



Education International
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President
Susan Hopgood
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TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

URGENT ACTION APPEAL — PALESTINE: Stop the planned demolitions of schools

Dear colleagues,

Education International (EI) calls on all its member organisations to take action to urge the Israeli Government to immediately halt all school demolitions, provide protection for Palestinian children against violence and ensure their right to education with education institutions that are safe havens for Palestinian children and their teachers.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported and the General Union of Palestinian Teachers (GUPT) has confirmed, that on 23 November, the Israeli authorities demolished the Isfey al Fauqa donor-funded school in Masafer Yatta southern Hebron, after the Israeli High Court of Justice cancelled a temporary injunction prohibiting demolition. The school served 21 students from three different communities. Isfey al Fauqa is one of 13 herding communities located in an area designated by the Israeli military as a 'Firing Zone 918' in Masafer Yatta, home to around 1,150 Palestinians half of whom are children.

Israel has also issued demolition orders for the school in Khirbet al-Fakhit and for the schools in the neighbouring communities of Khirbet Jenbah, Khirbet al-Majaz and Khallet a-Dabe', in which 44 teachers teach a total of 172 children.

As residents of occupied territory, the Palestinians living in Masafer Yatta are part of the protected population under the Fourth Geneva Convention and as the Occupying Power, Israel has the responsibility to protect the rights of the Palestinians resident in this area.

Any population movement caused either through the direct demolition of structures or forced evictions, or through the implementation of coercive measures that compel people to move, amount to forcible transfer, which is a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Forcible transfer is also prohibited by customary international law; and forced evictions are a gross violation of international human rights law.

Education International strongly condemns the disruption of education and defends the right of all children to quality and safe education which is key to building a future of peace, social justice, dignity, and prosperity.

Education International invites your organisation to act in support of Palestinian children and colleagues:

- **Send a letter of protest** to the Government of Israel asking for school demolitions to be halted. You can use this [model letter](#).

Please send your letter to the email addresses below and to the Israeli diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please also forward a copy to Education International.

- Permanent Mission of the State of Israel to the UN: UNInfo@newyork.mfa.gov.il
- H.E. Yair Lapid, Prime Minister of the State of Israel: [ylapid@knesset.gov.il](mailto:yapid@knesset.gov.il)
- **Contact your Government** and the diplomatic representation of Israel in your country, requesting that they begin a dialogue on these issues with the Israeli authorities.
- **Share messages on social media** to give visibility to the situation of Palestinian students and educators. Feel free to use the samples:

-- In #solidarity with Palestinian teachers, children and families. The State of Israel must halt the planned destruction of schools, and ensure every child's right to education in safe and peaceful environments.

[#RightToEducation](#) [#Palestine](#)

--We strongly condemn the State of Israel's planned destruction of Palestinian schools. We support Palestinian teachers, children and families threatened with a forcible transfer, and demand that the children's right to education be respected.

[#RightToEducation](#) [#Palestine](#)

Thank you in advance for your solidarity in support of Palestinian children's right to learn and teachers' right to teach.

In solidarity,



David Edwards
General Secretary

