

# Political Affairs Digest

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

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## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### Discrimination

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL7864] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ongoing UN investigation on discrimination and racism in the UK by UN Special Rapporteur on discrimination Tendayi Achiume.

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance visited the United Kingdom from 30 April to 11 May.

As part of our commitment to universal human rights and the rules-based international system, the United Kingdom offers a standing invitation to all UN Special Rapporteurs to review the situation in the United Kingdom relating to their mandates, and encourages other UN Member States to do the same. The Government will respond to the Special Rapporteur's country visit findings, conclusions and recommendations when these are presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-14/HL7864/>

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### Racism

**S5W-16550 Annie Wells (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the finding in the report, *No Problem Here: Understanding Racism in Scotland*, that Scotland has a higher rate of murders that were known or suspected to have a racist element than the rest of the UK.

**Angela Constance:** Racism is completely unacceptable and we are committed to tackling it.

Racist incidents and racist hate crime have shown a downwards trend in Scotland in recent times, with racially motivated homicides being rare (in 2016-17, there were two victims of homicide that were reported to have had a racial motivation, representing 3 per cent of all victims in the latest year). The total number of homicides has fallen by 47% in the past ten years with racially motivated homicides accounting for just 1.1% of the overall figure.

One incident is too many though and we are resolved to do everything that it takes

to ensure that Scotland is a place where there is zero tolerance of prejudice or bigotry in any form. That's why our *Race Equality Action Plan: A Fairer Scotland for All* was published in December and includes over 120 actions which we will take over the lifetime of this Parliament to tackle racism and to improve the lives of minority ethnic communities in Scotland. This includes work to tackle hate crime and prejudice, and build greater community cohesion.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16550>

*The report referred to above is not available online*

*The Action Plan referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00528746.pdf>

## Welsh Assembly Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education: Relationships and Sexuality Education

**315 Kirsty Williams (Cabinet Secretary for Education):** Last year, I established the sex and relationship expert panel to provide independent advice on these matters ...

**316** The expert panel made 11 recommendations that, together, form a holistic plan for enhancing provision, for both our current cohort of learners and those who will learn under our new curriculum. One recommendation is that this area of study should be a statutory part of the new curriculum for Wales. ...

**320** Statutory schooling in Wales starts at age five, therefore, statutory relationships and sexuality education will also start at this age. I want to make it clear, Presiding Officer, that we are not looking to teach children about topics for which they are not developmentally ready. We currently have the foundation phase, which provides learning for our youngest children, and this already includes an area of learning for personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity. ...

**326 Darren Millar (Conservative):** ... many people will want to protect the innocence of children and that parents will question how it's going to be possible to ensure that there is appropriate education, in a sensitive way, that also meets the requirements that faith groups might have, for example, where they may raise concerns about the breadth of the education, if you like, and the information that is being relayed. ...

**338 Llyr Gruffydd (Plaid Cymru):** ... I've seen some of the news coverage around the statement being made today, and they say that there'll be no change for religious schools. So, I just need clarity that all schools, including faith schools, will now have that statutory duty upon them, because children and young people who attend religious schools face the same challenges and need the same information as children who don't. ...

**346 Kirsty Williams:** ... For schools of a religious nature, we will continue to have ongoing discussions with that particular sector about how this new curriculum will affect their delivery, but I have to say we've had engagement with schools of a religious character in the development of the policy. I myself had a discussion with the Archbishop of Wales about it recently, and there is an understanding across all schools of the necessity of equipping our children with the knowledge that they need, because they recognise, just like Darren Millar did, the very real dangers that sometimes our children and young people are facing. ...

**361 Lynne Neagle (Labour):** ... I heard on the radio this morning that it will still be open to parents at the moment to withdraw their children from these lessons if they want to, and I understand that is the case in the short term. ... I'd like to ask what consideration you've given to children's rights under the UNCRC in enabling that situation to continue. ...

**365 Kirsty Williams:** At this stage, I am not amending the right of parents to withdraw children from lessons, but we will have to look at that as we go forward with the new curriculum, because the nature of the new curriculum is much more cross-cutting. There aren't individual lessons in the same kind of way. But I would encourage all parents, if they have concerns about these issues, to have a conversation with their school about what's being taught in school. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<http://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/4985#A43520>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Palestinians: Demonstrations**

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Catherine West (Labour)** [144367] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what is Department's policy is on the instigation of a UN-led investigation into the recent deaths of Palestinian protesters.

#### **Gaza: Armed Conflict**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Rosie Duffield (Labour)** [144396] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to ensure an independent inquiry into recent civilian deaths on the Gaza border.

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Tonia Antoniazzi (Labour)** [144400] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will seek urgently the establishment of a UN-led investigation in to the recent actions of the Israeli Government towards protesters in Palestine.

**Alistair Burt:** As our Ambassador to the UN said at the UN Security Council emergency meeting on 15 May, we "want to reiterate our support for independent and transparent investigations into the events that have taken place in Gaza on 14 May and in recent weeks". This includes the extent to which the Israeli security forces' rules of engagement are in line with international law and what role Hamas played in events. The UK will judge any proposal for an investigation on its merits.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144367/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144396/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144400/>

*The speech referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-committed-to-two-state-solution-jerusalem-as-shared-capital>

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [144368] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with (a) his Israeli counterpart and (b) his Palestinian counterpart on the recent violence in Gaza.

