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Bildungsinternationale

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Dr. Jim Yong Kim  
President  
The World Bank Group  
1818 H Street NW  
Washington, DC-20433  
U.S.A.

Brussels, 23 November 2016

**Re: Bridge International Academies**

Dear Mr Kim,

On 7 April 2015, ahead of the 2015 World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings you delivered a speech "Ending Extreme Poverty by 2030: The Final Push" in which you praised the for-profit, fee-charging corporate operator Bridge International Academies. Indeed, the support for Bridge International Academies manifests itself in more than such praise but also financial support through the World Bank's private sector investment arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

As you would be aware, the Ugandan Government recently announced the closure of Bridge International Academies citing repeated wilful disregard for national legal and educational requirements with respect to the provision of schooling. (Attached you will find a statement to parliament by the Minister on 8 August, the ruling of the High Court of Uganda on 4 November and a link to a further statement by the Ministry of Education on 9 November, <https://ugandamediacentreblog.wordpress.com/2016/11/09/statement-on-bridge-international-academy/>, relevant to this matter.)

In light of these developments, we would consider ongoing support for Bridge International Academies by the World Bank untenable.

We would welcome the World Bank's position in relation to these developments.

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen  
General Secretary