

# 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

### Home Office

#### **Abu Hamza will remain in custody says Theresa May**

The cleric and three other men will remain in custody while further submissions on their case are made to the European Court of Human Rights. This announcement follows a decision today by the European court that the men's claims that extradition to the US would breach their human rights can be heard in more detail. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/abu-hamza-custody>

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

#### **Sir Malcolm Rifkind takes up role in key Commonwealth reform body**

Sir Malcolm Rifkind has been appointed as the UK's representative to the body tasked with reforming the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Eminent Person's Group (EPG) ... will examine the role of the Commonwealth and will assess where it should focus its efforts for the future. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=22504440>

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## Israel

### United Nations

#### **Gaza and Middle East peace among issues discussed by Ban and Israeli leader**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ... discussed a number of issues including the Middle East peace process and the situation in Gaza. The UN chief has welcomed the additional measures announced this week by Israel in increasing the scope and quantity of materials allowed into Gaza, and said he hoped they will lead to an improvement in the situation of the 1.5 million Palestinians living in the territory. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35262&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

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## Foreign Affairs

### European Council Against Racism and Intolerance

#### **Racist violence is growing in Europe, says Council of Europe Anti-Racism Commission report**

The Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Nils Muiznieks, today expressed alarm about the general rise in racist violence in Europe. "In the last year there has been a hardening of the immigration debate and a rise in xenophobic and intolerant attitudes in general, including virulent verbal attacks and violent incidents", he said. ... ECRI today published its annual report, which examines the main trends in the field of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance in Europe.

In the report, ECRI expresses its concern about the effects of the economic crisis on vulnerable groups – in particular the rise in unemployment and cuts to social services. The negative climate of public opinion, fuelled by increasingly xenophobic political speech, has led to immigrants being held responsible for unemployment and the deterioration of security.

ECRI calls on European states to apply their laws effectively to prevent and combat racism, intolerance and xenophobia, and to fill the legal gaps that still exist. Although ECRI acknowledges that some states have adopted appropriate legislation, it also stresses that its application "often remains a challenge". ...

Antisemitism persists in Europe. Attacks on synagogues and Jewish cemeteries and Holocaust denial continue to be issues of concern.

**To read the full press release see**

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/69-08\\_07\\_2010\\_AnnualReport2009\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/69-08_07_2010_AnnualReport2009_en.asp)

#### **Annual Report on ECRI's Activities: 1 January to 31 December 2009**

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual%20report%202009.pdf>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* New or updated

### UK Parliament

#### **\*\* Academies Bill**

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

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100707-0001.htm#10070749000431>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100707-0002.htm#10070774000281>

Bill as amended on Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/013/2011013.pdf>

#### **Daylight Saving Bill**

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

## Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill

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

## Identity Documents Bill

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

**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/>

### \*\* closes in 5 days

**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](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/new_streamlined_procedure_for.aspx)

### \*\* closes in 7 days

**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>

### \*\* closes in 8 days

**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)

**Data protection legislative framework** (closes 6 October 2010)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/dpa-call-evidence-02-07-2010.pdf>

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