

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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UK Parliamentary Questions

Passports: Fraud

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Oral Statement of 23 March 2010, Official Report, columns 133-4, on UK passports (use in Dubai murder), what the other reasons are for not releasing the report by the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [325103]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The report was compiled as the result of a criminal investigation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency into the use of counterfeit British passports. Such reports which may lead to, or be relevant to, criminal proceedings in the UK or elsewhere are not released.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100408/text/100408w0005.htm#10040875000010>

Israel

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Government of Israel or their representatives in the United Kingdom about Israel's compliance with international law. [HL3147]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead): The UK recognises Israel's right to protect its people from attack. However we are also very clear that its actions must adhere with international law. We make frequent representations and statements where we see actions by either party that cause us concern.

I made this clear in debate on 6 April, where, in addition to confirming the representations made on illegal settlements, I confirmed "that on a range of

issues-from the route of the barrier, to the operation of military courts, to the operation of the permit system which gives Palestinians the right to visit or live in Jerusalem-we are active and we are vocal".

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had in the European Union and the United Nations and with the Government of the United States about Israel's compliance with international law. [HL3148]

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: We are in regular dialogue with our key partners from the EU and the UN along with the US on the Middle East peace process and related issues. We support the quartet's statement following its conference in Moscow on 19 March which, amongst other things, called "on Israel and the Palestinians to act on the basis of international law, and on their previous agreements and obligations, in particular adherence to the Roadmap, irrespective of reciprocity".

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100408w0003.htm#10040854000690>

Israel and Palestine

Lord Ahmed: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the United States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, about the Government of the United States' recent comments regarding the construction of Israeli settlements in Palestinian occupied territory. [HL3117]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead): The UK is in regular dialogue with the US Administration on the Middle East peace process and related issues. My right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 29 March. We and the US are both clear in our opposition to settlement-building.

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of Israel about the killing of two unarmed teenagers in the West Bank of Palestine this week. [HL3146]

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: The UK is extremely concerned at the recent incidents of violence in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. We deeply regret the loss of life and we are given to understand that the Israeli Military Police will be carrying out an investigation into the death of the two teenagers. We will await the results of the investigation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100408w0003.htm#10040854000691>

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to (a) the government of Iran and (b) the Palestinian Authority on the fate of the missing Israeli service personnel; and if he will make a statement. [325696]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We consistently call for the immediate release of Gilad Shalit. The EU reiterated this call in the December Foreign Affairs Council conclusions and made our collective position very clear in international meetings, most recently during the Quartet meeting in Moscow on 19 March.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100408/text/100408w005.htm#10040875000008>

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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>

Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100408/debtext/100408-0010.htm#1004085000001>

The Bill has now received Royal Assent

Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill

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

Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100408/debtext/100408-0007.htm#10040848000002>

The Bill has now received Royal Assent

Crime and Security Bill

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

The Bill has now received Royal Assent

Equality Bill

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

The Bill has now received Royal Assent

Flood and Water Management Bill

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

Report Stage and Third Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100408-0002.htm#10040856001057>

Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100408/debtext/100408-0015.htm#10040851000001>

The Bill has now received Royal Assent

Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/prosecutionoffencesact1985amendment.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_9780111008379_en.pdf

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Consultations

** new or updated

**** closes in 7 days**

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>

FAWC Strategic Plan (10 May 2010)

<http://www.fawc.org.uk/pdf/letter100322.pdf>

Call for Evidence on the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill (12 May 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/currentInquiries.htm>

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>

Revised Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (England and Wales only) (closes 15 June 2010)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1671&external=no&menu=1>

Continuing need for a controlled activity category in the Vetting and Barring Scheme (England and Wales only) (closes 17 June 2010)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1710&external=no&menu=1>

Reform of the coroner system (closes 1 July 2010)

Includes questions as to when it may be appropriate to carry out a non-invasive post-mortem examination, for example by means of MRI scan.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/reform-coroner-system.htm>

Amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 (closes 15 July 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2010-pathogens-toxins/consultation-paper2835.pdf?view=Binary>

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