

# 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

#### Israel: Nuclear Weapons

**Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the documents uncovered by Sasha Polakow-Suransky regarding Israel and possession of nuclear weapons; whether he has had discussions with the Israeli Government on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [1301]

**Alistair Burt:** We are aware of press reports but have had nothing to substantiate these claims. We have not had any discussions with the Israeli Government regarding this matter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100610/text/100610w0004.htm#10061039000066>

#### Middle East: Armed Conflict

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government has made of whether the linkage made by the government of Israel between access for aid and reconstruction materials and the refusal of Hamas to renounce violence constitutes collective punishment of the people of Gaza within the meaning of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and if he will make a statement. [1192]

**Alistair Burt** [*holding answer 7 June 2010*]: Israel states that it has imposed the blockade in self-defence given its conflict with Hamas. Blockading a coastline to prevent supplies reaching the enemy is a legitimate military measure. But there are limits. One of these is that the damage to the civilian population is not expected to be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from the blockade.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his statement to the House on 2 June 2010 that it is essential that there be unfettered access not only to meet the humanitarian needs of the people of Gaza, but to enable the reconstruction of homes and livelihoods and permit trade to take place. The Foreign Secretary also raised this in his conversation with the Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman.

The UK will continue to press the Israeli Government to lift Gaza's closure and to discuss these issues urgently with our international partners.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100610/text/100610w0004.htm#10061039000067>

## Passports: Fraud

**Nicholas Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Oral Statement by the then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 23 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 133, on UK passports (use in Dubai murder), what response was received to the request to Foreign Minister Lieberman for a formal assurance that in future the state of Israel would never be party to the misuse of British passports; on what dates (a) the Secretary of State and (b) (i) Ministers and (ii) officials of his Department have subsequently discussed the matter with representatives of the government of Israel; what the outcome of such discussions was; and if he will make a statement. [1806]

**Alistair Burt:** We have not yet received a formal assurance from the Government of Israel on this matter. We will continue to discuss these issues with the Israeli Government: we will not tolerate the misuse of British passports.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100610/text/100610w0005.htm#10061039000069>

## European Parliament

### Gaza: what's next?

Ahead of a debate in plenary on 16 June about how to move the peace process forward in the wake of recent events in and around Gaza, three MEPs who took part in the recent Parliamentary delegation to the region analyse the EU's role and whether aid is reaching the right hands and objectives.

"The association agreements with Israel and €600 million (a year) in aid to Palestine and should come with the condition that they respect the engagements they have made," said Alain Lamassoure. The centre-right French MEP, who heads the Budget Committee, wants to leverage EU aid into a political say. "The conclusion isn't that Europe should stop its aid. But it has paid enough to have the right to play a major role in this political game." ...

"The goal is for Europe to speak with one voice. Unfortunately this still isn't happening, as we have seen in the UN vote about the international investigation (into Israel's commando operation against a humanitarian convoy trying to break the Gaza block, which resulted in deaths and injuries)," said Italian Socialist Pier Antonio Panzeri, the Chair of the Maghreb delegation. ...

**To read the full press release see**

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story\\_page/030-75596-158-06-24-903-20100607STO75583-2010-07-06-2010/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/030-75596-158-06-24-903-20100607STO75583-2010-07-06-2010/default_en.htm)

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* New or updated

### UK Parliament

#### \*\* Identity Documents Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/2011001.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/en/2011001-en.pdf>

# Scottish Parliament

## End of Life Assistance Bill

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

### **\*\* closes today**

**ACPOS Draft Hate Crime Guidance Manual** (closes 11 June 2010)

[http://www.scojec.org/consultations/current/10vi\\_acpos\\_draft\\_hate\\_crime\\_manual.doc](http://www.scojec.org/consultations/current/10vi_acpos_draft_hate_crime_manual.doc)

### **\*\* closes in 4 days**

**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>

### **\*\* closes in 6 days**

**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)

<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>

**Welsh Assembly Review of Standing Orders** (closes 16 July 2010)

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-bc-home/bus-committees-third-bc-comm/bc3\\_inq\\_so.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-bc-home/bus-committees-third-bc-comm/bc3_inq_so.htm)

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