

Political Affairs Brief

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

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Home Affairs

UK Parliamentary Questions

Zakir Abdul-Karim Naik

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason she has prohibited Dr Zakir Abdul-Karim Naik from entering the UK. [4234]

Damian Green: The Home Secretary excluded Dr Naik because she considered that his presence in the UK would not be conducive to the public good. A number of statements made by Dr Naik justifying terrorism and fostering hatred are evidence of his unacceptable behaviour.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/text/100628w0018.htm#10062824000029>

Community Development: Religion

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent under the Prevent Violent Extremism Next Steps for Communities Programme on (a) Muslim groups, (b) groups from other faiths and (c) groups with no faith affiliation in 2009-10. [4379]

Andrew Stunell: The Department spent £27 million to support local partnership activity to prevent violent extremism in 2009-10, of which £16.5 million was allocated to local authorities through the un-ringfenced Area Based Grant, which gives local authorities discretion on how funding is allocated.

The Department's programme budget funds a variety of groups that undertake a range of Prevent activity. Funding has been made to a variety of organisations and is not defined or recorded by religious affiliation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/text/100628w0005.htm#10062816000005>

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Israel

UK Parliamentary Questions

Jamal Elshayyal

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Israeli government on the case of Jamal Elshayyal following his detention on the Mavi Marmara. [4440]

Alistair Burt: I have raised several issues in relation to the British nationals who were on board Mavi Marmara with Israel's ambassador to the UK. Our

ambassador to Israel and other members of the British embassy have also raised the matter on a number of occasions with the Israeli authorities. It has also been raised by the EU presidency, on behalf of EU heads of mission, with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Among the issues raised included that of three missing British passports, including Mr El Shayyal's. I can now confirm that we have recently received all three passports. These will be returned to the holders. The Government and officials on the ground have spent significant time and resources assisting British nationals in this case. We will continue to seek clarification on the missing possessions and to underline the importance of ensuring that the Commission established by Israel provides a full, credible, impartial and independent investigation that the international community can respect.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/text/100628w0010.htm#10062818000031>

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will investigate current attempts to deport Palestinians from east Jerusalem to the West Bank; and, if so, whether they will make representations to the Government of Israel following the investigation. [HL571]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The UK is extremely concerned by recent reports of Palestinians' residency permits being revoked. We can confirm that President Abbas has requested the Israeli Government to rescind their decision.

We will continue to raise with the Israeli Government our concerns about Israeli policies in Jerusalem, which threaten to cut off East Jerusalem from the West Bank. Those policies include the routing of the barrier on occupied territory, settlement activity both within and around East Jerusalem, and increasingly restricted access to Jerusalem for Palestinian residents.

We believe the only long-term solution is a secure and universally recognised Israel living alongside a sovereign and viable Palestinian state, with Jerusalem the future capital of both states, and a fair settlement for refugees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100628w0005.htm#1006283002043>

United Nations

Demolitions, new settlements in East Jerusalem could amount to war crimes

An independent United Nations expert today urged Israel to prevent further rights violations in East Jerusalem, warning that population transfers in or from occupied territory are war crimes under international law. Richard Falk, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights on Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, cited in particular the situation of four Palestinians threatened with the loss of their right of residence, as well as the plan by the Mayor of Jerusalem to demolish 22 buildings housing Palestinians in Silwan as part of a redevelopment of the area. "These actions, if carried out, would violate international law, with certain actions potentially amounting to war crimes under international humanitarian law," warned Mr. Falk ... He said it was "disturbing" that Israel is considering revoking the residency permits of the four Palestinians, who are all current or former members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and long-time residents of East Jerusalem. The Israeli High Court of Justice is scheduled to consider their case on 6 September. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35175&Cr=Palestin&Cr1=>

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Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

**** Academies Bill**

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

Committee Stage, house of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100628-0005.htm#1006282000493>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100628-0013.htm#10062823000245>

Bill as amended in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/001/11010.pdf>

**** Identity Documents Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/001/amend/pbc0010629m.5-7.html>

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 in 2 days**

Reform of the coroner system (closes 1 July 2010)

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

Identity Documents Bill (Committee consideration to be completed by 8 July)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2010/06/identity-documents-bill-committee-issues-call-for-evidence/>

Equality Act: obtaining information in potential discrimination and equality of term cases (closes 13 July 2010)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/new_streamlined_procedure_for.aspx

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

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