

JD/SB  
4 July 2018

Mr Andrew Yaxley  
CEO  
Tesco Ireland  
Gresham House  
Marine Road  
Dun Laoghaire  
Co Dublin

Re: Current conflict in the Middle East

---

Dear Mr Yaxley

I am sure that you along with the vast majority of Irish and international society are appalled at the daily reports of loss of human life and suffering which is emanating from the current violent conflict in Gaza and the occupied territories of Palestine.

Whilst it is easy to become overawed and believe that little can be done to engage in activities which may positively impact on this deep rooted conflict, I believe every opportunity must be explored to positively influence it.

In this regard I draw your attention to the ***“Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018”*** which was debated in the Seanad on 20 June 2018.

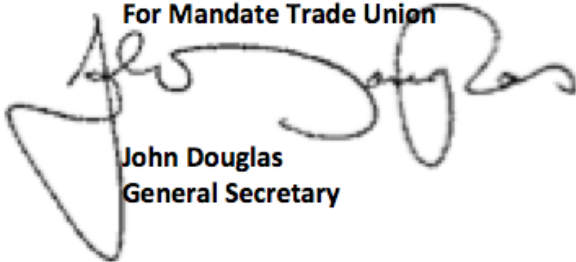
I wish to bring to your attention this particular piece of legislation in your capacity as the CEO of a major retail business operating here in Ireland. As the biggest trade union active in the retail sector Mandate would ask you and your management team to endorse the demand for Irish companies to desist from trading, investing or other commercial links with companies operating in, providing services to, or sourcing goods from [the illegal] settlements. This Bill would give effect to the State’s obligations arising under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and under customary international humanitarian law; and for that purpose would make it an offence for a person to import or sell goods or services originating in an occupied territory or to extract resources from an occupied territory.

If your company was to pre-empt this important legislation and adopt such a course of action now it would without doubt greatly help the most vulnerable caught up in the conflict but also assist your many customers and staff who on an increasing basis are faced with a dilemma of conscience in dealing with products which they see as tainted by association.

I hope that you not only take the time to read this letter but also deeply explore what measures your company might undertake to shine a light on and bring about an end to the current inhumane experiences of the many thousands of ordinary people in this part of the world.

For the record, we have sent this letter to the CEOs of all major retail business operating in Ireland.

**Yours sincerely  
For Mandate Trade Union**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Douglas', written over a large, stylized, light-colored scribble or background mark.

**John Douglas  
General Secretary**

**Mandate Head Office**

O'Lehane House  
9 Cavendish Row  
Dublin 1

t (01) 8746321 / 2 / 3  
f (01) 8729581  
e [mandate@mandate.ie](mailto:mandate@mandate.ie)  
w [www.mandate.ie](http://www.mandate.ie)

**General Secretary: John Douglas  
Registered Number: 604T**