



UMKR Boycott Committee  
877 Cunningham Court  
Schenectady, NY 12309

September 24, 2012

Mr. Arie Kohen  
Chairman  
Ahava – Dead Sea Laboratories Ltd.  
1 Arava  
Lod Airport, Israel

Dear Mr. Kohen:

This letter is to inform you that Ahava will be among the products recommended by our organization, United Methodist Kairos Response, for boycott by members of the global United Methodist Church this fall. The General Conference of the UMC, which sets church policy, voted in 2012 to call on all nations to ban the import of goods produced in the Israeli settlements.

The Israeli settlement of Mitzpe Shalem, where Ahava products are produced, is in the occupied territory of the West Bank, which makes it illegal under international law. The Fourth Geneva Convention forbids an occupying power from moving its own population into occupied territory. An occupying power is also prohibited under international law from using resources of the occupied territory for any purpose other than to benefit the occupied people. Ahava takes resources from areas of the Dead Sea shore that are under occupation, and uses them for its own profit.

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have, or to talk with you further about our church's policy. Please contact me at [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com) if you have any questions, or if you would like to let us know of plans to end the company's involvement in the occupied territories.

We look forward to a time when Ahava is not produced on occupied Palestinian land and we can end the boycott of Ahava products.

Sincerely,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response



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September 24, 2012

Mr. Francis Blake  
Chairman  
Home Depot Corporation  
2455 Paces Ferry Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Mr. Blake:

On May 3, 2012 the United Methodist General Conference called for a boycott of all products produced in Israel's illegal settlements in the West Bank. We are writing to let you know that Keter products carried by Home Depot are among those being recommended for boycott by church members this fall. We would be glad to meet with you or discuss this action by phone, so that you will understand the reasons for the boycott and ways to avoid it.

The settlements are segregated colonies built beyond Israel's internationally recognized borders in violation of international law. Our government has called them "illegitimate." Many are built on land taken without compensation from Palestinians.

Businesses operating in the settlements are not subject to the same environmental and labor standards that apply inside Israel. Often they are subsidized by the Israeli government, which promotes their presence in the settlements to increase Israel's hold on the West Bank. These companies have a competitive advantage over companies that uphold international law.

Home Depot stores carry products made by a settlement company called Keter Plastics, which has a factory in the illegal industrial zone of Barkan in the northern West Bank. Its products include Lotemplast bath mats, plastic storage sheds, plastic containers, tool boxes, and other items. Some of these bear the Black & Decker label. We hope you will join us in encouraging Keter to leave the illegal settlements by removing the company's products from your shelves until it does so. We also hope you will recommend that Black & Decker end its ties with Keter.

If you have questions, please contact me at [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com) by October 10<sup>th</sup>. We would be happy to meet with you or your associates to discuss these issues further. We look forward to your reply.

With best wishes,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response

cc: Mr. Craig Menear  
President and CEO  
Home Depot Corporation  
2455 Paces Ferry Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30339

cc: Mark Q. Holifield  
Executive Vice President  
Supply Chain and Product Development



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September 24, 2012

Mr. Sami Sagol  
CEO and Chairman  
The Keter Group  
2 Sapir St.  
Hertzliya Industrial Zone 46852

Dear Mr. Sagol:

This letter is to inform you that Keter plastic products will be among the products recommended for boycott by members of the global United Methodist Church this fall. This action is being taken because Keter has a major production site in the Barkan Industrial Zone, and Barkan is an illegal settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories. The General Conference of the UMC, which sets church policy, voted in 2012 to call on all nations to ban the import of goods produced in the Israeli settlements.

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have, or to talk with you further about our church's policy. We would also welcome an indication that Keter plans to close its facilities in the West Bank. Once this takes place, we can remove Keter plastics from our boycott list.

Please contact me at [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com) if you have any questions, or if you would like to let us know of plans to end the company's involvement in the occupied territories. We look forward to a time when SodaStream is not produced on occupied Palestinian land.

Sincerely,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response



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September 24, 2012

M Golda and Uri Barazani.  
General Managers  
RAM Quality Products Ltd. 15 Mendes Street  
Ramat Gan 52653, Israel

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Barazani:

We are writing to let you know that your toys, which are produced in the Barkan Industrial Zone, will be among those items recommended for boycott by the global United Methodist Church during the holiday shopping season. We know that your factory is located at 28 Sapir Street in Barkan, and that you ship toys produced there to Toys R Us in the United States. We have written to Toys R Us to let them know where these toys are made and to inform them of our boycott.

