



BDS Vancouver - Coast Salish

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Open Letter

Blain Lawson
CEO, BC Liquor Stores
BCLDB Corporate Office
2625 Rupert Street
Vancouver, BC V5M 1Z8

September 23, 2016

Dear Mr. Lawson,

BC Liquor Stores are supporting human rights violations by bringing in wine from Israel.

Many of your stores are carrying wines from the illegally occupied Golan Heights. The Galil Winery, for example, is majority owned by the Golan Heights Winery. These wineries are producing wines from grapes grown on stolen Arab land.

Some outlets have also added several other wines sourced from the occupied West Bank, specifically from the illegal Gush Etzion settlement block around Jerusalem. One wine in particular is called Efrat Judean Hills Kosher and is produced by the Teperberg Winery. This brand declares openly on its website that "Teperberg's vineyards are spread around several growing regions in the Judean Hills, Upper Galilee, Gush Etzion...". As all of these locations are illegally occupied Arab land, this activity is in direct contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is also in direct contravention of Canada's official (but never implemented) policy on the occupied territories.

More information on Israeli wineries can be found in the exhaustive study done by Who Profits (www.whoprofits.org) entitled Forbidden Fruit: Israeli Wine Industry and Occupation.

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch and the entire BC Government should be aware that supporting occupation and Israeli war crimes is unethical. This is not a responsible way to represent the people of this province, and regrettably, this is not the first time you have stood on the wrong side of history.

We request that the BCLDB stop importing Israeli wines until the demands of the BDS movement have been met by Israeli compliance with UN resolutions and international law.

As the South African human rights campaigners said many years ago outside BC Liquor Stores: "DON'T DRINK WITH APARTHEID!"

Sincerely,

BDS Vancouver-Coast Salish