

----- Forwarded message -----

From: shan barclay <shan\_barclay@yahoo.co.uk>

Date: Sat, Apr 23, 2011 at 12:22 AM

Subject: Re: East of England Co-operative Society

To: Customer Support <CustomerSupport@eastofengland.coop>

Dear Roger,

May peace be with you.

Thank you for your reply to my letter however it in no way satisfies my grave concerns.

In point of fact not only do Palestinians and Palestine support the boycott but also Israel is dependent upon Palestinian labour, not as you suggest the other way round and this has been the case from 1948.

There is no way round the fact that the conditions and terms of employment of Palestinian labour in no way comply with the criteria of the Ethical

Trade Initiative which you so proudly claim to have pioneered.

In addition they in no way conform to the manifesto statements in the Co-operative Revolution of which I happen actually to be a member as well as

being a member of both EofE Co-op and national Co-op.

As such I am horrified by your cavalier attitude to the facts that I laid before you in my previous letter to which I could also add a great many more.

I have to say therefore that regrettably EofE Co-op is guilty of hypocrisy in the marketplace by on the one hand promoting its Ethical standards and on

the other being complicit in self-evidently unethical trade with an unethical regime and profiting from that and by default by endorsing this making its

customers complicit also whether they like this or not.

Effectively your position therefore is also legally and morally untenable and I ask of you a far more considered and rational response than the one you

have given.

I should add that precisely the arguments you have used were used to support continued trade with South Africa under apartheid and as you know

eventually all agreed that that not only should that cruel regime come to an end ( a fact of which I am sure you are grateful) but also that as part of

that process the boycott was essential and its implementation was pivotal in bringing that about.

This situation is no different and in fact as Archbishop Tutu remarked on a visit to Palestine not long ago "I weep to see people being treated as my

people were treated".

The situation now is even worse than then, it is time that EofE Co-op stands by its words and ceases all trade with the illegal Regime in Israel.

Awaiting a better reply

yours sincerely

Shan Barclay

PS I write as one who upholds the precept of many of the Co-op's principles and also therefore with the best interests of EofE Co-op in mind

--- On Thu, 21/4/11, Customer Support <CustomerSupport@eastofengland.coop> wrote:

From: Customer Support <CustomerSupport@eastofengland.coop>

Subject: East of England Co-operative Society

To: shan\_barclay@yahoo.co.uk

Date: Thursday, 21 April, 2011, 14:10

Sent on behalf of Roger Grosvenor, Group General Manager Trading

Dear Mr Barclay

Thank you for your recent email regarding the Society offering for sale in its stores product from Israel.

We view developments in Israel with some concern, sharing those of many others. In general though, it is not our policy to support boycotts because

of the adverse impact they can have on individuals and communities not directly involved and in the case of Israel, the many Palestinian workers

dependent on the Israeli economy.

Therefore we continue to trade with Israel, mainly sourcing fresh produce to provide a continuity of high-quality product and to maintain year round

supplies. However, labelling to ensure that our customers have the information necessary to enable them to make an informed purchasing choice, is a

key aspect of our Responsible Retailing policy, which includes clearly indicating the country of origin on pack. All Co-operative brand products are

clearly labelled with the country of origin. Additionally all suppliers of own brand products are included within the scope of our sound sourcing

programme; this addresses workplace issues including fair treatment and discrimination, complementing the broader political dialogue in the region.

The Co-operative does not source any own brand primary produce from illegal West Bank settlements. All Co-operative brand suppliers are aware of

our position on the occupied territories and have given us an undertaking that any products supplied to us by them are not sourced from this region.

In addition, traceability audits are carried out to confirm product origins on an ongoing basis. This is overseen by an external third party body to

verify the accuracy of sourcing statements from our supply base.

However, we do recognise that there may be some legitimate Palestinian-owned businesses which want to export their products to the UK market.

The measures which are outlined above, by which the integrity of our supplies can be confirmed, enable them to do this in a way which ensures their

legitimacy.

On this point, I am pleased to confirm that The Co-operative has introduced to the UK the first Fairtrade Mark product to come out of Palestine - a

Fairtrade olive oil. We were the first UK supermarket to list this unique product.

I trust that this information has helped to clarify our position on these matters, and would like to thank you once again for the interest you have

shown in our activities.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Co-op Careline on 0800 0686 727 or write to Co-operative Group,

FREEPOST, MR9473, MANCHESTER M4 8BA.

