the most devastating infantry-fired weapons in Israel’s arsenal. Through this acquisition, Elbit gained control of a product that now forms the backbone of Israeli mortar firepower.¹²²

In 2024 alone, the Israeli Ministry of Defense awarded Elbit two major contracts: one worth over \$220 million and another valued at approximately \$190 million, to supply “Iron Sting” precision mortar munitions.^{123,124} The mortars can be launched from mobile platforms like Hummer SUVs and M113 armored vehicles, and they are designed explicitly for “civilian, urban environments.”¹²⁵ These mortars are designed explicitly for urban combat, making them ideal for the type of indiscriminate bombardment observed in Gaza.

117 [“The Directorate of Defense R&D in the Ministry of Defense, the IDF’s Ground Forces and Elbit Systems Reveal the “Iron Sting”: A Precise Laser and GPS Guided Mortar Munition](#)”, Elbit Systems (2021) ([Archived](#)).

118 [“Anadolu lists weapons tested by Israeli military in Gaza massacre”](#), *Anadolu* (2024).

119 [“IDF uses Iron Sting precision mortars for first time against Hamas”](#), *The Jerusalem Post* (2023).

120 *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World*, Antony Loewenstein (2023).

121 [“MPR”](#), Elbit Systems ([Archived](#)).

122 [“Elbit Systems Acquires Three of Mikal Group’s Subsidiaries in a Package Deal”](#), Defense Update (2010).

123 [“Elbit Systems Awarded Approximately \\$190 Million Contract to Supply Iron Sting Guided Mortar Munition to the Israeli Ministry of Defense”](#), Elbit Systems (2024) ([Archived](#)).

124 [“IDF acquires precision-guided mortars - at a cost of \\$190m Israel Ministry of Defense”](#), *Defense Mirror* (2024).

125 [“The Directorate of Defense R&D in the Ministry of Defense, the IDF’s Ground Forces and Elbit Systems Reveal the “Iron Sting”: A Precise Laser and GPS Guided Mortar Munition”](#), Elbit Systems (2021) ([Archived](#)).



Figure 12. Iron Sting laser deployed from an M113 armored vehicle.¹²⁶

Elbit has exploited the war in Gaza for marketing. The company refers to its weapons as “battle-tested” and openly celebrates combat operations as opportunities to prove and promote its products. For example, Israel used the SkyStriker munition in Gaza,¹²⁷ and Elbit’s brochure describes it as “battle proven.”¹²⁸ Similarly, Elbit describes its MPR series bombs, whose use in Gaza is discussed above, as “combat proven general purpose bombs.”¹²⁹

126 [“Israel unveils the ‘Iron Sting’ laser, GPS-guided mortar munition”](#), *The Jerusalem Post* (2021).

127 [“OSMP1458”](#), Open Source Munitions Portal (2025).

128 [“Elbit Systems Land – Rocket & Missile Systems”](#), Elbit Systems (2025) ([Archived](#)).

129 [“MPR”](#), Elbit Systems ([Archived](#)).

Key Suppliers

Trinity Forge Inc.

Based in Mansfield, Texas, Trinity Forge Inc. specializes in high-strength, closed-die forgings – a process designed to create durable metal parts capable of withstanding extreme stress.¹³⁰ The data shows that Trinity Forge supplies Elbit with the Breech Cap Forging. This is a critical structural component that seals the back of the mortar barrel, containing the immense pressure of the propellant explosion during firing.¹³¹ The integrity of this part is essential for the weapon's function, making Trinity Forge a direct supplier for the core mechanics of Elbit's heavy mortar systems.

International Parts Supply Corp.

Operating from Edina, Minnesota, International Parts Supply Corp. (IPS) is a specialized distributor of hardware and components, often for military and aerospace applications.¹³² IPS provides the Gasket Access Covers and Adapters for the mortar system. While less conspicuous than the heavy forgings, these parts are indispensable for the weapon's assembly and reliability. They are used to insulate components, seal compartments, and ensure a secure fit, maintaining the mortar's structural integrity and preventing malfunctions during operation. IPS's role is to supply the essential connective hardware needed to turn the larger parts into a complete weapon.

Ellwood National Forge

Ellwood National Forge of Irvine, Pennsylvania, is a heavy industrial manufacturer known for producing large, custom-forged steel components for the defense and naval sectors.¹³³ Their contribution to Elbit's mortar program is the most foundational: the Forgings RM (Raw Material). These are the primary, semi-finished blocks of high-grade metal that are subsequently machined by Elbit in Israel to create the mortar barrels and other major structural parts. As the supplier of the raw material, Ellwood National Forge sits at the very beginning of the production line, providing the essential metal mass that is ultimately transformed into a 120mm mortar.

