

Dear Professor John Latham CBE,
Cc: Chancellor Margaret Casely-Hayford,

We write with deep concern about Coventry University's hosting of a company complicit in Israel's violations of international law at Coventry University Technology Park.

Tenants at the park include the Spanish transport conglomerate Construcciones y Auxiliarios de Ferrocarriles (CAF). In August 2019 a consortium led by CAF, along with Israeli company Shapir, which is listed on the [UN database of companies operating in Israel's illegal settlements](#), was selected to lead the expansion of the Jerusalem Light Rail (JLR). The JLR serves illegal Israeli settlements in and around East Jerusalem, therefore serving to cement Israel's grip on occupied Palestinian land.

The route of the railway gathers together expanding Jewish-only illegal settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem. Every illegal Israeli settlement, built on land stolen from the Palestinian people, is considered a war crime under the Fourth Geneva Convention. The British government has repeatedly affirmed this position, with the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office writing](#) in November 2019 "[T]he position of the UK on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law."

While illegal Israeli settlements are provided with financial and political support by the Israeli government and Israeli banks, Palestinians are subject to forced eviction and dispossession. In a widely publicised case, Palestinians in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood are currently subject to forced eviction from the homes they have lived in for decades. The UN has confirmed that if implemented, these evictions would violate Israel's responsibilities under international law.

Due to CAF's involvement in the JLR project [30 prominent human rights organisations](#), including Amnesty International Spain, requested they be added to the UN database of business enterprises active in Israel's illegal settlements.

We therefore ask you to raise these issues with CAF. This includes asking CAF to end their role in operating the Jerusalem Light Railway.

If adequate assurances are not given, we ask that the university seeks to terminate all business relationships with CAF in order to avoid the severe reputational and regulatory risks that may ensue.

Yours sincerely,

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