



## **What is IKEA's involvement in Israel?**

IKEA is an international home furnishings company and is the world's largest furniture retailer. It is owned by the Stichting INGKA Foundation, the largest tax-exempt foundation in the world. IKEA has 313 stores in 38 countries, and has been established in the Israeli cities of Netanya and Rishon LeZion since 2001.<sup>1</sup> The opening of a third store in Haifa is planned for 2012.<sup>2</sup>

## **How is IKEA furthering Israel's colonial expansion?**

IKEA delivers its products to illegal Israeli colonies, located in the occupied West Bank. The company's delivery map indicates that delivery is available both within Israel and to several Israeli colonies, such as Nokdim, Beit El, and Kokhav Ya'akov.<sup>3</sup> IKEA does not deliver to Palestinian cities in the West Bank, but instead solely delivers to Israeli colonies using Israeli-only roads. The map itself ignores Israel's legally recognized international boundaries (pre-June 1967) and instead portrays the entire West Bank, Golan Heights, and Gaza Strip as part of Israel.<sup>4</sup>

Under international law, the establishment of colonies and colonial infrastructure on occupied territory is illegal. This is articulated in the Fourth Geneva Convention (Art. 49, p. 6), and in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which considers the transfer of a population to occupied territories a war crime.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, the continuing establishment of Jewish-only colonies on Palestinian land significantly hinders the achievement of a "comprehensive just and lasting peace deal in the Middle East," as asserted in UN Security Council Resolution 446 (March 22, 1979). By recognizing and serving Israel's colonies in the West Bank – not to mention the excluding of neighbouring indigenous Palestinian communities – IKEA supports and entrenches this illegal Israeli colonial infrastructure.

## **What international law applies to IKEA's business in Israel?**

By delivering to customers in illegal Israeli colonies in the West Bank, IKEA is encouraging and legitimizing Israel's colonization of Palestinian land, which itself is in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and numerous UN Security Council resolutions. This support for Israel's illegal colonies by IKEA is in violation of Article 3 (Section C) of the UN Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises issued in 2003. This instrument of international law states that "[t]ransnational corporations and other business enterprises shall not engage in nor benefit from war crimes, crimes against humanity...other violations of humanitarian law and other international crimes against the human person as defined by international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law."<sup>6</sup> In a nutshell, IKEA is profiting from business with Jewish-only colonies in the West Bank which have been illegally established by Israel.

Article E11 of the UN Norms document also states that, "transnational corporations and other business enterprises shall refrain from any activity which supports, solicits, or encourages States or any other entities to abuse human rights..." IKEA's policy of delivering to colonies which are directly responsible for the violation of Palestinian human rights falls under this prohibition.

It is also important to note that in July 2005, more than 170 Palestinian civil society organizations issued a call asking the international community to boycott Israeli products in order to promote recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The Palestinian call asked for a boycott of any business or institution participating directly or indirectly in the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territories. Thus, justice-minded Canadians would want to boycott IKEA in an effort to economically pressure Israel to cease its occupation.

## **How does IKEA's involvement in Israel violate its own Code of Conduct?**

IKEA's Code of Conduct (IWAY) is based on the United Nations Global Compact.<sup>7</sup> The UN Global Compact is a worldwide corporate citizenship initiative, designed to encourage businesses to adopt socially responsible policies. It declares that "businesses should make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses," with 'complicity' defined as "an act or omission (failure to act) by a company ... that 'helps' (facilitates, legitimizes, assists, encourages, etc.) another, in some way, to carry out a human rights abuse".<sup>8</sup> Professor Ove Bring of the Swedish National Defense College, upon reviewing the case, has stated that IKEA is in breach of the United Nations Global Compact.<sup>9</sup>

## **When should the boycott of IKEA end?**

The boycott will end when IKEA ceases to supply the Israeli colonies in Palestinian territory, when it closes its locations in Israel, or when Israel ends its occupation of Palestinian territory.

## **How else can I pressure IKEA to join the boycott?**

CJPME's boycott campaign is calling upon all individuals and members willing to put pressure on the Israeli government to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories. All concerned citizens can visit the CJPME Website at [www.cjpme.org/consumerboycott.htm](http://www.cjpme.org/consumerboycott.htm) for additional tools to pressure IKEA to join the boycott.

- CJPME encourages individuals to go to its IKEA boycott action alert at [www.cjpme.org/consumerboycott.htm](http://www.cjpme.org/consumerboycott.htm) to send their complaints and questions to the executive management of IKEA in each province and territory.
- A selection of letter templates is available on the CJPME Boycott site at [www.cjpme.org/consumerboycott.htm](http://www.cjpme.org/consumerboycott.htm).

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<sup>1</sup> Inter IKEA Systems B.V. "Facts and Figures," (<http://franchisor.ikea.com/showContent.asp?swfId=facts3>) Web. Accessed 17 Mar. 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Petersburg, Ofer. "IKEA Coming to Haifa in 2012." *Ynet News* 13 Nov. 2009. Web. Accessed 17 Mar. 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Radio Sweden, 23 June 2010,

(<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/gruppsida.aspx?programid=3304&grupp=6251&artikel=3803017>)

<sup>4</sup> Cecilia Uddén for Radio Sweden, 23 June 2010,

([http://sverigesradio.se/diverse/appdata/isidor/images/news\\_images/83/1134815\\_520\\_292.jpg](http://sverigesradio.se/diverse/appdata/isidor/images/news_images/83/1134815_520_292.jpg))

<sup>5</sup> "Settlements and International Law," Settlement Report vol. 12 no. 7, Foundations for Middle East Peace, March, 2002

<sup>6</sup> United Nations: Economic and Social Council, "Norms on the responsibilities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights," E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/12/Rev.2

<sup>7</sup> IWAY Standard, Edition 4, 4 June 2008,

[http://www.ikea.com/ms/en\\_US/about\\_IKEA/pdf/SCGlobal\\_IWAYSTDVers4.pdf](http://www.ikea.com/ms/en_US/about_IKEA/pdf/SCGlobal_IWAYSTDVers4.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Global Compact, "Principle 2," 26 July 2000.

<sup>9</sup> Radio Sweden, "Furniture giant discriminates against Palestinians," 23 June 2010,

<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=83&artikel=3804634>