¹³⁰ ["Home"](#), Trinity Forge.

¹³¹ ["Mortars"](#), US Department of the Army (2017).

¹³² ["International Parts Supply"](#), ipscorpusa.com

¹³³ ["Home"](#), Ellwood National Forge.

Other Ordnance Under HS 9306.90

In addition to bomb, bullet, and mortar components, several shipments of projectile bodies and other ordnance items classified under **HS code 9306.90** were delivered to Israel by Maersk since October 2023, with a confirmed weight of at least 92,616 kg and an estimated total of approximately 100 tonnes. Due to limited specification details in the shipping records, these items could not be clearly categorized under the three prior sections.

The table below represents information around these shipments:

Goods Description	Sender	Receiver	Departure Port	Weight	Departure Date
PROJECTILE BODIES (45 skids)	GOIMOD*	GOIMOD	Newark	17,577 kg	26-May-2024
PROJECTILE BODY (19 skids)	GOIMOD	GOIMOD	Newark	13,365 kg	30-Apr-2024
PROJECTILE BODY (20 skids)	GOIMOD	GOIMOD	Newark	14,061 kg	27-Apr-2024
MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL EQUIPMENT HS CODE 9306.90 (26 skids)	GOIMOD	GOIMOD	Newark	19,991 kg	16-Apr-2024
PROJECTILE BODIES (25 skids)	GOIMOD	GOIMOD	Newark	5,263 kg	31-Mar-2024
PROJECTILE BODIES (55 pieces)	GOIMOD	GOIMOD	Newark	17,599 kg	31-Mar-2024
MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL EQUIPMENT HS CODE 9306.90 (16 skids)	GOIMOD	GOIMOD	Newark	4,760 kg	18-Nov-2023
PROJECTILE BODY (26 pieces)	Laser Access, LLC	IMI Systems Ltd	Newark	Not Available	18-Nov-2023
PROJECTILE BODY (14 pieces)	Laser Access, LLC	IMI Systems Ltd	Newark	Not Available	18-Nov-2023
TOTAL				92,616 kg	

Table 5. Maersk shipments of other ordnance items classified under HS code 9306.90 to Israel, since October 2023.

* GOIMOD: Government of Israel Ministry of Defense

At least 164 projectile bodies and 42 miscellaneous general equipment items classified under HS code 9306.90 were shipped via Maersk from the Government of Israel Ministry of Defense, while 40 projectile bodies were sent from Laser Access LLC — a company specializing in “high-precision fabrication for both military and commercial sectors”¹³⁴ and serving customers like Elbit and Israel Aerospace Industries.¹³⁵

134 “[Laser Access](#)”, Laser Access.

135 “[Customers](#)”, Laser Access.

Maersk's Legal Exposure and the Risks of Corporate Complicity

Maersk's role in transporting ammunition components, bomb bodies, mortar parts, and related military cargo to Elbit Systems indicates that Maersk is failing to respect the human rights of Palestinians. Maersk is subject to the standards set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights which define what it means for a business to respect human rights. The UNGPs require companies to avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts, including by conducting heightened due diligence in conflict-affected settings.¹³⁶ This report presents evidence that Maersk's due diligence systems are not operating effectively.

By continuing to transport the components of weapons and ammunition to Elbit Systems facilities while Elbit produces munitions used in Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, Maersk exposes itself to potential legal arguments of complicity in human rights violations. This could give rise to arguments that Maersk's due diligence is inadequate and may in future give rise to liability for not conducting sufficient due diligence or acting on the results. There is also a prospect of potential criminal responsibility if Maersk is shown to be complicit in violations of international crimes. In the context of supply chain responsibility, in the arms and logistics supply chains this can include the provision of shipping and transport services where the company knows, or is willfully blind to, the risk that the cargo will be used to commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, or other grave violations of international law.

Increased legal attention is also being given to the liability of companies that support the illegal occupation by Israel, with risks of complicity in unlawful settlement trade.

¹³⁶ ["Business, Human Rights and Conflict-Affected Regions"](#), OHCHR (21 July 2020, A/75/212); see also ["Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Businesses in Conflict Contexts: A Guide"](#), UNDP (June 2022)

Conclusion

Maersk transported weapons components into Israel while Israel was committing serious war crimes in Gaza. Through its shipping and logistics services, Maersk has facilitated the transfer of munition components hereunder: **bullet cores and brass case cups, bomb bodies and powder, and mortar parts**. These are not ordinary goods. They are components for weapons systems used in Israel’s war crimes in Gaza, where at least 70,000 Palestinians have been killed.

