

Political Affairs Digest

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

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Supreme Court

“The Jewish history of the Supreme Court”: Address to JNet, The Jewish Civil Servants’ Network by Lord Neuberger, President of the Supreme Court

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/docs/speech-170517.pdf>

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Israel

United Nations

Deputy Permanent Observer Urges Solidarity with Palestinian Prisoners as Hunger Strike Continues against Israeli Occupation, Degrading Jail Conditions

As some 1,000 Palestinian prisoners being held in Israeli jails marked 30 days of a “freedom and dignity” hunger strike, Israel continued to ignore their most basic demands and intensify its abuse and collective punishment, the Palestinian Rights Committee heard today.

“Despair among the prisoners is rising,” warned Feda Abdelhady-Nasser, Deputy Observer for the State of Palestine, during a meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

She called on the Committee to issue a statement conveying solidarity with the non-violent movement launched by prisoners to protest Israel’s illegal occupation and the degrading conditions in Israeli prisons. The international community must continue to place pressure on Israel to abide by international law and relevant Security Council resolutions. ...

... the rights of the Palestinian people continued to be denied, she said. In Gaza, some 2 million Palestinians remained under Israel’s blockade, which continued to inflict collective punishment. The Committee must persist with the demand to alleviate the dire situation. In the West Bank, Israel’s illegal colonization and flagrant violations of international law continued with impunity, she said ...

... Fodé Seck ... Chairman of the Committee ... said the Secretary-General reiterated his full support to the Committee, stated his strong preference for a two-State solution, and reaffirmed the illegality of Israeli settlements. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gapal1386.doc.htm>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

“No end in sight,” says UN human rights expert after five decades of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, has expressed his deep concern about the deteriorating human rights situation in the OPT, on the eve of the 50th year of the Israeli occupation.

“Occupations are inherently temporary and short-term under international law, yet this occupation – after 5 decades – has no end in sight. Indeed, it is deeply entrenched, and Israel, the occupying power, shows many signs of wanting to make it permanent,” said Mr. Lynk.

“The systemic human rights violations that accompany this occupation – collective punishment, confiscation of property, excessive use of force and unlawful killings, lack of freedom of movement and steady settlement expansion, among others – are intensifying an already perilous situation,” he warned. ...

“It is with great concern that I look towards the future of Gaza, with all the reports I received this week indicating that the situation in the Strip is extremely dire,” Mr. Lynk stressed. “The ongoing electricity crisis has created an untenable situation, with predictions that by mid-June, a significant proportion of essential health, sanitation and water services may be inoperable.”

“I am struck by the depth of hopelessness and frustration in Gaza that has been described to me this week,” the Rapporteur noted. “After ten years of closure, I call upon Israel and the international community to turn your urgent attention to this situation, which cannot and should not be ignored any longer. The human rights of the residents of Gaza must be respected - this is the only path forward.”

The human rights expert also expressed deep concern about the situation in the West Bank. He noted that Israel controls Area C in its entirety, which makes up 60 percent of the West Bank, and which completely surrounds the Palestinian-controlled areas.

“Significant settlement construction has recently been announced, settlers enjoy four times the allocation of West Bank water that Palestinians receive, environmental degradation is spreading, and home demolitions are steadily increasing, all contributing to a situation in which many feel the path to peace is more and more difficult,” he said.

“I am particularly worried about the Bedouin communities in the Jerusalem periphery, who face the continued threat of displacement and destruction of their homes and livelihoods by the Israeli authorities,” said the expert. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21639&LangID=E>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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