

Look out for Israeli settlement dates this Christmas

December 2010

As a food traditionally associated with Christmas, many people will be buying dates over the next few weeks. If this includes you, please ensure that you check the label to see where they come from.

Dates are among some of the products commonly exported from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. A number of ECCR members along with the World Council of Churches consider that trade with the settlements, which are illegal under international law, is undermining the prospects of a sustainable peace in Israel/Palestine.

ECCR encourages members and supporters not to buy Israeli settlement produce and, where these products are found, to contact retailers to raise concern about them.

ECCR fully recognises the right of Israel to peace within its pre-1967 borders including the right to trade internationally with produce from within those borders.

Look out for labels stating:

- West Bank (Israeli Settlement)
- West Bank
- Jordan Valley

The first label indicates that produce definitely originated in a settlement. The latter two labels mean that there is a high probability of this. Produce labelled 'West Bank (Palestinian produce)' comes from Palestinian areas and is not of concern.

Over the winter months, there is a higher probability that retailers will source other types of fruit and vegetables from settlements. These are likely to include fresh herbs, potatoes, figs, pomegranates, peppers, grapes and tomatoes. Please look out for these too.

Taking action

- You can use ECCR's [model letter for customers](#) to raise this issue with retailers.
- Find contact details of the main UK and Irish supermarkets [here](#) along with ECCR's latest information on supermarkets' policies on this issue.
- Retailers' policies and sourcing patterns are constantly changing. Please help ECCR keep our information up to date by letting us know when and where you find settlement goods and if you have information that supersedes our own about supermarkets' policies and sourcing practices. Contact [Suzanne Ismail](#).

[Find out more about this issue.](#)