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Israel Civil and Public TST	Defense Administration Samaria -	Forces Judea Area Liaison 38029
3 11	Nissan April	5776 2016

To,

**Adv. Sari Bashi**

by e-mail: XXXXXX

Re: **Your inquiry regarding operation to confiscate quarry equipment in Beit Fajar – response of Civil Administration Judea and Samaria Area**

Ref: Yours dated April 11, 2016

1. We hereby confirm receipt of your inquiry regarding the matter in reference.
2. Your inquiry has been referred to the competent officials at the Civil Administration. Our response follows:
  - a. First, I would like to stress that the quarries operate unlawfully and are located within the boundaries of declared state land. In addition, the manner in which quarrying is pursued in said quarries constitutes a serious safety hazard and causes damage to the environment and to nature. In light of this, over the past few years, enforcement action has taken place in the quarry area with the objective of reducing the damage caused by their operations.
  - b. As part of an operation carried out on March 21, 2016, instruments used for illegal activity in the area were seized. Receiving the seized equipment is usually subject to the following conditions:
    1. Signing an undertaking to cease illegal operations in the area.
    2. Reimbursement of costs incurred by the Civil Administration Enforcement Unit for seizure of the instruments.
    3. Presentation of licenses indicating ownership of instruments seized in the operation.
  - c. According to the law, since quarried substances were extracted, whether lawfully or unlawfully, quarry owners must pay royalties for the extraction, in keeping with the law.
  - d. All enforcement and seizure activity have been and continue to be carried out in Area C only.

- e. The operation was carried out once all conditions for its execution were in place, including resource availability and as per priorities.

3. FYI

Sincerely,

Lieut. Eliran Sasson  
Public Liaison Officer  
Office of the Head of the  
Civil Administration