Since October 2023, Maersk has delivered **more than 2.7 million kg of ammunition components and ordnance** from the U.S. to Elbit Systems subsidiaries. These are not abstract materials: they are the specific components used to produce the rounds that Israeli forces fire from rifles, sniper scopes, and tank-mounted machine guns. They are the exact 120mm mortar components used to level neighborhoods, and the 2,000-pound MK-84 and MPR bomb parts documented to be used by Israel in obliterating entire city blocks. These offensive munitions are not sitting on shelves but have been used to kill medics, journalists, children — incinerating entire families. Whether it is a Soltam K6 or an Iron Sting, Maersk has moved the parts that turn metal into artillery.

The findings directly challenge Maersk’s public claim that it is “not shipping weapons or ammunition to Israel.”¹³⁷ The evidence presented suggests Maersk shipping activities have been crucial in - sustaining Israel's military capacity during a genocide. The evidence indicates Maersk’s shipping has helped sustain the production and deployment of ammunition and explosive ordnance used in operations that, on the evidence described here and in a growing number of reports by UN and human rights organisations, link Maersk to some of the most severe atrocities defined by international criminal law.

Maersk has already demonstrated its ability to halt services to countries in violation of international law, as it did following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Its failure to apply the same standard to Israel exposes a serious inconsistency in Maersk’s human rights due diligence and raises urgent questions about whether its commercial operations are being allowed to continue despite the risk of contributing to grave violations. This is consistent with the findings of the UN Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council, which identified Maersk as part of the corporate infrastructure sustaining Israel’s occupation and genocide.¹³⁸

Each shipment of bullet, bomb, or mortar components entrenches Maersk’s link in this chain of bloodshed. By continuing this supply, Maersk remains connected to supply chains linked to Israel’s military operations during the genocide in Gaza. This raises serious questions about the company’s human rights due diligence and its responsibility to prevent involvement in grave violations of international law. While shipments often hide behind vague product labels, their destination and purpose are clear: they arrive at facilities owned by Elbit Systems and IMI, whose weapons are tested and deployed in Gaza. What Maersk

¹³⁷ [“Maersk statement on military-related cargo shipments” \(Archived\)](#), Maersk (2025).

¹³⁸ [“From economy of occupation to economy of genocide – \(A/HRC/59/23\) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967”, OHCHR \(2025\).](#)

delivers becomes the ammunition, the mortars, and the strikes by Israel actively taking Palestinians' lives.

Maersk presents itself as a global shipping brand focused on trade and logistics, but when it chooses to move the raw materials and components of war, it cannot claim to be separate from the assault they help sustain. Every shipment of mortar tubes or bullet cores extends the same chain of violence.

We call on Maersk to;

- **Take concrete steps to immediately cease the transfer of ammunition components and all military cargo to Israel and end any business relationships that risk contributing to or creating a direct linkage to Israeli violations of Palestinian rights, including acts of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity. This is the minimum standard expected of companies that find themselves in business relationships with alleged perpetrators of international crimes.**
- **Conduct heightened human rights due diligence to identify and address business relationships that may contribute to maintaining Israel's unlawful occupation,¹³⁹ including facilitating businesses located in or supporting settlements. Heightened human rights due diligence must cover the entire value chain and not be limited to Maersk's first tier of suppliers and clients, such as freight forwards. In high-risk areas such as Israel, Maersk must conduct due diligence beyond its first tier of business relationships to ensure the ultimate recipient is not a settlement enterprise or other manifestation of unlawful occupation.**
- **Engage with Palestinians affected by Israel's occupation and ethnic cleansing to ensure the company is informed about the human rights violations to which Palestinians are exposed and how the company can ensure it acts to respect the rights of Palestinian rightsholders. This should include being transparent about the nature and scope of human rights due diligence and related measures the company has undertaken. It should also include cooperation with international and national authorities conducting investigations to ensure accountability for international crimes, including investigations into allegations of corporate complicity in such crimes.**

¹³⁹ Israel's continued occupation and settlement enterprise are unlawful under international law, as outlined in [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\) Advisory note in July 2024](#) and [UNGA Res. ES-10/31](#).

Research compiled by the
Palestinian Youth Movement and **Oxfam**
Denmark



The **Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM)** is a transnational, independent, grassroots movement of Palestinian and Arab youth struggling for the liberation of our homeland

instagram [@palestiniayouthmovement](https://www.instagram.com/palestiniayouthmovement)
website palestiniayouthmovement.com



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instagram [@oxfamdenmark](https://www.instagram.com/oxfamdenmark)
website oxfam.dk