



Tel-Aviv - June 5, 2008

Dear Presbyterian General Assembly delegates

Our friends from Jewish Voice for Peace have asked us to support the selective divestment campaign of your church - divesting from companies who make profit from obstacles to peace, and we do so happily.

As we have written before to representatives of your church, we appreciate enormously civil society initiatives on behalf of ending the occupation and promoting a two-state solution - providing the Palestinians with a viable independent state in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel in 1967.

Gush Shalom believes firmly in the relevance towards that goal of consumer boycotts such as the campaign of boycotting settlement products which we maintain since 1996.

Boycotting settlement products was initially a controversial issue even among fellow peace seekers but has over the years become "mainstream" among the Israeli peace camp (widest definition). Our constantly updated list, available on the internet, of products which should be avoided appeals to fellow Israelis, and provides friends of the cause abroad with crucial information. We know for example that it has helped those working from within the EU institutions - not to boycott, but to at least start differentiating between Israeli products and products from Israeli settlements beyond the '67 border, denying the latter the preferential treatment of the EU-Israel trade agreement.

We see your divestment campaign in the same light and congratulate you for the courage to be true friends, friends who speak truth also when it hurts and are willing to stick out their neck - in order to stop the march of folly of your and our government and to serve the true interests of the people in our region, as well as of your own country.

yours

*Adam Keller
Gush Shalom spokesperson*