

MEDEA BENJAMIN: I appreciate the care you've taken to keep us safe during COVID, but I wonder about the care that this company takes to keep people safe from the bombs and the other weapons that you produce that kill innocent people around the world.

I remember having been in Yemen myself in 2016, the 2,000 pound General Dynamics bomb that was [dropped on a marketplace that killed 97 people including over 20 children](#). I also know that you sell weapons, we, this company sells weapons to the most repressive dictatorships in the world like Saudi Arabia, like the United Arab Emirates, like Bahrain and provides through the U.S. Pentagon weapons to the repressive government of Egypt.

I wonder if you have any concern about flooding the Middle East with weapons at a time when the American people are so anxious to get us out of war, reduce the Pentagon budget so we can put money into things like dealing with the COVID pandemic. And the fact that so much of this company's money comes from the Pentagon, is part of really an incredible scam that the Pope calls you "[merchants of death](#)." And the scam includes things like, a revolving door, I mean General Mattis, you so represent this revolving door going from inside the Pentagon itself as the highest person in the Pentagon, having come from this company and now the revolving door has completed its circle with you coming back into General Dynamics.

I also feel that the \$11 million in lobbying that this company spent last year is part of the scam to have hundreds of people flood our government with requests for weapons, going to the very congress people that you pay money to their campaigns. And I think it's pretty remarkable that you have managed to build this beautiful company and get these incredible salaries — I think your salary Phoebe was \$21 million last year if I'm not mistaken — on this scheme of selling weapons to repressive countries and killing so many people around the world.

I guess that wasn't enough and then you [got involved](#) in the Trump years in the child detention issue, [making money from caging children at our borders](#).

So I just want to say that I hope there's some reflection for you as a company to recognize that the worst thing for your company would be if peace breaks out in the Middle East, if there is a U.S. going back into the Iran nuclear deal, U.S. troops leaving Afghanistan, hopefully U.S. troops leaving Iraq, and the Middle East being left to the people of the Middle East, that would be terrible for your company and for your high salaries and for the people on this board. So if you have a model where you need global conflict, where you need wars to be able to make money I think there's something fundamentally wrong with this company and you ought to have some more moral reflection about how you earn your billions of dollars. Thank you.

PHEBE NOVAKOVIC: I agree with some of what you say. [inaudible] I think and I'm going to presume that you are a person of good faith and that some of the potentially libelous and incorrect information that you have communicated is born out of lack of knowledge. So I would like very much to be able to sit down with you and talk about what we do and what we don't do. And some of which you may find objectionable but that can be a principled conversation that we have.

Our role is to support the U.S. military and U.S. national security policy and the preservation of peace and liberty. I believe that and I believe that passionately. And I have thought long and hard about our moral obligation.

In our world when you think about death and you think about destruction, we hope for peace, we pray for peace, we work for peace. We make our best money and are most satisfied when we prepare the United States for deterrence. The fundamental reason for a standing army is to deter people and there [inaudible] people in this world.

MB: The Saudi regime is evil and you provide them with weapons. Is there anything moral about supplying Saudi Arabia with weapons?

PN: So we can decide and we can debate who is evil and who is not but we do support the policies of the United States. And I happen to believe personally, you may not, that the policy of the United States is just and fair and in our interest.

MB: Well you help make that policy ...

PN: .. I listened to you out of respect ...

MB: ... Oh I'm sorry. ...

PN: ... Please give me the same courtesy. So I'll offer to you again that we will have a conversation with you because I think it's important that you understand how we think about these things. You know I personally think long and hard about what it is we do. And I think in moral terms. And I thought a long history of both philosophical and religious reflection on the issues of peace in the world and war is sometimes an ugly necessity but not for a moment should you believe that we [inaudible] for war. We do not. We do not. It may feel like that from the outside but I would encourage you as a shareholder, it is your right and it is our privilege to talk to you and engage with you and explain to you what we do. And you may not find that fully satisfying but I think you will find us people of principle [inaudible] to listen and to work with others around us.

MB: Well I look forward to having that meeting with you and I would really like to know how you made decisions about selling weapons to countries that have zero democratic values to them and how it is morally responsible to be engaged war in Yemen where now as a result of that war every 75 seconds a child dies from results of war and hunger. And I just feel, my heart goes out those children of Yemen and I wonder if you think about them as well because while they are dying people in this company are making profits off of them.

PN: So I think that that's one of the things that we should talk about because the internet is full of misinformation, including the incident you cited in the marketplace and including the caging of children. So we'd like to have that dialogue with you. I'm going to presume you don't know the

facts and we are perfectly willing to show them to you and happy to do so and then you can continue to make your own judgement. So I think we've had this dialogue with you, we'll continue to have it but I think you can understand we've got important business before us.

MB: War making.

PN: So, that's your words [inaudible] so let's agree that if we're going to talk, we're going to talk in a respectful and civil manner. That is appropriate to each of our [inaudible] and I will always afford you that.