

STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

July 26, 2021

Via Email: Sean.Greenwood@benjerry.com

Mr. Matthew McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer
Ben & Jerry's Homemade Holdings
30 Community Drive, Suite One
South Burlington, VT 05403

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

We, Members of the New York State Legislature, write to register our grave concern over any attempt to delegitimize the nation of Israel.

Unilever, Ben & Jerry's parent company, announced on July 22 that it remained "fully committed" to doing business with and in Israel.

Unilever will continue to distribute its corporate products in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. For that reason, Ben & Jerry's boycott is nothing more than a hollow gesture calculated to appease BDS proponents.

We urge you to reverse this decision. Israel is not simply America's ally. It is the only democracy in the Middle East. It provides greater freedoms and protection to its residents than any other nation in that entire part of the world.

According to Amnesty International, Palestinian authorities continue to suppress dissent by stifling freedoms, attacking journalists and arresting and detaining opponents. Torture is performed with impunity. Women face discrimination and violence, including killings due to gender-based violence. LGBTQI people face discrimination. In the West Bank, authorities make widespread use of jailing people without charge or trial. In Gaza, civilians are prosecuted in military courts which impose the death penalty. Palestinians have been denied the right to vote for 15 years.

With respect to Women's Rights, abortion is illegal in Gaza and the West Bank, punishable by jail and by shunning and shaming. So, Mr. McCarthy, just where do you imagine Palestinian women go for medical treatment? The answer is Israel.

Humoring the BDS movement as Ben & Jerry's has done serves only to strengthen the authoritarians who control Gaza and the West Bank. That result is certainly not in the best interests of the American people.

We strongly urge you to reverse your corporate position.

Sincerely,

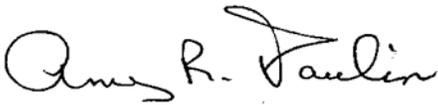
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