

To Port Townsend Food Co-Op Board of Directors:

We the undersigned request that the PT Food Co-Op make a policy decision to boycott all Israeli products due to the social, political, and environmental practices of the Israeli government.

The boycott is a step toward justice for the Palestinians and Israelis, following a path of nonviolent resistance that led to an end of Jim Crow laws, ended violations of farm workers' rights, and ended apartheid in South Africa. As member-owners of the Food Co-op, we ask that the Food Co-op boycott products imported from Israel and the occupied territories until Israel stops violating international law and the human rights of the Palestinian people.

The following statements address the merit of this boycott.

1. Who is calling for the boycott?

We are members of the PT Food Co-Op and conscientious citizens of the World standing in solidarity with the Palestinians. The concept of boycott was proposed by Palestinians and has some support within Israel.

2. What is/are the issue(s) being raised? Is the information upon which the boycott is based valid and verifiable? Do these issues violate our core values and mission statement?

"creating a model for economic, social, and environmental justice, sustainability, democracy, and integrity." - Food Co-op Principle #3

As member/owners and customers of the Food Co-op, we want to use our collective purchasing power to promote social justice and stop human rights violations. Use of the non-violent tool of boycott is particularly poignant in the light of the recent deadly attack on the Freedom Flotilla humanitarian aid ships by the Israeli military in international waters and Israel's daily attacks on civilians in the West Bank and Gaza, including non-violent community activists. American activists have been killed and seriously injured by Israeli soldiers while trying to protect Palestinian human rights, including Rachel Corrie, Brian Avery, Tristan Anderson, Fulkan Dogan, and Emily Henochowicz. We can provide more information on request from the Co-op board of directors.

The goals of the boycott are to draw attention to the Palestinian/Israeli situation and specifically to educate people about U.S. complicity with it. It is a step taken in response to 62 years of race-based oppression in Palestine and 43 years of occupation of all Palestinian land, and nearly 4 years of siege on Gaza, all of which have left Palestinian Christians, Muslims and nondemonational persons in dire straits.

Our government provides Israel with monetary aid, military weapons, and political cover that facilitates Israel's continued violations of the rights of the Palestinians. U.S. aid is in excess of \$3 billion dollars a year, more money than is given to any other single country. Commander Whitbred, former commander of Indian Island Naval Magazine stated that Israel is one of "our best customers".

3. What are the specific goals of the boycott? Are these goals consistent with our mission statement?

"The Food Co-op, whose members voluntarily and consciously co-operate for the common good, acts to create social and economic change and improvement within the larger community. " - Food Co-op Principles

The goals of the boycott are to educate people about the Palestinian/Israeli situation and specifically to educate people about U.S. complicity with it. A Boycott, Divest, Sanction (BDS) campaign from Israeli goods can add to education and international pressure to:

1. End the military rule/occupation/siege to which Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are subjected;
2. End the disenfranchisement of the indigenous Palestinian population in Israel and giving them full individual as well as collective rights;
3. Recognize of the right of return of the Palestinian refugees.

What would be the impact on the Co-op?

Alternatives are available for all products sold in the PT Food Co-Op. We would be happy to assist researching which products would be part of the boycott. A decision to boycott can have a very positive impact because the Co-op will be acting in accordance with its principles and will be contributing to saving the lives and protecting the rights of all the people who live in Palestinian/Israel.

This boycott should be subject to review and removal when Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (both Gaza and the West Bank) are again able to enjoy equal rights under law or when the occupation is removed.

Thank you for your considering this boycott request.

Submitted by:

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