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House of Commons

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Labour Member of Parliament for East Ham

The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State for Business Trade and President of the Board of Trade
Department for Business and Trade
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Our Ref: ST107581

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Dear Kemi,

I write on behalf of a number of constituents who have contacted me after discovering that JCB had been found by the UK National Contact Point (UKNCP) to be in violation of human rights standards set out in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

My constituents tell me JCB equipment is frequently used in Israel's demolitions of Palestinian homes and settlement construction in the Palestinian territories. They are troubled that the UKNCP found that JCB has failed to undertake "*human rights due diligence*".

My constituents believe the conduct of JCB shows why the UK Government should ban trade with illegal Israeli settlements, and establish a new law that holds businesses liable when they fail to prevent human rights violations and environmental damage. Ministers have committed to uphold OECD Guidelines, which set out standards for UK companies, and have supported the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It is troubling that there have – seemingly – been no consequences for businesses such as JCB that fail to prevent human rights violations.

What is your response to this? Will the UK Government legislate to hold companies accountable where they fail to take adequate steps to avoid human rights abuses?

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP

Cc: Constituents