

Heather Reisman is the CEO of Indigo Books & Music. She and her husband, Gerry Schwartz, own or control 77% of the shares in Indigo Books and Music Inc. Gerry Schwartz is CEO of ONEX.

We ask that you consider the following information before shopping at Indigo Books & Music.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S MILITARY?

Israel is not endangered militarily: currently it has the 4th largest military in the world.

Israel is not a victim: Israel receives \$2.6 billion a year from the U.S. foreign military financing program. In addition, Israel has its own large weapons industry. As there are no ethical and legal constraints in Israel on selling arms, "there is no terrible regime – Colombia, Guatemala, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile during the time of the colonels, Burma, Taiwan, Zaire, Congo, Sierra Leone – apartheid South Africa, Uzbekistan, Russia, China, Indonesia – that does not have a major military connection to Israel" (see Halper). Israel is among the five largest exporters of arms in the world, and is poised to overtake Russia as #2 in just a few years (*Jane's* assessment, May 2, 2006).

Israel and nuclear weapons: As early as 1991, preeminent U.S. investigative journalist Seymour Hersh wrote of Israel's nuclear weapons, and even Israeli apologist Norman Podhoretz predicted that Israel could conceivably use the "Samson Option" of nuclear warfare, of

committing murder/suicide. It is now estimated that Israel has 200 nuclear warheads. Israel has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (see Hersh).

A moral army? Israel's wars have been phenomenally destructive to other peoples but not to Israelis: in its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, it is estimated that 15,000 to 17,000 civilians (largely Palestinian) were killed as opposed to zero Israeli citizens (see Robert Fisk, James Ron).

Security? Palestinian deployment of Qassam rockets are widely seen as a justification for Israel's "security measures". In reality, Qassams have a very short range and usually land in open areas. Between April 1st and June 20th, 2006, Gaza launched 479 Qassam rockets into Israel – causing *no fatalities*. What was not reported in the media was that at the exact same time, Israel launched 112 air strikes into Gaza, fired 4,251 artillery shells and 5 naval shells, resulting in *94 Gaza fatalities*. (*UN OCHA report*, 13/09/06).

HOW DO REISMAN/SCHWARTZ SUPPORT ISRAEL'S MILITARY?

They directly support Israel's military in three ways:

1. HESEG

Reisman and Schwartz are founders of HESEG Lone Soldier Foundation. They contribute up to \$3m/year to provide scholarships and other supports to soldiers who come to Israel from other countries to fight in Israel's wars. At any time there are 5,000 'Lone Soldiers' in the Israeli

military in all capacities including combat units.

Reisman and Schwartz align themselves with powerful military leaders in Israel. On the Heseq board are army and air force chiefs of staff, the head of Israeli intelligence (Mossad), and Maj General Doren Almog who has been charged with war crimes by Britain for his role in bombing civilians.

Reisman and Schwartz' concern for lone soldiers contrasts with the treatment of Palestinian child prisoners who are incarcerated in Israeli military prisons, far from their families, who are tortured, have no legal representation, and who generally receive no medical care. There are currently over 400 Palestinian child prisoners in Israeli military prisons (Defense for Children Int./Palestine)

2. Gerry Schwartz' ONEX CORP. & CMC ELECTRONICS

Onex corporation is Canada's fourth biggest company and controls CMC Electronics. According to Richard Sanders of Coalition Opposed to the Arms Trade, "many of Israel's most deadly, US-made weapon systems ... would not be able to function without hundreds of crucial high-tech electronic components supplied by Canadian war industries..."

- CMC Electronics makes the circuit card assembly, indicator panel, and systems to control voice and data transmission for the **Apache AH-64T** attack helicopter. Prime contractor Boeing.
- CMC Electronics makes hybrid microcircuitry, infrared target system, and power supply for the **F-15 Eagle**

fighter/bomber. Prime contractor: Boeing

- CMC Electronics makes electronic and avionics components for the **F-16 "Fighter falcon"** multi role fighter/bomber. Prime contractor: Lockheed Martin.

3. HARPER'S ISRAEL POLICY

Reisman and Schwartz are powerful in Canada. Schwartz was Paul Martin's top fund-raiser, bringing in \$11m for his leadership campaign, and holding "the largest political fund-raiser in Canadian history" (CTV Dec 10, 2003). During last summer's war on Lebanon and Gaza, Reisman turned to Prime Minister Stephen Harper because of his support for Israel. "She thinks that his position on the Lebanon issue is the right one, notably his early support for Israel's strong military response." (*Globe & Mail*).

Under Harper, Canada was the first to withdraw funds from the democratically elected Hamas government and Canada subsequently reduced funds to UNRWA, the main relief agency for Palestinian refugees. 4.3 million Palestinian refugees currently depend on UNRWA; they live in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

KNOW HISTORY SO WE DON'T KEEP REPEATING IT

The new Israel historians document the facts, not myth: about "the files of the Israeli Foreign Ministry bursting at the seams with evidence of Arab peace

feelers and Arab readiness to negotiate with Israel from September 1948 on" (see Shlaim, p. 49, and Halper), about ethnic cleansing and the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians, about Israel's expanding borders, control of water and arable land.

Go to other bookstores or search on line for the following books:

- Cook, Catherine, Hanieh, Adam, Kay, Adah. 2004. *Stolen Youth: The politics of Israel's detention of Palestinian children*. Pluto Press/Defense for Children Intl.
- Davis, Uri. 2003. *Apartheid Israel*. Zed.
- Finkelstein, Norman. 2005 *Beyond Chutzpah: On the misuse of anti-semitism and the abuse of history*. University of California press.
- Fisk, Robert. 2005. *The great war for civilization: the conquest of the Middle East*. Knopf.
- Halper, Jeff. Nov 16, 2006. *The Problem with Israel*. (on internet). Jeff Halper is co-director of Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions.
- Hersh, Seymour. 1991. *The Samson option: Israel, America and the bomb*. Faber & Faber.
- Neumann, Michael. 2005. *The case against Israel*. Counterpunch.
- Pappé, Ilan 2004. *A history of modern Palestine*. Cambridge University Press.
- Ron, James. 2003. *Frontiers and ghettos: state violence in Serbia and Israel*. University of California Press.
- Reinhart, Tanya. 2005. *Israel/Palestine: how to end the war of 1948*. 7 Stories.

- Shlaim, Avi. 2001. *The iron wall: Israel and the Arab world*. Norton.
- Tilley, Virginia. 2005. *The one-state solution*. University of Michigan Press.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Here are some of the NGOs in which Jewish and Palestinian people work together for human rights. (Google these NGOs for reliable information and to make donations):

- Defense for Children International
- Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions(ICAHD).
- B'Tselem
- Physicians for Human Rights/Israel
- Ta'ayush
- Adalah.

- Ask Stephen Harper to restore funds to the Palestinian Authority and to UNRWA: Harper.S@parl.gc.ca

- Boycott and divest in businesses supporting the Israeli military. Ask Reisman, Schwartz and their boards to support peace, not war.

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The Toronto Jewish group Not In Our Name (NION)

Supports the boycott of Indigo/Chapters
book stores.

There are Jewish people in every region
of Canada who are profoundly
concerned about Israel's treatment of
Palestinian people and who are
dedicated to breaking the silence about
the humanitarian situation.

WHY DO WE ASK THE INDIGO CEO TO SUPPORT PEACE, NOT WAR?

Indigo CEO Heather Reisman and her
husband Gerry Schwartz are powerful
and influential supporters of the military of
the State of Israel. They are powerful
supporters of those Canadian leaders
who are completely uncritical of Israel's
wars.