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Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson
U.S. Embassy
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24 February 2020

Dear Ambassador Johnson,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the barring of an academic from Goldsmiths, University of London from entering the US.

Professor Eyal Weizman is a person of character who works without fear or favour in addressing human rights violations as part of the Forensic Architecture team based at Goldsmiths. As you may know, his achievements were recently recognised with the award of an MBE for services to architecture in the New Year Honours.

For Professor Weizman to be denied entry to the US, apparently on the grounds of being flagged a security risk, is of great disappointment. Alongside a growing number of voices, including Amnesty International, we call upon the US authorities to reverse this decision.

At Goldsmiths we take great pride in being a place where work such as that undertaken by Professor Weizman and his colleagues can develop and thrive.

As an institution we are fully committed to academic freedom and freedom of enquiry for our researchers including those such as Professor Weizman who investigate sensitive areas such as the migrant experience and human rights violations. We would urge all authorities to respect the need for independent academic enquiry into these issues.

In this spirit, we strongly advocate that the US authorities reverse their decision and allow Professor Weizman to enter the country.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Frances Corner OBE
Warden