

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
SCoJeC

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Minister Burt statement on Jerusalem attack

Minister Burt said: I strongly condemn the terrorist attack that took place on Friday in Jerusalem. My thoughts are with the victims and their families. The UK is clear there can be absolutely no justification for terrorism in any circumstances.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-burt-statement-on-jerusalem-attack>

United Nations

Human Rights Council discusses human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

... Presenting his report, High Commissioner Zeid explained that the final analysis was based on 64 reports issued between 2009 and 2016, containing 929 recommendations by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Human Rights Council mechanisms. ...

State of Palestine, speaking as a concerned country, stated that even though the Palestinians were under enforced occupation, the two parties were treated equally in the report. Israel continued to ignore recommendations by the Security Council and the General Assembly, and it continued to violate its commitments and obligations as it had done for over 70 years. ...

Syria, speaking as a concerned country, voiced concerns about the forced displacements and repeated violations of human rights of the Syrian people living in the Golan Heights. It was urgent to cease the illegal occupation of Arab territories by Israel since 1967. Israel's settlements in the Golan Heights were a clear expression of disregard of the Council's recommendations.

Israel was not present in the room to take the floor as the concerned country. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21774&LangID=E>

Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: comprehensive review on the status of recommendations addressed to all parties since 2009

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session35/Documents/A_HRC_35_19_AEV.docx

Additional information pertaining to the comprehensive review on the status of recommendations addressed to all parties since 2009 with regard to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/5ba47a5c6cef541b802563e000493b8c/66e7f410a9668f885258140006e9fad?OpenDocument>

Human Rights Council holds a general debate on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance

... Israel reminded that anti-Semitism remained present in far too many places in the world. In most cases anti-Semitic crimes had not been ignored by local governments. However, that did not reduce the need for education and awareness raising about anti-Semitism. Israel condemned the Palestinian authorities' praise for Palestinian terrorists who attacked Israeli border guards and their payment of indemnities to the families of the dead attackers. ...

United Nations Watch said that member countries of the Arab League were using the word racism in a twisted way. United Nations Watch expressed concerns about Lebanon's decision to ban the film "Wonderwoman" because the main actress was a Jew, as part of this country's ban policy against Israeli products. ...

International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in a joint statement, said the discrimination that had led to the creation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action sadly persisted. Violations against identifiable groups such as Palestinians, entrenched to a system of institutionalized racial discrimination, qualified as crimes against humanity. Some of Israel's basic laws institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians, such as in the field of land policy. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21780&LangID=E>

Human Rights Council concludes general debates on human rights bodies and mechanisms, and on the universal periodic review

... Israel assigned great importance to the Universal Periodic Review, which if used properly, could be a key vehicle in the promotion of human rights. Israel stressed that one of the strong points of the Universal Periodic Review was its non-selectivity, a principle that the Human Rights Council should uphold. ...

International-Lawyers.org was concerned that Israel's actions since its last Universal Periodic Review were in contravention to recommendations by Member States. Israel persisted in its illegal occupation and denial of Palestinian self-determination and the right of return of Palestinian refugees. Israel continued to refuse to abide by its international obligations and continued to violate Palestinians' fundamental rights. ...

Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle was concerned about the restrictions enforced on activists, journalists and human rights defender by several national authorities in the Middle East. In several States of this region, notably Palestine, the right to freedom of expression was regularly violated. The criminalization of such legitimate activities constituted gross violations of human rights. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21770&LangID=E>

Human Rights Council concludes general debate on human rights situations requiring the Council's attention

... B'nai B'rith, in a joint statement with, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, said the international holocaust remembrance alliance had agreed on a working definition of anti-Semitism. Animus toward Israel crossed the line into anti-Semitism under certain circumstances. Sadly, such expressions had been witnessed in the Chamber. The Human Rights Council should adopt the international working definition of anti-Semitism

and ban all forms of it from its activities. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21765&LangID=E>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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