



9th July 2025

Jarlath, a chara,

I am writing to you as Chair of The Bloody Sunday Trust to ask that you end the GAA's sponsorship arrangement with Allianz.

Background

The UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese's recent report 'From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide' examines corporate complicity in the settler colonial project in Palestine and identifies those entities profiting from the Israeli economy of illegal occupation, apartheid and now genocide.

Under the section headed Enablers, which focuses on the financial and academic sectors paragraph 76 states that-

- Global insurance companies including Allianz and AXA also invest large sums in shares and bonds implicated in the occupation and genocide, partly as capital reserves for policyholder claims and regulatory requirements, but primarily to generate returns.
- Allianz holds at least \$7.3 billion and AXA, despite some divestment decisions, still invests at least \$4.09 billion in tracked companies named in the present report. Their insurance policies also underwrite the risks other companies necessarily take when operating in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, thus enabling the commission of human rights abuses and "de-risking" the operational environment.

An earlier report produced by Boycott Bloody Insurance, a UK-based campaign calling on the insurance industry to cut ties with arms manufacturers supporting Israel, had also identified five major insurers that are complicit in the genocide in Gaza by supporting over a dozen defense companies that aid the Israeli military.

The top insurers featured in that report include Allianz, Aviva, AXA, Zurich Insurance Group, and RSA (Intact), all of which have contributed a total of \$1.7 billion across 15 companies involved in Israeli militarism.

The Boycott Bloody Insurance report demonstrates that Insurance companies play a significant role in the arms manufacturing industry, aiding and profiting from the genocide in Gaza through their investments in companies and weapons manufacturers that provided Israel with equipment with the "full knowledge it was being used to target civilian populations".

Allianz has a stake in all 16 companies featured in the report, and invests over \$452 million in BAE, Boeing, Caterpillar, General Dynamics, and Lockheed Martin which supplies the Israeli military with missiles and fighter jets.

According to the report, Aviva and Allianz respectively account for 51% and 26% of the total investments across the five insurers examined.

Recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur

In her report the UN Special Rapporteur sets out a number of recommended actions in response to her findings of corporate complicity in the genocide. These include that all corporate entities-

promptly cease all business activities and terminate relationships directly linked with, contributing to and causing human rights violations and international crimes against the Palestinian people, in accordance with international corporate responsibilities and the law of self-determination;

It is in line with this recommendation that the Bloody Sunday Trust is asking the GAA to end the sponsorship arrangement with Allianz if that organisation will not undertake to end all business activities and terminate all relationships directly linked with, contributing to, and causing human rights violations and international crimes against the Palestinian people.

I understand that there will be an internal decision making process within the GAA to be followed.

However Palestine is the most important moral issue of our time. The GAA is not only the greatest sporting body in Ireland but arguably the most influential social, cultural and community institution in Irish life. It is inconceivable that it would wish to maintain a relationship with a company identified by the UN as profiting from genocide.

The leadership you can show on this issue will be therefore be transformative, setting a precedent for others to follow.

I am available to meet to discuss this proposal together with the Trust's solidarity work on Palestine in more detail if you wish.

I look forward to your reply.

Le dea-ghuí

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Doherty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Doherty, Chair

cc: Senator Frances Black