During the past two years, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church USA, and the United Church of Canada have passed measures calling for a boycott of goods produced in illegal settlements of the West Bank. We have shared information about your toys with these other denominations as well, and a great deal of publicity about your plastic interlocking rings and their source can be expected in the coming months.

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have, and would welcome an indication that you plan to withdraw your production facilities from the West Bank. If so, and if this can be independently verified by our research partners in Israel, we will be glad to halt our boycott. Please reply by October 10th to [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com).

The settlements in the West Bank are illegal according to international law, which forbids an occupying power from moving its own population into areas it occupies. Our goal is to see the settlements withdrawn and the land returned to its rightful Palestinian owners. We would be glad to support your toy company if and when it closes its operations in the Barkan Industrial Zone.

Sincerely,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response  
Email: [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com)



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September 24, 2012

Mr. Hanan Grinberg and  
Mr. Mordechey Brown  
Owners  
Royalife  
29 Hametsuda St.  
Azur 58001

Dear Messrs. Grinberg and Brown:

This letter is to inform you that Royalife linens will be among the products recommended for boycott by members of the global United Methodist Church this fall. This action is being taken because Royalife has a major production site in the Barkan Industrial Zone, and Barkan is an illegal settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories. The General Conference of the UMC, which sets church policy, voted in 2012 to call on all nations to ban the import of goods produced in the Israeli settlements.

We are also concerned about Royalife's labor practices toward Palestinian workers, though that is not the reason for our boycott. Our denomination has a long history of supporting equal rights and fair labor standards for workers. We follow these issues closely.

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have, or to talk with you further about our church's policy. We would also welcome an indication that Royalife plans to close its facilities in the West Bank. Once this takes place, we can remove Royalife from our boycott list.

Please contact me at [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com) if you have any questions, or if you would like to let us know of plans to end the company's involvement in the occupied territories. We would appreciate a reply by October 10<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to a time when Royalife products are not produced on occupied Palestinian land.

Sincerely,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response  
Email: [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com)



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September 24, 2012

Mr. Adi Ben Ari  
Mr. Rafi Levi  
Co-owners and CEOs  
Dispo-bud Marketing  
Ha'Almog Street, PO Box 93  
Barkan Industrial Zone  
Occupied Palestinian Territories 44820  
Email: [Adi@smartfab.com](mailto:Adi@smartfab.com)

Dear Messrs. Ben Ari and Levi:

In 2012, the global United Methodist Church passed a measure calling on all governments to ban the import of products from illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. This fall and during the holiday shopping season, we will be asking United Methodists to boycott these products.

SmartFab is one of five products we have chosen for special focus. We know that it is shipped to a warehouse in Alabama and sold from a US company in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, but that its origin is the Barkan Industrial Zone. We plan to conduct a vigorous educational campaign about this product, and the settlement zone where it is made.

If you would like to discuss this with us before our campaign begins, we ask that you do so within the next two weeks. We would welcome an indication that DispoBud will be leaving the West Bank and relocating within Israel's internationally recognized borders. If it does so, we would be happy to remove SmartFab from our boycott list.

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Alan Kinney, Acting Chair of the Boycott Task Force for United Methodist Kairos Response at [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com). I can put you in touch with our research team or pass along your comments to our group.

You have a colorful and useful product. We look forward to the time when it is produced under circumstances we can support.

Sincerely,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response



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September 24, 2012

Mr. Daniel Birnbaum  
Chief Executive Officer  
SodaStream Inc.  
Gilboa Street POB 280  
Airport City, Israel 70100

Dear Mr. Birnbaum:

This letter is to inform you that SodaStream will be among the products recommended for boycott by members of the global United Methodist Church this fall. Though SodaStream claims to have production sites in Israel and around the world, the major production site is still in Maele Adumim, an illegal settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories. The General Conference of the UMC, which sets church policy, voted in 2012 to call on all nations to ban the import of goods produced in the Israeli settlements.

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have, or to talk with you further about our church's policy. We would also welcome an indication that SodaStream plans to close its facilities in the West Bank. Once this takes place, we will remove SodaStream from our boycott list.

Please contact me at [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com) if you have any questions, or if you would like to let us know of plans to end the company's involvement in the occupied territories. We look forward to a time when SodaStream is not produced on occupied Palestinian land.

