

Eden Springs

WHO IS EDEN SPRINGS?

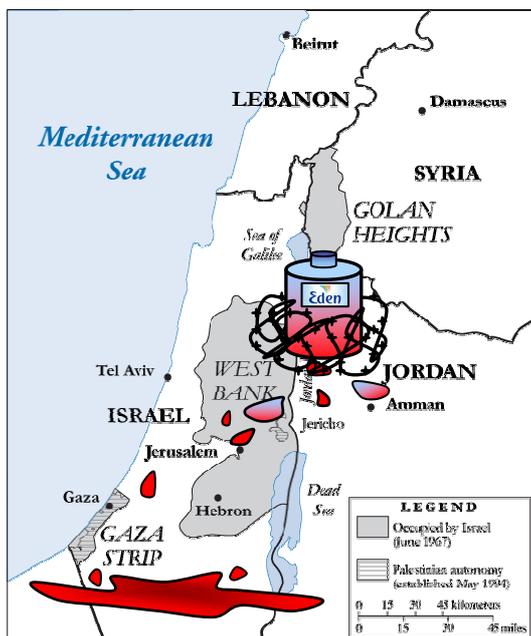
Eden Springs Ltd (also known as Mayanot Eden, or Mei Eden) is an Israeli company that bottles, markets and distributes mineral water. Since the 1990s Eden Springs Ltd has expanded throughout Europe. In the UK the company operates as Eden Springs UK Ltd whose primary business is the provision of bottled and plumbed-in water coolers to offices, city council premises and universities.

WHY BOYCOTT EDEN SPRINGS?

In Israel, Eden Springs extracts water from the Salukia spring in the Golan Heights and has a bottling plant in Katzrin, also in the Golan Heights.

The Golan Heights is Syrian territory illegally occupied by Israel since June 1967.

The UN condemns Israel's actions in illegally occupying the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights and in Security Council resolution 242 emphasised "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" and affirmed that a just and lasting peace can only be established when there is a "withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied".



According to the Israeli human rights organisation, B'Tselem (www.btselem.org), "Article 55 of the Hague Regulations limits the right of occupying states to utilize the water sources of occupied territory. The use is limited to military needs and may not exceed past use. Use of groundwater of the Occupied Territories in the settlements does not meet these criteria and therefore breaches article 55."

Eden Springs bottles, markets and distributes the water from the Golan Heights, an illegally Occupied Territory, for profit and so is directly complicit, with the state of Israel, in the violation of international law.

The water sold here is sourced locally, but the profits head back to the Israeli parent.



IMPACT OF BOYCOTT TO DATE

🇪🇬 As far back as 1998, Ben & Jerry's (ice cream) cancelled their contract with Eden Springs after a campaign led by New Yorkers for a Just Middle East Peace.

🇪🇬 After lobbying, Edinburgh Council claimed that legislation introduced by Thatcher to criminalise the boycott of Apartheid South Africa meant they were unable to cancel their Eden Springs contract on human rights grounds. Soon after, Eden Springs lost this major contract on "environmental" grounds as the Council switched to tap water.

Various universities around the UK which were subject to student occupations in protest of the Gaza massacres gave in to student demands to boycott Eden Springs. Learning from Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh University authorities cited “environmental” considerations rather than human rights. The Students Association had already passed a motion to cancel the contract 2 years earlier, but it took the student occupation to eventually force the company off campus.

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness cancelled their Eden Springs contracts on human rights grounds.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) supports Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, and has cancelled its contract with Eden Springs.

In support of the boycott, UNISON Scotland removed Eden Springs from their offices in 2007.

The above list is only a small sample of some of the Eden Springs boycott successes that are known about; many concerned individuals and groups have quietly secured water “regime change” at workplaces all over the UK.

WHERE CAN I FIND EDEN SPRINGS?

Eden Springs has been keen to deal with large institutions such as Local Authorities, universities, colleges etc. Now that you know the name however, you will come across Eden Springs in many big or small offices and workplaces throughout the country.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Although pressure brought to bear on some Local Authorities, universities, and colleges has already had the desired effect, many others are still supplied by Eden Springs.

Join with other students and staff to raise the issue on campus; unite with colleagues in your workplace; take up the issue in your trade union.

For obvious reasons, Israeli companies tend to make every effort to conceal their origins, so, often, procurement staff will be surprised to discover the nature of the company that supplies them. Few will have any ideological yearning to support an Israeli company in clear breach of international law, so the facts alone may well be enough to convince many small businesses especially to arrange an alternative supplier.

National Brands Index Survey 2006
“Israel’s brand is by a considerable margin the most negative we have ever measured in the NBI, and comes at the bottom of the ranking on almost every question”.

Larger institutions with centralised procurement arrangements may be more resistant, and the facts by themselves may not be enough. However, the larger the institution, the larger the workforce etc. that can be mobilised to apply pressure. Petitions are a useful way to raise awareness and build a group or network able to force change. No institution is keen to be linked with human rights abuses, and breach of international law. Wherever Eden Springs has been made an issue, if pressure is maintained, past experience indicates that the supplier will be changed either sooner or later.

RESOURCES

Contact the campaign for help or advice, and resources such as petition templates, leaflets etc. **See the website’s Eden Springs section for more information.**



SUCCESSES

However you rid your workplace or campus of Eden Springs, it is important to the momentum of the boycott movement that others find out about it.

Please let us know of any successes as they occur.