INTERSTAR, TIP TOP, EDUSHAPE TOYS

WHAT ARE THE PRODUCTS?

Ram Quality Products B. R. manufactures rubber and plastic toys sold under the brand names of Tip Top, and Interstar, which are sold in the United States by Edushape Toys. They are marketed as toys and construction systems that are compatible with each other and can be used together, are safe, engaging, and fun to play with, and they develop the child's senses and skills. They also make bath toys.

WHERE ARE THEY MADE?

The factory is located in the Barkan Industrial Zone, which is attached to the residential settlement of Ariel, established in 1982 on the land of the Palestinian villages of Haris, Bruqin and Sarta. The industrial zone hosts a disproportionate number of factories that pollute the environment. For example, waste from Barkan runs down the hillside of the Al-Matwi valley, damaging Palestinian farmland. Palestinian laborers are employed in the industrial zone and are paid, in several documented instances, below the minimum wage and denied the right to unionize.

WHERE ARE THEY SOLD?

Amazon.com, BJ's Wholesale, Costco, Menards, Sam's Club, Sears, Walmart, Wayfair, Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, Kmart, Buy Buy Baby, and others.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SETTLEMENTS? They are illegal under international agreements:

1. The Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), including the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, have been occupied by Israel since 1967. Settlements there are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits an occupying power from transferring civilian populations to and extracting resources from occupied territory.
2. US foreign policy opposes Israel’s settlements. A 1978 State Department legal memo, still official US policy, deemed Israel’s settlements to be “inconsistent with international law.” In June 2009 President Obama stated that “the United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements.”
3. Only Jewish Israelis are allowed to live in Israel’s settlements. Palestinians, whose land was confiscated to build these settlements, cannot live in them. The UN Convention on the Punishment and Suppression of the Crime of Apartheid outlaws housing discrimination based on race and/or ethnicity.
4. Israel’s settlements, through a slow process of ethnic cleansing, have displaced thousands of indigenous Palestinians, moving them out of their ancestral homes and preventing them from accessing the fields that provide their livelihoods.
5. Settlements are a major impediment to peace. They prevent the creation of a territorially-contiguous Palestinian state. Hillary Clinton reiterated in December 2010: “Like every American administration for decades, we do not accept the legitimacy of continued settlement activity. We believe their continued expansion is corrosive not only to peace efforts and the two-state solution, but to Israel’s future itself.”

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