

Decision to exclude Next Vision Stabilized Systems Ltd

August 2025

1 Summary

With effect from August 2025, KLP and the KLP funds (KLP) have decided to exclude Next Vision Stabilized Systems Ltd (NextVision) from their investments. The decision is based on the criterion in the Guideline for KLP as a Responsible Investor, which states that "KLP should exclude companies from its investments where there is an unacceptable risk that they could contribute to or be responsible for: (...) serious violations of the rights of individuals in situations of war or conflict."

NextVision is an Israeli technology company and a leading producer of cameras used in military drones manufactured by Israel's largest defence contractor, Elbit Systems.¹ Elbit Systems is one of the most important suppliers to the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), including small attack drones armed with weapons and bombs. The company reports that other key customers include the Israeli Defence Ministry and the state-owned defence contractor Israel Aerospace Industries².

Drones have become an integral part of modern warfare. According to reports published by UN organisations and civil rights groups, military drones in Gaza have been used in violation of the basic principles of the law of war. As in other similar cases, exclusion is a way of reducing the risk of KLP being indirectly associated with unacceptable conditions that are ongoing or may occur in the future.

2 Background

KLP excludes companies from investment on the basis of data and analyses from our data provider, publicly available information from the media, civil society organisations and dialogue with the companies themselves. In connection with the media's highlighting of NextVision in recent days, new information emerged that has prompted KLP to evaluate the company.³

Several UN bodies have reported that Israel's continuous and targeted warfare in the Gaza Strip after Hamas's attack on 7 October 2023 has entailed systematic and serious violations of human rights and international law. This information has been known publicly for some time.⁴ In the past two years, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague has issued several injunctions against Israel in connection with the war in Gaza. In 2024, for example, the ICJ issued a legally binding order requiring Israel to halt its invasion of Rafah because the

¹ See, for example, Next Vision's website, <u>Over 1000 camera turret units and video encoders to Elbit Systems - NextVision</u>

² https://investor-relations.nextvision-sys.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/NextVisionMay2025 En compressed-1.pdf

^{3 &}lt;a href="https://www.aftenposten.no/norge/politikk/i/kw5zJk/oljefondet-investert-i-nok-et-selskap-som-tjener-stort-paa-gaza-krigen">https://www.aftenposten.no/norge/politikk/i/kw5zJk/oljefondet-investert-i-nok-et-selskap-som-tjener-stort-paa-gaza-krigen

⁴ See, for example, https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/086/64/pdf/g2408664.pdf; Israel's assault on the foundations of international law must have consequences: UN experts | OHCHR



humanitarian situation was considered disastrous.⁵ The ICJ has also ordered Israel to avoid acts which could constitute genocide, safeguard the provision of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in Gaza, and permit investigation. Israel has not complied with these court orders. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants against Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defence minister Yoav Gallant, citing alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.⁶ At the same time, the ICC issued arrest warrants against several Hamas leaders. As of 31 July 2025, 61,158 Palestinians have been killed and 151,442 injured in Gaza since October 2023, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. It is claimed that over half of those killed were women, children or elderly people.⁷ The death toll has risen since June.

The attacks, including by means of military drones, have violated the principle of proportionality and distinction in particular. These principles state that military assaults must not cause civilian losses that are disproportionately large in relation to the expected military gain, and that the parties to a conflict distinguish between civilian and military targets. UN reports document systematic attacks on civilian targets and the use of drones against civilian areas in urban districts.⁸

These violations of the international laws of war reinforce the risk that companies which supply critical components for such weapons systems are contributing to serious human rights violations. KLP takes the view that, since the start of 2024, it should have been possible to understand the risk that components of this type, which are sold to companies producing weapons for the Israeli armed forces, could be used to perpetrate serious human rights and humanitarian law violations.

3 Information from the company and dialogue with KLP

The company reports a material increase in sales since the outbreak of the war in 2023, and increased production to handle the increased demand from Israeli customers. The company's CEO has stated that Israeli customers are given priority.

There is no publicly available information on the company's approach to due diligence in situations of war or conflict, or how the company complies with the UN Guiding Principles and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. KLP has contacted NextVision but has not yet received any reply.

4 KLP's assessment

KLP has assessed whether there is an unacceptable risk that the company is contributing to or is itself responsible for "serious violations of the rights of individuals in situations of war or conflict". This assessment is based on the rules concerning warfare laid down in humanitarian law. Of particular importance are the Geneva Conventions' Common Article 3, which protects

⁵ https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-00-en.pdf, see also fn.no, 27 May 2025, Den internasjonale domstolen beordrer Israel til å stanse Rafah-offensiven – hva skjer nå?

