



STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN AMERICA

August 2022

Ms. Anuradha Mittal
Chairperson of Ben & Jerry's of Vermont
30 Community Drive
Occupied South Burlington, Vermont 05403

Dear Anuradha Mittal,

We the undersigned are Israeli students who are deeply concerned about safeguarding human rights and the oppression of indigenous peoples in North America. Our research and investigation have determined that the land that the Ben and Jerry's corporation operates from in Vermont, 30 Community Drive in South Burlington, 1281 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Route 100 in Waterbury and 900 Industrial Park Road in Saint Albans, is territory that belongs to the Abenaki people. This land, like much other territory in Vermont, was taken from the indigenous tribes during its earliest conquest by French and British colonialists and then the American military. The Abenaki had lived on these lands continuously for thousands of years before the invasion by the foreign white traders and settlers. The European colonialists and the Americans intentionally killed off the Abenaki people through warfare and the spreading of diseases such as smallpox, typhus and influenza.

We have concluded that your company's occupation of the Abenaki lands is illegal and we believe it is wholly inconsistent with the stated values that Ben & Jerry's purports to maintain. Ironically, in July of the last year you announced that you would discontinue the sale of your products in Israel because you object to the Jewish State allegedly occupying Palestinian territories. Lately, you have even filed a lawsuit against your parent company, Unilever, which has reached a settlement which will benefit both Jews and Arabs in these territories, arguing that selling Ice cream in such territories is against your company's "core values". Yet at the same time you ignore your own occupation of the land that belongs to the Abenaki. Ben and Jerry's has never even offered to provide compensation to this indigenous nation in Vermont.

As you are no doubt aware in 2007 the United Nations General Assembly passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and noted that "indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests." In particular, Article 26, provides that: "Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired and have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they



possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.”

Accordingly, We, the Students for Justice in America demand that Ben & Jerry's immediately evacuate the Vermont properties it occupies in South Burlington, Waterbury and Saint Albans and return them to the Abenaki people. Your company has no right to these stolen territories. Justice, morality and boycotts are not just slogans and antisemitic weapons for your food company to point at the Jewish community in Israel. Justice and morality must begin at home.

Please confirm to us that Ben and Jerry's will evacuate these occupied properties.

Students for Justice in America