



## BOYCOTTING SUPERMARKETS

### ARE UK SUPERMARKETS SUPPORTING ISRAEL?

I am not aware of any strategic support by the main UK supermarkets with Israel in the Occupied Territories and land stolen from Palestinians according to international laws, except by working with Israeli companies to sell their produce in the UK.

The link below is a paper I saw a few years back. Bear in mind that these are those companies building on land outside of post-1967 internationally accepted borders of Israel, in other words lands which it is illegal to settle or build on according to the international community.

The following is the edited summary of the research paper, "UK economic links with Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory." The paper was prepared for the Sir Joseph Hotung Programme for Law, Human Rights and Peace Building in the Middle East, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London by the research group

<http://electronicintifada.net/content/report-uk-economic-links-israeli-settlements/3423>

I cannot locate the full paper.

Boycotting for it to work needs to be structured and organised whilst communicating through a recognised body with the local supermarkets. It needs to be targeted on those specific companies and those specific products.

There is little point that a few of us conduct boycotting on an adhoc basis and then boycotting anything and everything in a general way.

This communication with the local supermarkets is essential as the supermarket needs to understand why a particular product from a particular company is not selling well. For instance, if Tesco Bradford makes a 2% loss this month and the managers sit down to discuss it - they may think if they are not aware of the boycotting campaign that the loss could be due to Ramadan, or the hotter summer or a new supermarket opening down the road. That's why they have to see that boycotting such-and-such is a reaction to their action of purchasing these particular Israeli goods.

On the more general issue of boycotting please see below

<http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/profitting.pdf>

<http://wakeupfromyourslumber.com/blog/great-revealer/13-worst-companies-who-support-israel-s-policies>

<http://www.ruthfullyyours.com/2011/02/27/these-companies-support-israel-lets-support-them/>

<http://www.inminds.co.uk/boycott-brands.html>

I find these to be reliable and balanced.



In summary for boycotting to work it should be led by a recognised organisation representing the community and dealing with supermarkets directly.

On another as important if not more is what is creeping into the Muslim community which is a form of extremism that we have to be very careful of where Muslims are being accused by fellow Muslims as being complicit in the murdering of Palestinians because they bought a loaf of bread from Tesco's!

To look down upon a fellow Muslim is a sin to shop at Tesco's isn't. I have had individuals discuss with me that they have been made to feel uncomfortable and made to feel as though they are committing a major sin by shopping in any supermarket.

Let us not forget that we are and have shopped in supermarkets selling alcohol but we have not boycotted the supermarket when that is clearly illegal in Islam.

We have bought items from local shops selling alcohol, cigarettes and lewd magazines – why not boycott them?

Furthermore, on the issue of boycotting then there are many other items we need to boycott as well, the list is longer but here are a few

1. Eating anything which Allah has made illegal
2. Interest from your bank account
3. Adultery
4. Lying, swearing and backbiting
5. Pornography and looking at someone with lust
6. Drugs
7. Alcohol

So it is important that we put everything in perspective and allow Islam to inform us of the correct steps rather than our feelings or political motivations.

In conclusion, in order to support Palestinians in Gaza there are a number of initiatives we can get involved in; charity work, raising awareness and political lobbying are examples. Boycotting is another and can work if conducted appropriately. But let's not allow this to be a means for some of us to look down on other fellow Muslims just because they shop at supermarket which sells some Israeli products and who have adopted another way after taking advice from Islamic scholars, especially as has been made abundantly clear that it is not a sin to do so.