

54, Drabblegate,
Aylsham
Norfolk NR11 6LR

15-2-2011

Dalton Phillips
Managing Director, Morrisons
Gain Lane,
Bradford
Yorks BD3 7DL

Dear Dalton Phillips,

I was in your store at Old Catton, Norwich today and found potatoes, peppers, tomatoes, from Israel. Do you realise that support for the Israeli Government is support for a Racist and Apartheid regime.

Within Israel the 1.2million Palestinians are treated as second class citizens and unlike their 'Jewish' Israeli citizens if they choose to marry a Palestinian outside the recognised borders they must leave the country. This is unlike anyone labelled as 'Jewish' who can marry and invite any partner in to Israel.

In the West bank a full blown Apartheid system with separate roads and rights and residence is in force.

May I point out that the illegal Israeli settlements In the West Bank continue to expand ,with more settlers and more production on stolen land.

The produce from these illegal settlements attract duty and this amounted to £22,000 in 2009 down from £110,000 in the period 2005-8.

You may find this strange in that Europe is Israel's second largest export market at 12billion euros and an estimated one third of these exports are fully or partially produced in the illegal settlements. The truth is that within Israel the distinction between the settlement produce and that within the green line is not made. Israel says that it has no legal mechanism to label products by their geographical origin and so supplies postcodes to the EU customs officers which can be offices within Israel as is the case with Shamir Salads.

The situation is so bad that in December 2010, Chris Patten, Mary Robinson, Helmut Schmidt, Javier Solana and 20 others have just written to all EU governments....."We consider it necessary that the EU bring to an end the import of settlement produce which are in contradiction of EU labelling regulations, marketed as originating in Israel. We consider it inexplicable that such products still enjoy benefits under preferential trade agreements between the EU an Israel" (see letter at www.map-uk.org/uk/news/view/-/id/912/)

Two Italian supermarkets chains have responded to Israeli abuse of 'country of origin' labelling by not stocking any Israeli produce, they 'cannot differentiate whether they come from the West Bank settlements or inside the Green Line'. It is believed that 80% of all exports to Britain from the settlements are shipped under false pretences. There is no doubt that this includes many of your products.

You have told me previously that you are selling dates from the illegal settlements in the West Bank of Palestine. This land is illegally occupied and in the case of the Jordan Valley the Palestinian residents have been largely 'ethnically cleansed'. Israel occupies this land in contravention of many United Nations Resolutions and its occupation is recognised as illegal by the EU and UK Government. Your support, for the illegal settlers makes you complicit in their crimes.

I would like you to stop importing all goods or produce from Israel. This would raise your ethical profile and create an example for other supermarkets. At the moment it is only M&S, Asda and Co-op which will not import West Bank produce. Of course much of the so called Israeli produce they import, is actually mislabelled and is from the West Bank.

I would also like to point out that your mixed fruits and salads which you label as "packed in the UK" do not give me the choice of avoiding purchasing 'Israeli' produce. Do any of these mixed packs contain Israeli produce?

Yours sincerely

Dr Peter Norton