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The Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Iveagh House,  
80 St Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2,  
D02 VY53.

Dear Minister,

INTO is shocked at the news that Al Masafer Secondary School, which is located in Al Fakheit in Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron city, in Palestine is under threat of demolition by the Israeli authorities.

In recent weeks, a twinning partnership arrangement has begun between a primary school in North inner-city Dublin, St Mary's Primary School, and Al Masafer School which has approx. 100 students from 1<sup>st</sup> Grade to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade and 14 teachers. This partnership is intended to afford the pupils in both schools the opportunity to learn about and with each other.

We are extremely disappointed to learn that the Israeli Supreme Court refused the petition of the school against its demolition. Al Masafer is the only secondary school in the area, and this demolition threat comes after a neighbouring primary school was demolished by the Israeli authorities last week which has been well documented online.

An article from September on the [stopthewall.org](http://stopthewall.org) website gives further background to the constant difficulties faced by the pupils and teachers of these schools, and by the residents in the area.

*" Jinba and Al- Fakheet are two of the eight villages of Masafer Yatta that the Israeli occupation regime classified as a firing zone '918' back in the 1980's. Schools in this area are subjected to various Israeli apartheid practices and policies as well as disturbances from illegal settlers and army violence. Every day, The Israeli occupation forces disrupt classes for hours by detaining students of Jinba and Al- Fakheet and preventing them from accessing their schools.... "*

(<https://www.stopthewall.org/2022/09/21/two-main-schools-in-masafer-yatta-are-under-the-threat-of-demolition/> ).

INTO deplores this action by the Israeli forces and calls on you as Minister for Foreign Affairs and anyone with influence to intervene immediately to protect the right of the pupils of this school to an education and to attend school safely.

Yours sincerely

  
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**John Boyle**  
**General Secretary**