**Amnesty International [Group name]**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [ADD DATE]**

**[TOWN] ACTIVISTS CALL ON COUNCIL TO REVISE PROCUREMENT POLICY AFTER UK DIGGER FIRM JCB’S MACHINES USED IN UNLAWFUL DEMOLITION OF PALESTINIAN HOMES IN VIOLATION OF THEIR RIGHTS**

**Letter to council seeks ‘human rights-compliant procurement policy’ to exclude companies doing business with or in Israel’s illegal settlements**

**New report shows UK firm has failed to take measures to prevent its equipment being used in unlawful Palestinian house demolitions**

**Move is part of nationwide ‘JCB Off Track’ campaign - and meeting with councillors is being sought**

**‘[Name of council] must urgently review its tendering policy to ensure that companies that fail to take sufficient measures to ensure respect for human rights are not winning contracts to dig up our roads’ - [Name]**

Amnesty International activists in [city/town/locality] have written to [name of council] asking it to urgently revise its procurement policies to enable the exclusion of tenders from the UK construction equipment giant JCB after the company was the subject of an Amnesty report for failing to take measures to prevent its diggers being used in the unlawful destruction of Palestinian homes and the construction of illegal Israeli settlements.

The call, part of a new nationwide “JCB Off Track” campaign from Amnesty which will see activists writing to councils across the country, comes as part of Amnesty’s wider [campaign](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/uk-should-ban-imports-illegal-israeli-settlements-new-campaign) asking the UK government to ban the import of goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements.

In a recent new [report](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/uk-construction-giant-jcbs-products-used-palestinian-house-demolitions-and-illegal), Amnesty showed how JCB has for many years failed to take steps to prevent its machinery being used in widespread human rights violations in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian Territories, and argued this puts the company in breach of its responsibilities under international human rights standards applicable to business.

Amnesty’s research shows that there have been dozens of incidents in recent years where JCB machines were used to demolish residential and farm buildings belonging to Palestinians, as well as to destroy water pipes and uproot olive trees and other agricultural produce.

JCB, a privately-owned British company headquartered in Rocester, Staffordshire, whose formal name is JC Bamford Excavators Limited, sells its well-known demolition and earthmoving equipment via a sole agent in Israel - Comasco Ltd. JCB argues that it is not responsible for how its diggers are used after they are sold to the agent, for which relies on a recent [finding](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lawyers-for-palestinian-human-rights-complaint-to-uk-ncp-about-jcb/final-statement-lawyers-for-palestinian-human-rights-complaint-to-uk-ncp-about-jcb) by the UK National Contact Point, though Amnesty’s report explains that in its view JCB still has a clear responsibility under international business standards to take effective measures to prevent serious misuse of its products.

[City/town/locality] Amnesty activists have sent the council legal material based on expert advice clearly setting out the grounds for why it should revise its procurement policies to ensure they screen out companies which do business with the illegal settlements, or - like JCB - companies which fail to do the necessary human rights due diligence to prevent their products being used to carry out human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Campaigners say the changes are essential to ensure that the council has a procurement policy that is ethical and lawful.

[Name], Secretary of Amnesty International [town]’s group, said:

“People in [city/town/locality] will expect the council to screen out companies linked to serious human rights violations, and that means assessing whether JCB must be excluded from council work in [city/town/locality].

“[Name of council] must urgently review its tendering policy to ensure that JCB and other companies who fail to ensure their products are not used to violate human rights are not winning contracts to dig up our roads, clear the ground for council construction projects, or otherwise benefitting from local authority funds.

“This is in JCB’s hands. The company could do the right thing and start taking action to prevent its machinery being used to ruin lives in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

“We want to see our council adopting a procurement policy that is both ethical and lawful, and we’ll be following up on our letter seeking a meeting at the earliest opportunity.”

For more on the JCB Off Track campaign, go [here](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/jcb).

**ENDS**

Media contacts:

[Name, telephone number and email]

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