



The National Lawyers Guild –SF Bay Area & Palestine Sub-Committee Condemns Hateful Acts and Threats Against Ben & Jerry’s and the Chair of its Board of Director

August 8, 2021

The National Lawyers Guild supports the call for boycott, divestment and sanctions against the Israeli Apartheid State and defends the self-determination and rights of Palestinians. As such, we also support those defending Palestinian human rights.

On July 19, 2021, the renowned ice cream company took a courageous action in support of human rights by ending sales of ice cream in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Company statement explained:

We believe it is inconsistent with our values for Ben & Jerry’s ice cream to be sold in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

Ben and Jerry's took this action in recognition that Israeli settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory violate international law and, according to Human Rights Watch, “Israeli authorities are committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution.” (citation: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/27/abusive-israeli-policies-constitute-crimes-apartheid-persecution>)

As a socially conscious business, Ben & Jerry’s has the right to make a decision that is fully aligned with its values as well as international human rights law. The First Amendment protects their right to engage in political boycotts.

Since the announcement was released, the Company, particularly the Board Chair, has received relentless attacks, hate messages, and threats, including death threats from Israel supporters.

These threats against Ben & Jerry’s multi-racial board and South Asian Chair reflect recent threats and acts of violence by emboldened white nationalists and other racists against social justice leaders and activists across the United States whose views threaten their racist and often misogynist agenda.

The National Lawyers Guild condemns these hateful and violent threats directed against any Board member, staff, and anyone else connected to the decision to end the sale of Ben & Jerry’s ice cream products in the OPT.

We call on political leaders, elected officials and people of conscience in the United States and internationally to condemn demonizing threats, take all actions necessary to protect Ben & Jerry’s employees and Board members, and hold accountable individuals and organizations who engage in hateful and violent threats.

Contacts:

Sara Kershner, Executive Director, NLG-SF Bay Area: sara@nlgsf.org

Suzanne Adely, President elect & co-chair of International Committee, National NLG: suzanne.adely@gmail.com