

Dear Friend,

Boycott Israeli Dates Campaign

As Ramadan approaches, Muslims around the country will be preparing to welcome the arrival of this blessed month, which will include buying dates to break their fasts.

Leeds Palestine Solidarity Campaign would like to draw your attention to a very important campaign that we run annually, and we hope that you can support us.

Every year, Israel exports millions of pounds worth of dates to the world, which many people buy and use to break their fasts. These dates are grown in illegal settlements in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley, on land that has been stolen from Palestinians. By buying these dates, we are in fact helping Israel to continue its occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people.

As a guide please avoid the following companies:

- ◆ Carmel - also under the names of Agrexco, Jordan Plains and Jordan Valley
- ◆ Hadiklaim - also under the names of King Solomon Dates and Jordan River
- ◆ They also supply Israeli dates to supermarkets who market them under their own brand names. These include Marks & Spencer's, Sainsbury's, Tesco's, and Waitrose, often labelled as from West Bank or Jordan Valley.

The focus right now is encouraging shops, wholesalers and importers not to source their dates from Israel. We would like to ask if your Mosque/Shop/Organisation would like to help with this and support the campaign. The boycott movement is growing very quickly and more and more people will no longer buy dates that come from Israel.

There are varieties of dates from various other countries to source your dates from. However if you would like Medjoul dates from Palestine and help the Palestinian farmers they are available from YAFFA. You can also order these dates through Friends of Al-Aqsa (e-mail: info@aqsa.org.uk), as they are helping to distribute them this year. Another provider is Zaytoun (www.zaytoun.org.uk).

We have seen a huge shift in the way the state of Israel and the occupation is viewed globally – however, there is still a lot of work to be done. This is your chance to be a part of the free Palestine movement. We have enclosed a leaflet for your information. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your support.

In peace and solidarity

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