

Subject: AW: Aldi in our weekly newsletter: Invitation to comment

Date: 24. April 2017

To: <ebert@business-humanrights.org>

Dear Ms Ebert,

Thank you for your enquiry and for giving ALDI SÜD (Germany) the opportunity to take a position on this topic. Without knowing the exact background concerning the conditions described in the TAZ article, we strongly condemn violence in general and the intimidation and threatening of activists in particular. Moreover, we are aware of the challenges involved in avocado cultivation. The cultivation methods described here are in no way compatible with our understanding of ecologically responsible and socially just cultivation conditions.

It is important to us that production of goods is carried out under humane and socially just working conditions. This includes the responsible use of natural resources. Our business group requires both suppliers as direct business partners as well as their producers along the supply chain to comply with guidelines for responsible business management. Detailed information on the corporate responsibility principles of ALDI SÜD as well as our social standards during production can be found here: www.aldi-sued.de/verantwortung.

The implementation of our principles is promoted, among others, through the certification of our producers and suppliers. For example, in order to reduce the environmental impact of agriculture, reduce the use of medicines and chemical plant protection products and to implement measures to protect the safety and health of humans and animals, the production of all our fruit and vegetables is certified according to the GLOBALG.A.P. standard. This also means that irrigation must be developed and planned using appropriate prediction methods and technical equipment to ensure the efficient use of irrigation water. Documented assessment of hazards also ensures that the possible effects of water abstraction on the external environment are identified. The GLOBALG.A.P. standard also makes reference to control points concerning the supply of irrigation water. In this context, valid licenses/authorizations for the abstraction of water – where required by law – are also verified. Where relevant, additional records documenting water use are requested should there be cases of restrictions on water abstraction within valid licenses or permits.

Some of the avocados we stock are imported from Chile. Improvement to working and production conditions at the cultivation stage is carried out under special, country-specific conditions. These are highly complex political, social and economic challenges that intersect within the countries themselves. In our experience, this makes finding a quick and easy solution almost impossible. Although ALDI SÜD does not always have direct access to avocado producers, we do however use the influence we exercise over intermediaries in order to implement our requirements along the entire supply chain. However, we are aware that this has to be a long-term process. We will continue to closely monitor the developments in Chile and continue

to work with our suppliers, to whom we have long-standing business relationships, to implement our CR principles along the entire supply chain.
Please do not include any personal data in your newsletter.

Would you kindly also send us the relevant version of the newsletter?

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any comments or further questions.

Best regards

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Business group ALDI SÜD