

Responsible Economic Engagement - Suggested Actions for Groups and Individuals

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Compiled by the Palestine-Israel Action Group, a subcommittee
of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

Products made in Israeli West Bank Settlements

Individuals may wish to avoid purchases that support the economic viability of these unlawful enclaves. The settlements are key obstacles to peace, commandeering land and water, destroying olive groves, impeding Palestinians' freedom of movement with settlement-related roadblocks and a network of Israeli-only roads that connect West Bank settlements with Israel. Speak to the store manager. And/or organize an information campaign. Distribute leaflets outside the store describing the suffering of residents in the West Bank and Gaza and asking shoppers to avoid these products.

1. **Ahava beauty products**, which are sold in stores around the world, are produced in Mitzpeh Shalem, an illegal West Bank settlement.
2. **Beigel and Beigel** Food produced on occupied Palestinian land.
3. **Gamla, Golan, and Yarden** wines. Produced on illegally occupied Syrian territory.
4. **Other Israeli wines**. Many of these are produced in illegal settlements. All have "Israel" on the label. For a list of these wines see <http://cjpp.org/vinsIsraelSAQ.pdf>
5. **Other settlement products**. See www.gushshalom.org, www.bigcampaignboycottlist.org.

Support the Palestinian economy

1. **Buy Fair Trade Palestinian olive oil**. Olive oil is a vital source of income for many Palestinian farmers. 65% of Palestinian families derive vital sustenance and/or income from agriculture. In many areas Israeli curfews and movement restrictions, as well as threats of violence from Israeli settlers, have resulted in olive trees going unharvested. Many olive trees have been destroyed by the Separation Wall and settlement building. Support Palestinian farmers by purchasing excellent olive oil at: www.palestinefairtrade.org/ and www.zatoun.com/ and www.canaanfairtrade.com/products.
2. **Buy Fair Trade Palestinian organic sun-dried tomatoes, olives, olive oil soap, and cous cous** at: www.palestinefairtrade.org/
3. **Specialty grocery stores carry tinned pickles, tahini, olive oil, etc.** from the West Bank, sold under Ziyad and other labels. Spread the word about these local outlets.
4. **Send micro-grants or loans to mini-cooperatives** producing organic sun-dried tomatoes, olives, olive oil soap, and cous cous in the West Bank. These 5-woman coops are supported by the Palestine Fair Trade Association: www.palestinefairtrade.org/
5. **Buy T-shirts made in Bethlehem** at: www.nosweatshop.com

Other Economic Actions for Peace

Contact companies whose products or services are used in violence against Israelis or Palestinians. Urge them to change their practices. Investors can avoid such firms and Israeli State Bonds, as well, instead seeking enterprises that help the cause of peace. Shareholders may join stockholder resolutions that ask companies to stop enabling violence in Israel-Palestine.

A) Divestment: The 20-company divestment list of United Methodist-New England:

Lockheed Martin, Blockbuster, Alliant Tech Systems, Boeing, Caterpillar, Cement Roadstone Holdings, General Dynamics, General Electric, Globecomm Systems, Magal Security Systems, Motorola, Northrop Grumman, Oshkosh Truck Corp, Raytheon, Silicon Graphics, TEREX, United Technologies, Veolia Environnement, ITT, Volvo. (www.neumc.org)

B) Israeli State Bonds

Israel pays for its military armaments and the Occupation with funds raised from the sale of its bonds as well as millions per day from the US government.

Investors find Israeli State bonds attractive because the US guarantees them through the Agency for International Development (USAID). The US guarantees no other foreign government's public debt. Some experts believe Israel is unlikely ever to redeem these bonds, making them in effect a gift from US taxpayers.

Take action:

1. **US state governments and union pension funds** often carry a sizeable portfolio of Israeli State bonds. Contact your state government or union.
2. **Fidelity Mutual Funds.** Fidelity Investments includes Israeli State bonds in some of its mutual bond funds. This data is available at www.fidelity.com/
Ask Fidelity and your broker to avoid such investments or stay invested and join shareholder resolutions urging Fidelity to divest from these bonds

C) Support Israeli, Palestinian, and international human rights organizations that take up the call for a global boycott of companies profiting from the occupation of the Palestinian Territories. For example, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHN) states: "We fully support selective divestment from companies that profit from Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem."

D) Write a letter: Here is a sample:

James W. Owens,
Chair and CEO, Caterpillar Inc.
100 NE Adams Street,
Peoria, IL 61629-1425

Dear Mr. Owens,

As a (concerned citizen/stockholder/member of X group) I/we ask Caterpillar Corp. to cease sending equipment to Israel that is used in violence against Palestinian civilians. We ask in particular that you stop providing the specially fitted D9 bulldozer that is used by the Israeli army to destroy Palestinian homes and olive groves. This destruction has caused untold physical, psychological, and economic hardship to thousands of Palestinian families.

E) Sign a petition: US Campaign to End the Occupation asks Motorola to stop providing products and services that support the Occupation. See:

<www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/Motorola%20Petition.pdf>

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Some websites used in this research: <http://www.pcusa.org/mrti/companies.htm>;
<http://www.gush-shalom.org>. http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article_19.shtml
<http://alawda.rso.wisc.edu/links.htm>; <http://www.cjpp.org>; www.bigcampaign.org/
<http://www.qumsiyeh.org/boycottsanddivestment/>; www.quakerpi.org/Activism
<http://www.palestinesolidaritymovement.org/resources.htm>; <http://www.dukedivest.org/>