

From: <customerservice@sainsburys.co.uk>
Date: 3 April 2010 09:15
Subject: RE: End the sale of settlement produce [SR 1-230719368]
To: lauer@waronwant.org

Dear Layla

Thank you for contacting us. I appreciate your concerns about the sourcing of our products.

Our customers expect to buy high quality products all year round and this means we do source some of our products from Israel and the West Bank, especially at times when we're unable to get a plentiful supply closer to the UK. In the past we've received requests to boycott the products of many different countries and suppliers. We do understand that the situation in the Middle East is very sensitive for many different people. However, I'm sure you'll appreciate that we'd prefer to give our customers the opportunity to make their own decision. This is why we work hard to make sure we label our products clearly.

We take our guidance on how to label the country of origin on products from DEFRA. We're pleased that they've recently issued guidance which gives retailers greater clarity on how to label produce. We source from both Palestinian and Israeli farms on the West Bank so, depending on where they are coming from, we label products as 'West Bank (Israeli settlement produce)' or 'West Bank (Palestinian produce)'.

We are founding members of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and require all our suppliers to meet the ETI Base Code for ethical sourcing. The Code covers nine key principles, including safe and hygienic working conditions, and payment of a fair wage. We continue our commitment to ethical, responsible sourcing and hope you feel reassured of our intentions to provide our customers with honest and open information about the food they buy.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns with us.

Kind regards

Marta Zadruzynska
Customer Manager
[THREAD ID:1-3T974U]

-----Original Message-----

From: ladida555@gmail.com
Sent: 30.03.2010 03:02:19 PM
To: "Customer.Service" <Customer.Service@sainsburys.co.uk>
Subject: End the sale of settlement produce

Dear Chief Executives,

The Israeli Occupation of Palestine has created a humanitarian disaster. Palestinians are being subjected to human rights abuses daily and live in crushing poverty in refugee camps. According to the United Nations over 70% of Palestinians now live in poverty.

I am concerned that your supermarket is complicit in the Occupation by selling produce from Israeli settlements. Settlements are illegal under international law and the British government has called them "obstacles to peace". By selling settlement produce, your supermarket is complicit in their illegality and making a killing from Palestinian suffering.

I urge you to end your sale of settlement produce immediately and check through your supply chain to ensure that your supermarket ends its complicity in human rights violations against Palestinians.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Thank you,

Layla Auer

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