



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

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Tareq Shrourou  
Director  
Lawyers for Palestinian Human  
Rights

13 November 2020

Dear Tareq,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 October to the Foreign Secretary about Palestinian Schools. I am replying as the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa.

As the UK made clear in its statement to the UN Security Council on 26 October, the UK is seriously concerned by the possible demolition of a Palestinian school in Ras Al-Tin by Israeli authorities. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised our concern with the Government of Israel on 13 October, alongside European partners. Officials also visited the school on 16 October. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances demolitions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. We recognise that Palestinians face severe difficulty in securing building permissions for homes and infrastructure in East Jerusalem and Area C. We continue to urge the Government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes

The right to education is basic, and it is essential to have a strong and thriving Palestinian education system in order to provide opportunities for the next generation. We call on Israel to halt such actions.

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