⁶ <u>Situation in the State of Palestine: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I rejects the State of Israel's challenges to jurisdiction and issues warrants of arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant | International Criminal Court</u>

⁷ <u>Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip (6 August 2025) | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory</u>

⁸ See, for example, <u>Gaza: rights experts condemn AI role in destruction by Israeli military | UN News</u>

⁹ https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/rmem24l4z#google_vignette



civilians in conflicts not of an international character,¹⁰ and articles 6, 7, 9, 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protect the right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture.¹¹

In this case, KLP has assessed whether it is probable that the product which the company supplies is incorporated into military equipment that is used by a state involved in armed conflict, and, further, whether there is a material risk that this equipment is used in a way that violates the principles of humanitarian law and therefore KLP's investment guidelines.

Elbit Systems is one of the IDF's most important suppliers, including of small attack drones armed with weapons and bombs.¹² NextVision itself reports that it is a leading producer of cameras used in military drones manufactured by Elbit Systems.¹³ NextVision's cameras are deemed to be critical components in enabling such drones to monitor and identify targets. Based on the above information, KLP therefore considers it likely that the company's cameras are used in the manufacture of military drones deployed by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) in Gaza.

Drones have become a key aspect of modern warfare. The deployment of drones in Gaza, including against civilian targets, has been reported. The attacks do not distinguish between civilian and military targets. International media have reported on drone attacks that have killed aid workers and civilians, including children, in Gaza. These attacks have hit civilian targets which do not constitute any military threat. The deployment of drones in Gaza, including against civilian targets attacks do not distinguish between civilian and military targets. These attacks have hit civilian targets which do not constitute any military threat.

Not all sales of goods and services which may be associated with war and conflict will qualify for exclusion. KLP performs a specific assessment in all exclusion cases. In this case, particular emphasis has been placed on the fact that the company has, over time, sold critical components to arms manufacturers which supply weapons to a state which, according to international organisations, is violating international law. Weight has also been given to the company's own reports of a material increase in turnover and demand for its cameras after the outbreak of war in 2023¹⁶. These factors heighten the risk that the company's products are, in fact, being used in the war in Gaza.

The situation for the civilian population in Gaza has worsened significantly in the past year. The reported actions are extensive and well-documented, and, according to international organisations, constitute serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. According to international guidelines, companies which sell goods to customers in such situations must exercise a heightened level of due diligence.¹⁷ Due diligence assessments

¹⁰ ICRC, Treaties, States Parties and Commentaries, <u>IHL Treaties - Geneva Conventions of 1949</u>, <u>Additional Protocols and their Commentaries</u>

¹¹ The International Covenant on Civilian and Political Rights, and optional protocols, <u>Lov om styrking av menneskerettighetenes stilling i norsk rett (menneskerettsloven) - Vedlegg 6. Den internasjonale konvensjonen om sivile og politiske rettigheter med protokoller (no... - Lovdata</u>

¹² https://dimse.info/elbit-systems/; Israel MOD Secures Contracts with Elbit Systems for ISR Drones and Autonomous Systems

¹³ See, for example, NextVision's website, <u>Over 1000 camera turret units and video encoders to Elbit Systems - NextVision</u>

¹⁴ https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwygezz3gx70; https://www.npr.org/2024/11/19/nx-s1-5195171/witnesses-say-israel-is-using-sniper-drones-in-gaza-and-theyre-shooting-civilians;

¹⁵ Gaza surgeon describes drones targeting children

¹⁶ https://investor-relations.nextvision-sys.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Q3-2024.pdf

¹⁷ See, for example, the OECD's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the Commentary on Chapter IV (Human Rights), Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts: A Guide, from the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights: Heightened



must include an appraisal of how the products are being used and measures to avoid contributing to norm violations. The company does not publish any information on its due diligence assessments, and KLP has received no reply to its inquiries.

Taken together, the company's sales of critical components to arms manufacturers which supply a state subject to ICJ injunctions, the company's own reports of increased sales after the outbreak of war, its lack of transparency concerning its due diligence assessments, and a situation of documented norm violations, constitute an unacceptable risk that NextVision is contributing to the violation of humanitarian law principles and therefore KLP's investment guidelines.

5 Decision

Next Vision Stabilized Systems Ltd is excluded from investment by KLP and the KLP funds, with effect from August 2025.

<u>Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts: A Guide | United Nations Development Programme</u>; og Guidance on Responsible Business in Conflict-Affected & High-Risk Areas: A Resource for Companies and Investors: <u>Guidance on Responsible Business in Conflict-Affected & High-Risk Areas: A Resource for Companies and Investors | UN Global Compact</u>