Kind regards

Roger Grosvenor

Group General Manager Trading

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EMAIL MESSAGE FROM WEB SITE

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This message was automatically generated by the Intextra Feedback module in response to a user submitting an email.

Sent from server: 14/04/2011 01:08:39

This email is from:

Name: Shan Barclay

Telephone number: 07828278444

Email address: shan\_barclay@yahoo.co.uk

Subject: Web site user email

Message:

Dear Co-op customer relations,

may peace be with you.

I am very glad that you have decided to relaunch your founding campaign initiative, namely the Co-operative Revolution.

I am quite a long standing member of the East of England Co-op and have actually signed up to support the 'Revolution' as well.

However in the light of this and your stated and noble aims as part of this I was shocked to find on a recent visit to my local stores at Unthank Rd

Colman Rd and Earlham Rd Norwich that you are continuing to sell products from a country whose government has been in flagrant breach of

international and humanitarian law, specifically with respect to its treatment of Palestinians, since its outset and no more so than now: I mean the

nation and government of Israel.

The list of breaches of UN resolutions is very long, most recently that which condemned the building of settlements in illegally occupied land (signed

also by the British government) The cruel siege of Gaza continues into its 5th year, Operation Cast Lead two years ago killed over 1,400 including

many women and over 400 children and wounded over 5,000 as well as causing untold destruction to civilian buildings and much ancilliary damage.

There is no freedom of movement in the West Bank, the illegal annexation of Jerusalem continues with regular demolitions and settlement buliding,

thousands are illegally detained and regularly tortured, including children, nothing and no one in Palestine is safe and even basic human rights are not

respected by the Israeli government.

In addition Palestinians within 'Israel' are deprived of rights and as you will know the majority of Palestinians are living in forced exile, many in

atrocious conditions.

This is just a very small number of the indignities that Palestinians suffer at the hands of the Israeli government.

All these things I am sure you would agree are in flagrant breach also of your stated principles in your Co-operative manifesto.

You say for example that you pioneered the Ethical Trade Initiative yet for example its stipulation that workers be treated fairly and paid properly and

work in safe conditions are all breached with regard to Palestinians both in Occupied Territories and also within 'Israel'. There are other breaches of

this as well.

In addition it is known that much illegal settlement produce is labelled 'Israel' in order to take advantage of the favourable tax exemption through the

EU-Israel Trade Agreement because settlement produce is not exempt. This applies for example to Dead Sea salt and also Mejdoul dates but there

are other products smuggled through illegally in this way also eg wines.

Other food chains are guilty like you of selling these products but when becoming a member of the Co-op , like many others, it was on the

understanding that you hold a special place in the market which upholds moral principles in shopping which I and many others endeavour to adhere to.

This is why I find it even more shocking that you should continue to endorse what is clearly illegal produce.

The example I gave of incorrect labelling is a clear breach of the Trades Descriptions Act and you should be aware that by continuing to sell these

products you are not only incriminating yourselves and being hypocritical with respect to your stated principles but also incriminating your customers

who accept your endorsement and assume that you are abiding by the ETI when you are not.

The Israeli government for years has operated an apartheid system with respect to the Palestinians, a fact commented on by Archbishop Tutu on a

visit not so long ago. You will remember that it was the boycott of that cruel regime which was pivotal in bringing it to an end, a fact of which I am

sure you would be grateful, yet here we have a parallel system operating and you are in effect supporting it and upholding it by continuing to trade

with the government which is illegally imposing it.

For the sake of your good name as a company and for the sake of your customers I am asking you in the clearest possible terms to reconsider at the

highest level your sale of any product from Israel, let alone any from illegal settlements until such time as the Israeli government agrees to abide by

its obligations under international, humanitarian, EU and British law.

I await your considered and full response

yours sincerely

Shan Barclay

Co-operative member

PS Insurance style disclaimers will not be acceptable.

== END OF MESSAGE ==

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I await your considered and full response

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Shan Barclay

Co-operative member

PS Insurance style disclaimers will not be acceptable.

== END OF MESSAGE ==

----- Forwarded message -----

From: shan barclay <shan\_barclay@yahoo.co.uk>

Date: Mon, Apr 18, 2011 at 11:13 PM

Subject: Re: sale of Israeli products

To: Executive Office <Executive.Office@sainsburys.co.uk>

Dear Rob,

may peace be with you

I note receipt of this the most recent correspondence from Sainsbury's Plc and that it is from the executive.

I also make clear that in no way do I accept your insurance style disclaimer.

