

**Council leader’s name,** Your name

**Job title,** Your position in Amnesty
**Council office address,** Amnesty International UK, Your address for correspondence

[DATE]

Dear Cllr [NAME],

**Re: Ethical Procurement and Israeli Settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territories**

We are writing to you as members of **[*your local group name*].** We have been campaigning together in **[*your local area*]** for **XXX** years for human rights. We stand up for people like **[*explain an important individual at risk case your group has worked on*]**. We believe that human rights are the fundamental rights and freedom that belong to every single one of us.

As residents of **[*your local area*]** we want to see our community stand together for human rights, and for **[*local authority name*]** to stand with us by adopting a human rights compliant procurement system. We want our public money to be spent helping our community, not supporting companies involved in violating the fundamental rights and freedoms of others. We believe that breaches of human rights can amount to grave professional misconduct, and the Council should not do business with companies that engage in this.

You may have seen Amnesty International’s recent report *JCB Off Track,* which gives evidence of the use of JCB equipment in war crimes and explains the steps that the company could take to prevent this. The destruction of Palestinian homes, agricultural land, and other property in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, is inextricably linked with Israel’s long-standing policy of appropriating the land it occupies, notably by establishing Israeli settlements. The transfer of parts of an occupying power’s civilian population into the territory it occupies is prohibited under international humanitarian law and is a war crime. JCB has the technology to track the location of their equipment anywhere in the world after it has been sold, and the company’s agents are central to the maintenance of their equipment. JCB could use this technology to ensure that their products are not used to commit war crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. You can see a summary and read the report at [www.amnesty.org.uk/jcb](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/jcb)

Given this situation, we believe that a human rights compliant procurement process should exclude tenders from companies that allow their products to be used in this way. We understand that procurement is a technical area of law and so we have also sent a letter outlining the mechanisms that we propose local authorities should use. We hope that you will stand with us on this.

Your sincerely,