



Réf:DP/19-11/DG/Jerusalem/ClosureInst/29

Paris, the 29 November 2019.

Madam Director-General,

I regret to bring to your attention, once again, the serious violations perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces against the educational, cultural, media and health institutions in Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine.

The occupying power, Israel, stormed several Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, including the Office of Radio and Television, the Office of the Directorate of Education, Al Rasasi Mosque and the Arab Health Center located in the Old City of Jerusalem and ordered their closures.

Furthermore, the Israeli Police arrested the director of the Arab health center and the Education Directorate and detained staff for several hours and confiscated all files from the Islamic Orphanage School.

The Directorate of Education that was closed by the Occupying Power serves about 100,000 students and follow-up their affairs and the closure will leave thousands of Palestinian students stranded.

These acts violate the principle of the sanctuary of educational institutions, the Declaration on Safety in Schools, as well as UNESCO principles and decisions. Unesco decisions affirm that educational institutions enjoy special protection and should not be targeted in situations of armed conflict. These serious violations of the right to education enshrined in the World Declaration on Education for All (1990) as well as to the provisions of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960).

The closing of Palestine TV constitutes a violation of the freedom of expression and freedom of the press as stipulated in article 9 of The Universal Declarations of Human Rights.

Following these deplorable developments that are occurring at a time of unprecedented escalating Israeli violations I urge you, Madam Director-General, to remind the occupying Power of the principles and values of UNESCO and to take all appropriate measures to stop these illegal acts.

Madam Director-General, I kindly ask you to annex this letter to the appropriate working document of the executive board at its 209th session.

Please accept, Madam Director-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mounir Anastas

Ambassador, Alternate Permanent Delegate

S. Exc. Ms. Audrey Azoulay  
Director-General of UNESCO  
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Cc : President of the General Conference  
Chairperson of the Executif Board  
Assistant Director-General for Education  
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