

Stop the genocide

Boycott Mepha

... and related
enterprises



ratiopharm

teva

mepha





Why

General Grounds for Boycotting Enterprises

Corporations that **profit from, sustain, or normalise human rights violations** can be held accountable through boycott campaigns. The BDS movement identifies corporate complicity in violations of international law as sufficient grounds for boycott when companies provide infrastructure, services, or products that **enable occupation, apartheid, or war crimes**¹. Boycotting such enterprises is not only an act of **political pressure** but also a form of **consumer responsibility**.

Ethical Duty of Healthcare Workers

Healthcare workers in particular carry an added moral and professional obligation to **uphold justice and prevent harm**. Ethical frameworks in medicine extend beyond patient care to global health justice, where complicity in structures of oppression is incompatible with the professional duty of care². Supporting boycotts of companies involved in grave human rights abuses aligns with principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice.

Teva -

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries is **Israel's largest pharmaceutical supplier** and the most valuable commercial company in the country³, thus contributing to **sustain an economy of occupation and genocide**. In 2023, Teva transferred approximately 565 million USD in taxes accrued since 2005 to the Israeli state, representing a direct and substantial financial contribution according to several reports^{4,5,6}.

According to a report published from Who Profits, **Teva profits from a "captive market"** in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), where Palestinians are hindered the ability to develop an independent pharmaceutical sector and are forced to depend on Israeli imports⁷. This dynamic forms part of a broader "captive economy" under occupation, where Israel controls supply chains, imports, and pricing, creating dependence and profit for Israeli firms.

A targeted KPMG-linked report (December 2024) documents that Teva expanded delivery of critical medicines to support the Israel army (IDF) and participated in charitable initiatives assisting IDF soldiers and was involved in the "Adopt-a-Battalion" program - demonstrating corporate support of military efforts⁸.





In 2017, the UN reportedly included Teva among 150 companies warned for **activities in illegal West Bank settlements and East Jerusalem**, noting their participation was contrary to international law⁹. However, TEVA was not included in the final published report.

After the International Court of Justice recognized a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza (Order of 26 January 2024), international law experts and the UN-Human Rights Council urge the ICC and national judiciaries to investigate and prosecute corporate entities and/or their executives for their involvement in the commission of international crimes¹⁰.

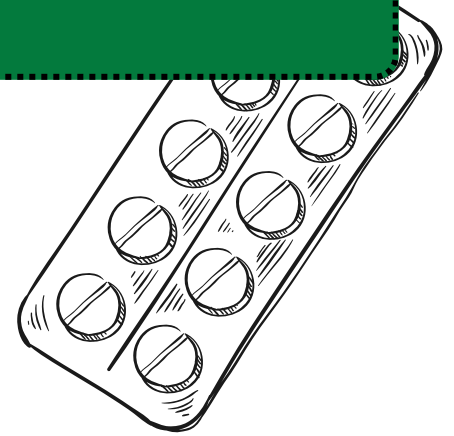
Other concerns:

- Environmental and human rights allegations include documented **pollution of rivers** and unverified claims of **medical experiments on Palestinian prisoners**; to date, no reliable independent evidence confirms Teva's involvement in such experiments..^{11,12}

mepha



Teva owns Mepha (based in Basel, acquired in 2011) and **Ratiopharm** (acquired in 2010), both widely present on the Swiss market.



How to Participate

As a Patient

Your health is the priority. Never stop or change your medication without medical advice.

Ask for alternatives: At the pharmacy, request a non-Teva/Mepha brand when possible. It is your right to ask. In Switzerland, pharmacists can substitute with an equivalent (unless your doctor has marked no-substitution)

Stay safe: If no equivalent exists, continue your current treatment. The boycott must never come at the expense of your health.

Spread awareness: Share this information with friends, family, and other patients.

Good to know: Since 1 Jan 2024, Switzerland applies a 40% co-pay on certain higher-priced originals vs. equivalent generics/biosimilars (previously 20%).



As Healthcare Workers

Prescribe by active ingredient (DCI): This enables pharmacists to dispense safe non-Teva equivalents.

Support patients in switching when safe and clinically appropriate. If substitution isn't clinically appropriate, mark no-substitution and explain the reason to the patient.

Share resources: Circulate campaign materials among colleagues and professional associations.

As a Member of the Public

Inform yourself and others: Follow campaign updates on our website and social media.

Use your voice: Share the information in your networks, take part in events, sign petitions, and write to your representatives..

Apply consumer pressure: support also other targeted boycotts promoted in Switzerland by the BDS movement.

Legal Aspects

Constitutional Protections

Freedom of expression is guaranteed by Article 16 of the Swiss Constitution. Boycotts that target corporations or states fall within the scope of protected political expression, as long as they do not incite hatred against protected groups.



Limits

Article 261bis of the Swiss Criminal Code prohibits hate speech and discrimination against groups based on race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. However, it does not prohibit criticism of states, governments, or companies, nor calls for boycotts of their products.

Precedents

In 2017, the Swiss parliament debated but rejected a law that would have cut funding to NGOs supporting BDS¹³. In 2020, the European Court of Human Rights overturned the conviction of French BDS activists, ruling that criminalizing boycotts violated Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (freedom of expression)^{14,15}. This jurisprudence strengthens the legal ground for BDS activities in Switzerland.



References

1. Corporate complicity criteria, BDS
2. Moolla MS, Jacob A. Healthcare and genocide: BDS as an entry point to health justice. S Afr J Bioethics Law. (2024)
3. Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Who Profits (2012)
4. Israeli-owned big pharma is now being targeted by UK activists, The Canary. (2024)
5. Teva once again most valuable company on TASE, Globes. (2024)
6. Irish Doctors Urge Ban on Teva Medicines, Accusing Israel of 'Genocide' in Gaza, Combat Antisemitism Movement. (2025)
7. Captive Economy The Pharmaceutical Industry and the Israeli Occupation, Who Profits (2012)
8. Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd Targeted Research, KPMG (2024)
9. UN Sent Warning Letter to 150 Companies for Doing Business in Israeli Settlements, Haaretz (2017)
10. Obligations of Third States and Corporations to Prevent and Punish Genocide in Gaza, Dr Irene Pietropaoli (2024)
11. Water Authority: Teva Factory Behind Severe Pollution of Tel Aviv-area River, Haaretz (2015)
12. Israel pharmaceutical firms test medicines on Palestinian prisoners, Middle East Monitor (2019)
13. Swiss Parliament rejects effort to criminalize BDS and commitment to human rights in Israel/Palestine, AURDIP (2017)
14. France: Criminal conviction of BDS activists had no sufficient grounds and violated freedom of expression, State Watch (2020)
15. Criminal conviction of activists involved in the BDS campaign boycotting products imported from Israel had no relevant and sufficient grounds and violated their freedom of expression, European Court of Human Rights (2020)