Among other things I draw your attention to your second para mentioning compliance with safety and ethical standards.

The employment of Palestinian labour in no way complies with either of these.

Frequently Palestinians have to work in unsafe conditions, at very low rates of pay, with no job security whatsoever, often with no free access

whatsoever to their place of work either.

These are only some of the very discriminatory conditions which they have to put up with and have had to on a daily and also indefinite timescale.

On no account would these conditions meet the standards required by law in this country or the EU or indeed the US.

You say that you used to source products from the WB and give Palestinian herbs as an example, you do not say that in fact the great majority of

these herbs were in fact from illegal settlements and you know that perfectly well sir so please do not try to tell me or anyone else otherwise.

You say that you are a 'non-political' organisation but the fact that you sell produce from a regime which has acted outside international and human

rights law since its inception is in itself a political endorsement of an illicit regime until such time as it is willing to comply by UN resolutions and the

requirements of international and human rights law as underwritten by the UN, the EU and also this country.

You say that you leave it up to your customers to make their own choice but you forget that the customers when they buy something in your shop do

so on the understanding that you have carried out the legally required checks which you patently haven't in this case.

In other words they are trusting you and this makes not only you complicit in the many crimes that the Israeli government has been guilty of (I note

for example the recent horrific war on Gaza, detention without trial and torture of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians over many years among a

great many others) but also them by default on your own authority.

This sir does your company no good service, in fact quite the opposite, it is in fact very damaging to your corporate image as a major and respected

market trader.

The fact that other supermarkets are also guilty in no way exonerates you at all.

Effectively you association in other words with 'Israel Plc' is 'unkosher'.

I agree with you that this is an important matter which needs to be taken up urgently at the highest level within your administration.

I would also note that it is not currently possible to ascertain if a product labelled 'Israel' does not in fact come from illegal settlements. As you will

know Israel benefits from very favourable tax breaks through the EU Trade Agreement (No such right of course for the Palestinians) the settlements

however enjoy no such favours being agreed to be illegal by all except the Israeli government and the US (see recent UN resolution condemning the

illegal settlements).

The incentive therefore to use the Israeli label as a convenience is all too evident.

This certainly applies to Mejdoul dates for example which only grow in the Jordan valley.

I note finally that it is a well known fact that a proportion of the annual profits of Sainsbury's Plc goes to Israel which very clearly shows the biased

position from which you approach the marketplace.

I have not attempted to give you a fully exhaustive list of the reasons for my rejection of your response but nevertheless await now a more

considered and well constructed answer to this letter

I remain yours sincerely

Shan barclay

--- On Mon, 18/4/11, Executive Office <Executive.Office@sainsburys.co.uk> wrote:

From: Executive Office <Executive.Office@sainsburys.co.uk>

Subject:

To: shan\_barclay@yahoo.co.uk

Date: Monday, 18 April, 2011, 14:20

Our reference: 1-248145953/JA/SE

Dear Mr Barclay

Thank you for your email. I do appreciate your further concerns about us sourcing some of our products from Israel and the West Bank .

As a non-political organisation, we source our products according to their ability to meet our quality, safety and ethical standards. We prefer to give

our customers the opportunity to make their own decision in terms of the products they buy.

We are not currently sourcing any products from the West Bank but in the past have sourced certain products from the area, such as fresh herbs from

Palestinian growers.

We are committed to labelling all our products clearly and accurately so our customers can make an informed choice when shopping. As explained

previously the DEFRA guidelines we follow give greater clarity on how to label produce. Therefore if we were to source from the occupied territories

our labelling would clearly indicate the origin, i.e. West Bank (Palestinian produce) or West Bank (Israeli settlements).

I can assure you that we will continue to closely monitor all our suppliers to ensure they are adhering to the ETI base code for ethical sourcing.

I'm grateful to you for writing to me again on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Rob McDonald

Head of Customer Service

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Try something new today and visit [www.sainsburys.co.uk](http://www.sainsburys.co.uk) for food and drink inspiration, financial services, latest product news and much more, or to

shop online.

Don't print this email unless you really need to; think of the environment and save a tree!

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager ([postmaster@sainsburys.co.uk](mailto:postmaster@sainsburys.co.uk)).

This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, but does not warrant that the message is

virus free.

Email sent to Sainsbury's systems may be monitored by the company.

J Sainsbury plc (185647 England)

Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited (3261722 England)

Registered Offices:

33 Holborn

London EC1N 2HT

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