

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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Dialrel

Report of a meeting to promote dialogue between stakeholders in the Halal and Shechita supply chains, and the Dialrel Advisory Board.

<http://www.dialrel.eu/Press>

Animal Welfare at Religious Slaughter

http://library.vetmed.fu-berlin.de/resources/global/contents/3745267/Luy_DIALREL.pdf

Note that pp9-195 are in German; pp 197-272 reproduce the same material in English.

pp274-544 reproduce all of the above!

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Israel

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Fraudulent Use of Passports (Investigation)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): Following a formal request from the Emirati law enforcement authorities the Serious Organised Crime Agency is conducting an investigation into the apparent use of counterfeit British passports by those suspected of murdering a Hamas official in Dubai recently. The investigation is at an early stage but a number of avenues of inquiry are expected to be followed. Since this is a criminal investigation it would not be appropriate to comment on it at this stage.

Based on the limited information available, the Identity and Passport Service is satisfied that the passport records identified are genuine UK passports, issued in the UK between September 2001 and January 2006, and that the photographs and signatures provided by the Dubai authorities do not match those on IPS records. These pre-date the time when biometric UK passports started to be issued.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmtoday/cmwms/archive/100222.htm#hddr_5

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

EU ministers condemn the use of fake passports

David Miliband joined EU Ministers in condemning the use of forged passports.

Foreign Secretary David Miliband attended the monthly Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), chaired by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton in Brussels on 22 February. Following the meeting, the EU Ministers issued a statement "condemning the use of fake passports" and urging a full investigation into the protection of European passports.

'The EU strongly condemns the fact that those involved in this action used fraudulent EU member states' passports and credit cards acquired through the theft of EU citizen's identities.'

In the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council, the Foreign Secretary met with Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman. The Foreign Secretary underlined his "deep discontent" over this issue and made clear the need for "transparent and clear" cooperation.

Following the meeting, David Miliband said: 'I set out for the Foreign Minister the seriousness of the issue as far as Britain was concerned. I set out that as far as we were concerned the need for Britain and Israel to cooperate across a whole range of issues was very serious, but it needed to be done on a basis that was transparent and clear.'

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21794619>

Sky News interview on fraudulent use of British passports

David Miliband: I've just completed a forty five minute meeting with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Foreign Minister Liberman. We spent most of the time talking about the issue of the fraudulent use of British passports and the profound concern that exists not just in Britain, but all over Europe about this incident. I set out for the Foreign Minister the seriousness of the issue as far as Britain was concerned. I set out that as far as we were concerned the need for Britain and Israel to cooperate across a whole range of issues was very serious, but it needed to be done on a basis that was transparent and clear.

I obviously went through with the Foreign Minister the importance of the investigation that the Prime Minister has announced and the importance that we attach to Israel cooperating with that investigation.

Chris Bryant is going to say some more in the House of Commons this afternoon about the investigation and how it's proceeding, but I think it's very important that people know that we continue to take this issue very seriously indeed and we want to get to the bottom of it.

Reporter: Can I ask, you say it's serious. How big a strain has this put on relations between Israel and the UK and, and those other countries whose passports were copied?

David Miliband: Well there's been a discussion at the European Foreign Ministers meeting here in Brussels today. Across Europe there is real concern, I think that the statement we put out talks about how profoundly disturbed the Foreign Ministers of the European Union are by the issues raised in respect of the killing. It's vital that relations between states are conducted on the basis that is clear and transparent. It's also important to say that Israel in some ways above all countries has the most to gain from a Middle East that is based on the rule of law and that's why I think that it's right to take these issues to the highest level in Israel and ask for their full cooperation in the inquiry.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=21794647>

United Nations

UN hopes 'serious' Israeli-Palestinian talks will begin soon, political chief says

The United Nations remains deeply concerned at the current stalemate in the Middle East peace process, the world body's political chief said today, voicing the hope that both the Israelis and the Palestinians will accept a proposal put forward to restart talks.

Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe said a proposal from United States envoy George Mitchell to the parties to begin indirect talks with US mediation is currently under serious consideration. Israel has indicated its readiness to work on this basis, while Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is still seeking clarifications.

“The Secretary-General hopes that President Abbas will move forward on the basis of this practical proposal so that serious talks can begin,” Mr. Pascoe said in his briefing to the Security Council. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33812&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>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/061/amend/psc0611902a.935-941.html>

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

End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

Draft Census Order

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2010/draft/pdf/sdsi_9780111007907_en.pdf

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Other Relevant Information

Council of Europe

High Level Conference on the Future of the European Court of Human Rights: Interlaken Declaration

http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/topics/europa/euroc.Par.0133.File.tmp/final_en.pdf

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Consultations

** new or updated

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>

Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 2010

(closes 15 March 2010)

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6605.aspx

**** 2011 Census Statistical Outputs (England and Wales)** (closes 26 March 2010)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/consultations/open-consultations/2011-output-consultation---main-statistical-outputs/index.html>

Equality Bill: Draft Codes of Conduct (closes 2 April 2010)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-codes-of-practice-consultation/#1>

Equality Bill: Draft Guidance (closes 16 April 2010)

<http://ehrc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Death Certification, Burial, and Cremation (Scotland) (closes 21 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/300112/0093686.pdf>

Humanitarian Assistance Strategic Guidance (closes 14 May)

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/consultations/HA_strategic_guide_draft.pdf

**** 2011 Census Statistical Outputs (Scotland)** (closes 14 May 2010) <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/consultation-and-research/formal-consultations/spring-10-consultation.html>

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/consultation-and-research/formal-consultations/spring-10-consultation.html>

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