

Economic Actions:

Ways to Work for Peace & Justice in Palestine-Israel

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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

Avoid products made in Israeli West Bank settlements

Avoid purchases that support settlements' economic viability. These illegal enclaves take Palestinians' land and water, destroy their olive groves, and impede their freedom of movement with roadblocks and Israeli-only roads.

Share your concerns with store managers. Organize an information campaign:

Distribute leaflets outside stores selling settlement products describing the suffering of residents in the West Bank and Gaza and asking shoppers to avoid settlement products.

1. **Ahava beauty products** sold in stores around the world are produced in an illegal West Bank settlement, Mitzpeh Shalem though labeled "Made in Israel."
2. **SodaStream home carbonating devices** made in Mishor Edumim settlement.
3. **Israeli wines.** Many are produced in illegal settlements. All have "Israel" on the label. For a list see cjpp.org/vinsIsraelSAQ.pdf
4. **Hadiklaim brand Medjool Dates.**
5. **Other settlement products.** See: gushshalom.org; bigcampaign.org/index

Support the Palestinian economy

1. **Buy Fair Trade Palestinian olive oil.** Olive oil is a vital source of income for Palestinian farmers. But movement restrictions and settler violence curtail the harvest. Thousands of olive trees have been uprooted by the Separation Wall and settlement expansion. Excellent Palestinian olive oil is available from: palestinefairtrade.org; zatoun.com; canaanfairtrade.com/products
2. **Buy Fair Trade Palestinian organic sun-dried tomatoes, olives, olive oil soap, cous cous, crafts:** palestinefairtrade.org/, palestineonlinestore.com/
3. **Seek specialty grocery stores that carry tinned pickles, tahini, and olive oil from the West Bank,** sold under Ziyad and other labels. Spread the word about local outlets.
4. **Send micro-grants or loans to mini-cooperatives in the West Bank and Gaza.** Teams of women produce beautiful embroidery, organic sun-dried tomatoes, cous cous and olive oil soap assisted by Palestine Fair Trade Assn: palestinefairtrade.org/ and Gazan Women's Affairs Center: naila@wac.org.ps
5. **Buy T-shirts made in Bethlehem:** nosweatshop.com

Encourage companies to stop providing products used in violence against Palestinians:

A) Join the global boycott of companies profiting from or aiding the Occupation, as called for by Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights groups

Avoid investing in such firms. Or join stockholder resolutions asking companies to stop aiding the Occupation. Your Investment advisor can help. Ask TIAA-CREF to divest at: jewishvoiceforpeace.org/tiaa-cref. Find firms profiting from Occupation at: whoprofits.org/ and interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/resources/profitting.pdf. Discover more options at: WeDivest.org/, WhoProfits.org, and GlobalExchange.org.

B) Avoid 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. See Minnesota activists' campaign at: mn.breakthebonds.org/
2. **Fidelity Mutual Funds.** Fidelity Investments includes Israeli State bonds in some mutual bond funds. See data at www.fidelity.co. Ask Fidelity and your broker to avoid such investments. Or stay invested and join shareholder resolutions urging Fidelity to divest from these bonds.

C) Adopt an "investment screen" or divest:

Here is the 29-company divestment list of United Methodists/New England

& AFSC: Alliant Tech Systems, Boeing, Caterpillar, Cellcom Israel, Cemex, Cement Roadstone Holdings, Elbit Systems, Formula Systems, General Dynamics, General Electric, Globecomm Systems, Heidelberg Cement AG, Hewlett Packard, ICX Technologies, Ingersoll Rand, ITT, Lockheed Martin, Magal Security Systems, Motorola Solutions, Northrop Grumman, On Track Innovations, Oshkosh Truck, Raytheon, Silicon Graphics, TEREX, United Technologies, Valero Energy, Veolia Environnement, Volvo. (Contact: Ecumenical Action Group: Investment for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine <Bill.Somplatsky-Jarman@pcusa.org>)

D) Write a letter:

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: endtheoccupation.org/downloads/Motorola%20Petition.pdf

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