



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Foreign Secretary  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

1 September 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: Requesting the UK government responds to the demolition of a school in Jubbet Adh-Dibh (occupied Palestinian territory)**

We write to request a formal response to the recent demolition of a newly constructed school in the occupied West Bank village of Jubbet Adh-Dibh on 22 August 2017.

On the above date, as children prepared to commence their first day of the school year, the Israeli military authorities dismantled and confiscated the school, arguing that it had been built without the proper permissions. The newly constructed school consisted of six prefabricated buildings which had been donated by the European Union.

Some of the 80 students who were set to attend the school were given no choice but to study in classes held in improvised tents. However, due to the limited capacity of these tents many children were forced to work on the concrete floor, without shelter from the sun.

We note that at the time in which this demolition occurred, the Minister of State for the Middle East at the FCO, Alistair Burt MP, was in the region. It appears, however, that he has given no statement or comment in response to this shocking incident.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was ratified by Israel in 1991. It applies to Palestinian children in the occupied Palestinian territory, including in the village of Jubbet Adh-Dibh in the West Bank. Article 28 of the CRC promulgates the obligation that Israel, as an occupying power, must recognise the right of the child to education on the basis of equal opportunity, and to strive to make primary education compulsory and available free to all.

The International Court of Justice has held that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) applies to the actions of an occupying power. Article 13 of the ICESCR recognises the right of everyone to education and holds that it should be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity.

We are deeply concerned that the Israeli government is failing to engage with its obligations in relation to the above rights, by failing to ensure and protect access to education for all children. Instances such as the demolition of this school are an example of the Israeli Government working in direct contrast to both the letter and spirit of the norms and



obligations enshrined in the above treaties. The incident has been described by Israeli NGO B'Tselem as an example of the “*administrative cruelty and systematic harassment*” of the Israeli authorities.

We therefore urge the Government to:

1. Provide a written public statement on the issue of the Israeli authorities dismantling schools and educational facilities, expressing in particular an acknowledgment of the adverse human rights impact that these incidents have on children.
2. Inform us of the steps (if any) being taken in relation to this specific incident, to coordinate with the Israeli government in order to ensure that the children effected are provided suitable access to alternative schooling and to ensure that incidents of this nature do not occur again.

It should be noted that the shocking incident in Jubbet Adh-Dibh is not isolated, but disturbingly falls into a distinctly troubling pattern of similar incidents on 9 and 21 August, as documented by B'Tselem. This reinforces the acute need for UK government action as outlined in our above suggested recommendations.

We would be grateful for your careful consideration of the above and for your written reply.

Yours sincerely,

Tareq Shrourou (Director) and Angelina Nicolaou  
**Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights**

CC: Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Minister of State for the Department for International Development and Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office