

BOYCOTT ISRAEL!

END ILLEGAL ISRAELI COLONIAL SETTLEMENTS

Since 1967, successive Israeli governments have invested significant resources in establishing and expanding the Illegal Israeli settlement-colonies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, by means of land expropriation and population plantation.

Colonial settlers in the West Bank are provided Israeli citizenship and all the rights that entails, as well as separate 'settler only' transport networks through Palestinian lands. This is a civil legal apparatus which does not recognise Palestinian claims to land, property or civil rights (Palestinians live under Israeli-imposed military law). In addition, Palestinians' access to their farmlands is restricted, they suffer under a system of inhuman and degrading checkpoints which eliminate freedom of movement, enhanced grants and tax regimes for colonisers, and other restrictive measures further prevent Palestinians from having any semblance of normal or economic life, while Israel's colonial settlers lord it over them.

As a result of this policy, approximately 600,000 Illegal Israeli settlers are now living in 199 settlement-colonies and 232 colonial outposts throughout the West Bank - including East Jerusalem. All settlements-colonies are illegal under international law. Included among the 199 Israeli colonial settlements are 20 settlements known as Industrial settlements. These industrial settlement colonies produce hundreds of products ranging from pharmaceutical products, cosmetic products, food & beverage products and others. All are sold worldwide as "Products of Israel", enabling these products to take advantage of the preferential trade agreement with the EU (Euro-Med).

These industrial colonial settlements represent an Israeli state effort to legalise and normalise illegal colonial activity in Palestinian lands by:

- Enticing Israeli citizens to take part in colonial activity, outlawed in International Law, with grant aid
- Attracting the international market to occupied Palestinian land with commercial, industrial and tax incentives
- Depriving Palestinians of means of livelihood by setting up competing industries
- Illegal dumping of industrial waste and drainage in these illegal colonies on nearby Palestinian agricultural land

Dead Sea Beauty *Products of Oppression*

If a product advertises itself as being from the Dead Sea, there is a high chance it comes from an illegal Israeli settlement-colony in the West Bank. We ask you to refuse to buy these products of occupation and to write to the retail outlet that allows them be sold on their premises to complain - there is a sample letter online at:

www.ipsc.ie/dsbp

Examples of such products are L'Oreal Israel, Dead Sea Spa, Ahava, -417 & Temsa.

Abu Ghneim forest, near Bethlehem, 1997



2007, Har Homa Israeli settlement-colony



"I've been very deeply distressed in my visit to the Holy Land; it reminded me so much of what happened to us black people in South Africa. I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like us when young white police officers prevented us from moving about."



- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

WHY A BOYCOTT?

Israel is dependent on a strong export-orientated economy, and Europe is Israel's largest trading partner. Israel has preferential trade with the EU under the Euro-Med Agreement.

Ever increasing restrictions imposed by the state of Israel on the daily lives and movements of Palestinians (including Palestinian citizens of Israel) and of their goods and services have resulted in widespread economic collapse in Palestine.

Over 200 organisations representing a broad spectrum of Palestinian civil society (professional bodies, trade unions, major NGOs) have called on the international community to endorse a boycott campaign against Israel, similar to that which helped to end apartheid in South Africa.

Experience has proved that people power *can* make a difference. It is without doubt that the role played by the international boycott campaign against Apartheid South Africa had a significant impact in helping to bring about the eventual collapse of that rotten racist regime.

"Apartheid", meaning "separateness" in Afrikaans, was a system of legal racial segregation enforced by the government of South Africa between 1948-94. The actions of Israel towards its own non-Jewish citizens and the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories (the West Bank and Gaza) has put similar policies of segregation in place by means of giving separate rights to Jews and non-Jews.

Within Israel this is achieved by means of ID cards indicating the holders' religion. Palestinian and non-Jewish citizens have second class access to civil and municipal society. Thier rights to housing permits are restricted and by treating the Palestinian and non-Jewish villages as "unrecognised", they suffer discrimination in access to public amenities (drainage, roads, etc).



In the Occupied Palestinian Territories it is achieved by means of the policy of checkpoints and the "Separation Wall" (Apartheid Wall); the non-recognition of Palestinian rights and the use of military law rather than civil law for Palestinians; continued state and military actions resulting in civilians deaths; internment without trial; the policy of allowing colonial settlers to have citizenship and associated civil rights of Israel when living in colonial settlements in the Occupied Territories; separate road networks for colonial settlers; and many other glaring examples of segregation. These actions are continuous, and continuously escalating, resulting in an ever increasing litany of breaches of International law by the State of Israel.

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The December / January assault on Gaza resulting in the deaths of over 1,300 Palestinians and the ongoing colonial settlement policy in the Occupied Territories are currently the most glaring examples of this Apartheid policy.

"The so-called 'Palestinian autonomous areas' are ban-tustans. These are restricted entities within the power structure of the Israeli apartheid system." "



- Nelson Mandela

Boycotting Israeli goods in this manner offers a non-violent tactic that is both moral and effective in seeking a just and peaceful solution to the conflict, and can be done by everyone, as everyone is a consumer.