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Bildungsinternationale

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Brussels, 6 June 2016

Dear Dr. May,

We are shocked by the actions of your company, Bridge International Academies Ltd., in Uganda, against Mr. Curtis Riep, a Canadian researcher, undertaking a study commissioned by Education International. This study follows serious concerns that our International has received from a number of our member organisations concerning your operations in their countries.

We are appalled that Bridge International Academies Ltd. published a '[wanted advertisement](#)' in *New Vision* on 24 May 2016 accusing Mr. Riep of impersonating one of your employees. That allegation, together with the allegation of criminal trespass, which led to the arrest of Mr. Riep, [were both dismissed following a thorough investigation](#) by the authorities.

Your actions have been exposed as not only unwarranted, but also irresponsible.

Equally appalling is the fact that Mr. Riep's arrival at the police station was greeted by members of the press who had clearly been contacted by your company.

We consider this whole episode and this behaviour totally unacceptable, and unworthy of an organization which claims to have the interest of young people at heart.

We call on you to clear Mr. Riep's name through an apology in an advertisement of the same size and in the same newspaper, to compensate him for damages suffered, and to meet the cost of legal assistance provided to him through the Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU).

Awaiting your response, I remain,

Sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen,
General Secretary

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