



REFERENCE: Human Rights Council resolution 31/36

22 September 2017

Dear Ms. Handler,

I write to bring to your attention to UN Human Rights Council resolution 31/36 (attached), and to respectfully invite you to respond to certain information we have reviewed, which we have summarized below, concerning the activities of Bezeq – The Israel Telecommunication Corp., Limited (“Bezeq”) related to Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Human Rights Council resolution 31/36 on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close consultation with the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, to produce a database of business enterprises that have engaged in certain activities in relation to Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territory, and to transmit the data in the form of a report to the Council. This report is due to be submitted no later than the end of December 2017.

The activities encompassed in the scope of the database are defined in the resolution by reference to paragraph 96 of the report of the International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is included in this letter.

We have reviewed information that indicates that Bezeq appears to be engaged in:

- The provision of services and utilities supporting the maintenance and existence of settlements, including transport.
- The use of natural resources, in particular water and land, for business purposes (paragraph 96 of A/HRC/22/63).

This is based on the following:

- Bezeq owns approximately 40 real estate properties in the West Bank used for telecommunication infrastructure, and operates antennas throughout the West Bank.
- Bezeq provides landline, cellular, internet and cable TV services to residents of settlements in the West Bank.
- Bezeq operates sales points in Ma'ale Adumim and two locations in East Jerusalem.


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We kindly invite you to respond in writing within 60 days from the date of this letter to [hrc3136@ohchr.org](mailto:hrc3136@ohchr.org). We would welcome receiving any additional information or comments that you are able to provide, confirming, clarifying or contesting this information. We encourage you to be in contact early on in this process to allow time to ensure accuracy of information.

You may request that the substance of your written response be kept confidential. It is important that you share any information you may have to enable adequate consideration of whether there are reasonable grounds for inclusion of Bezeq in the database, as per the Council resolution.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter.

  
Mohammad Ali Alnsour  
Chief, Middle East and North Africa Section  
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