Sincerely,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response

cc: SodaStream USA  
200E Park Drive  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054





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Schenectady, NY 12309

September 24, 2012

Mr. Antonio Urcelay  
Chairman and CEO  
Toys R Us  
1 Geoffrey Way  
Wayne, NJ 07470-2030

Dear Mr. Urcelay:

On May 3, 2012 the United Methodist General Conference called for a boycott of all products produced in Israel's illegal settlements in the West Bank. We are writing to let you know that one of the toys in your Imaginarium Discovery series is among those being recommended for boycott by church members this fall. This involves the colorful plastic interlocking rings made by Ram Quality products in the Barkan Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank. We would be glad to meet with you or discuss this action by phone, so that you will understand the reasons for the boycott and ways to avoid it. However, we need to do this within the next two weeks before our campaign begins. We request a reply no later than Monday, September 29th

We have previously tried to raise this issue with Abhi Kanitkar, Director, Investor Relations, and Kathleen Waugh, Vice President, Corporate Relations. A letter sent to them on March 8, 2014 is attached. Repeated phone calls and emails have produced no reply. We have a letter from Ram Quality Products confirming that they do indeed provide Toys R Us with the toys in question. Though the company uses an address in Ramat Gan, Israel, their toys are made in the West Bank. We feel sure this is an issue your public relations staff will want to address.

The Barkan Industrial Zone helps sustain the adjacent illegal settlements of Ariel and Barkan. The settlements are segregated colonies built beyond Israel's internationally recognized borders in violation of international law. Our government has called them "illegitimate." Many are built on land taken without compensation from Palestinians.

Businesses operating in the settlements are not subject to the same environmental and labor standards that apply inside Israel. Often they are subsidized by the Israeli government, which promotes their presence in the settlements to increase Israel's hold on the West Bank. Ram Quality Products is one of these companies.

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Alan Kinney, acting Chair of the Boycott Task Force, at [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com). We would be happy to meet with you or your associates to discuss these issues further. We look forward to your reply.

With best wishes,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response

cc: Mr. Abhi Kanitkar  
Director, Investor Relations, and

Ms. Kathleen Waugh  
Vice President, Corporate Relations  
Toys R Us

Attachment



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September 24, 2012

Ms. Laura J. Alber  
President, CEO and Director  
Williams Sonoma  
3250 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Ms. Alber:

Williams Sonoma is a wonderful company. However, some of the products you carry and offer online are made in the illegal settlements of the West Bank. These settlements have been established in violation of international law. We are writing to let you know that these products, made by Royalife and SodaStream, will be recommended for boycott by United Methodists around the world this fall. We hope you will stop carrying them so that the boycott will not affect sales at your stores. A reply would be appreciated by October 10th.

Royalife is a company we have followed with concern. It is located in the Barkan Industrial Zone, which sustains the adjacent settlements of Barkan and Ariel. In 2012, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Canada all passed measures calling for a boycott of products made in the illegal settlements. These segregated settlements and the adjacent industrial zones have been built on land taken from Palestinian families and villages without compensation. They take the majority of water from beneath the West Bank, leaving Palestinians with only one quarter of the water available to settlers. The continued existence and expansion of many settlements have been key obstacles to peace. This is the major reason we are recommending that consumers boycott Royalife linens.

The company has also been the subject of lawsuits brought by Palestinian workers who have been unfairly treated at the Royalife plant in Barkan. In 2008, 47 workers alleged exploitation by Royalife, saying they were forced to stand or sit for 8 hours without a break, paid only a third of the Israeli minimum wage, denied pay slips, subjected to poor health and safety conditions (breathing fumes, operating cutting machines without protection, etc.), and denied other basic rights. Judges in the case found many of their claims valid.

You are probably familiar with the controversy over SodaStream. We have sent a United Methodist research team to the West Bank to verify that its main assembly plant is in the

illegal settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. They have photographed the plant and have determined that most of the final assembly takes place there. SodaStream may tell you that it also has plants in Israel, but the Israeli Coalition of Women for Peace has determined that only some of the packaging and syrup production takes place there. The main plant is in Ma'ale Adumim.

We will be publicizing settlement products and stores that carry them as part of our United Methodist boycott campaign this fall, and during the holiday season. It would be good news if we could take Williams Sonoma off the list of stores that offer these products in the US.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at [akinney3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:akinney3@twcny.rr.com) before October 10<sup>th</sup>. We would be glad to meet with you in person or by phone to discuss these issues further.

With best wishes,

Alan Kinney

Rev. Alan D. Kinney  
Chairperson, Boycott Committee  
United Methodist Kairos Response