

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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United Nations

Accord in principle reached with Israel on payment for UN property damage in Gaza
Israel and the United Nations have reached agreement in principle on the terms of an arrangement under which reimbursement would be made for losses sustained by the Organization during last year's Israeli offensive against Hamas in Gaza. ... UN spokesman Martin Nesirky declined today to discuss details of the agreement since it had not yet been finalized. These will be disclosed when the accord has been concluded and the payment made, he said, adding that there were certain inaccuracies in current press reports on this matter. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33428&Cr=gaza&Cr1=>

UN urges calm amid clashes along Egypt-Gaza border

The United Nations urged calm by all sides amid recent violence along the border between Egypt and Gaza, including the killing of an Egyptian security officer ... "We are troubled by the violence along the Egypt-Gaza border," Martin Nesirky, spokesperson for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, told reporters. ... According to media reports, Egyptian security officials said the officer was hit by Palestinian gunfire from across the border. Dozens of protesters were also reportedly hurt during the demonstrations held on Tuesday, called for by Hamas, which took over control of Gaza in June 2007 from the Palestinian Authority.

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33416&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

Ban discusses Middle East peace process with senior Israeli, US officials

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has held talks with senior Israeli and American officials on the Middle East peace process, highlighting the need to overcome hurdles to resume Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. ... the Secretary-General voiced appreciation for the fact that limited amounts of glass are now being allowed into the area to repair homes, "but pressed for further imports of needed material for reconstruction," according to a readout provided by his spokesperson. The two men also discussed the "urgent need" to surmount obstacles to restart Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33411&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

**** Children, Schools and Families Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/childrenschoolsandfamilies.html>

Select Committee Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmchilsch/88/88i.pdf>

Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/constitutionalreformandgovernance.html>

Crime and Security Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/crimeandsecurity.html>

Equality Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

Flood and Water Management Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/floodandwatermanagement.html>

Scottish Parliament

**** Census (Scotland) Order 2010**

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi_9780111007037_en.pdf

The Census (Scotland) Order 2010 has been withdrawn

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-10/bb-01-11h.htm>

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Other Relevant Information

Peter Robinson steps aside as NI first minister

DUP leader Peter Robinson is to step down as Northern Ireland First Minister for six weeks ... Mr Robinson has designated Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster to take charge with immediate effect. ... [She] addressed the Assembly on Monday afternoon. She said she had already spoken to the Deputy First Minister, Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness, about how the arrangements would work in Mr Robinson's absence. ...

To read the full report see

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8450854.stm

Profile of Arlene Foster

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8452628.stm

[no information has been posted on the NI Assembly or Executive websites.]

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Consultations

** new or updated

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Implementation: Consultation on Significant Draft Secondary Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Impact Assessment (Scotland only) (closes 2 February 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/Consultation09>

Communities and Local Government: Creating a Single Equality Scheme for 2010 – 2013 (closes 28 February 2010)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/987402.pdf>

Proposal to amend the Licensing Act 2003 to simplify the procedures for Licensing Statements; Interim Authority Notices; and Temporary Event Notices (closes 9 February 2010)

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6498.aspx

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