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign Secretary discussed the use of live ammunition against

protestors in Gaza with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Abbas on 16 May. I have also raised concerns regarding this issue with my Israeli counterpart on 13 May and with the Israeli ambassador to the UK on 17 May. As I said in my statement of 14 May, we continue to implore Israel to show greater restraint in its use of live fire.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144368/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-response-to-violence-in-gaza>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [144369] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on that country's commitment to the Oslo Peace accords.

**Alistair Burt:** The Foreign Secretary spoke to President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu on 16 May and reiterated the need for progress towards peace. We urge Israel and the Palestinian Authority to work together to meet their obligations under the Oslo Accords. We also call on all parties to abide by International Humanitarian Law and to promote peace, stability and security.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144369/>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [144370] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what information the Government holds on whether Hamas has encouraged Palestinian protesters to use violence against Israeli military forces along the border of Gaza.

**Alistair Burt:** Hamas have acknowledged that 50 of those killed during protests in Gaza on Monday were their operatives. Hamas leaders have also called for violence against Israelis. While many protests have been peaceful, there has been reporting of some protesters using violent methods during the protests, and there have been multiple attempts to place Improvised Explosive Devices at the Gaza border. The UK supports the fundamental right of Palestinians to peaceful protests, but it is clear that extremist elements have been exploiting these protests for their own ends; Israel has the right to protect itself against Hamas and other militant groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144370/>

### **Gaza: Health Services**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [144371] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of medical provision in Gaza as a result of the casualties among Palestinian protesters.

**Alistair Burt:** The UK is deeply concerned by the current medical provision in Gaza following the recent protests. My officials are working closely with our international partners to ensure a coordinated and effective response. The International Committee of the Red Cross noted on May 14<sup>th</sup> that the health system is close to collapse, with the casualties from the protests exacerbating an already acutely overstretched system. There are longstanding shortages of medical supplies, electricity and fuel. In response, I am reviewing how the UK can best support the health system in Gaza at this time. I will keep the House informed of my decision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144371/>

The ICRC statement referred to above can be read at <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/gaza-icrc-delivers-urgent-medical-supplies>

### **Gaza: Health Services**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [144372] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether she plans to allocate additional funding for medical services in Gaza.

**Alistair Burt:** The UK is working closely with our international partners to monitor the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and ensure a coordinated and effective response to urgent medical needs. The UK provides clean water and rehabilitates sanitation facilities to stop the spread of disease for up to 1 million Gazans through the United Nations Children's Fund. UK financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority helps to pay the salaries of vetted health public servants in the West Bank. Last year this support provided up to 3,700 immunisations for children and around 185,000 medical consultations annually. In addition, the UK is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which provides basic services, including basic healthcare, to over 800,000 Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and 1.3 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza. I am reviewing how the UK can best support the health system in Gaza at this time. I will keep the House informed of my decision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144372/>

### **Palestinians: Refugees**

**Rosie Duffield (Labour)** [144394] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what plans the Government has made to provide humanitarian support for a potential increase in Palestinian refugees across the Middle East as a result of the recent violence in Gaza.

**Alistair Burt:** We are not aware of an increase in the number of internally displaced persons within Gaza, or an increase in the number of refugees in the region, as a result of the recent violence on the Israel-Gaza border. However, more than 22,500 people remain displaced in Gaza since the 2014 conflict.

The UK is a long term supporter of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) which supports Palestinian refugees across the region, including those displaced in Gaza, through the provision of: basic education to around 500,000 children; health services for around 3 million Palestinian refugees; social assistance for approximately 280,000 of the poorest Palestinian refugees; and a source of income for almost 30,000 refugees working for UNRWA. The UK will deliver its next round of financial support earlier than originally planned to meet the growing needs of Palestinian refugees across the region.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144394/>

### **Israel: Arms Trade**

**Ann Clwyd (Labour)** [145278] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what role his Department plans to play in reviewing UK arms exports to Israel as a result of the events in Gaza of 14 May 2018.

**Alistair Burt:** We assess all applications very carefully against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and human rights and international humanitarian law considerations are important parts of that assessment. We have no information to suggest that UK supplied equipment has been used in contravention of the Criteria. We continue to keep the situation under constant review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145278/>

### **Hamas: Proscribed Organisations**

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative)** [145293] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to add the political wing of Hamas to the list of proscribed organisations.

**Ben Wallace:** Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades (Hamas IDQ), the military wing of Hamas, was proscribed in March 2001. A decision to proscribe an organisation must be based on a belief that it is concerned in terrorism as defined in the Terrorism Act 2000. We do not routinely comment on whether an organisation is or is not under consideration for proscription.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145293/>

### **Israel: Arms Trade**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [145303] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if will make it his policy to suspend all UK arms export licenses to Israel in the light of ongoing investigations into human rights violations by that country.

**Alistair Burt:** We are keeping the situation under constant review. My department will advise the Department for International Trade if extant licences are found to be no longer consistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, so that those licences can be revoked. We have no information to suggest that UK supplied equipment has been used in contravention of the Criteria.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145303/>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Thelma Walker (Labour)** [145397] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the recent violence at the Palestinian border.

**Alistair Burt:** The Cabinet discussed the Gaza events, on the basis of a briefing by the Foreign Secretary on 15 May.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145397/>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Thelma Walker (Labour)** [145398] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether the Government condemned the violence used by Israeli forces on protesters at the Gaza-Israel border at the recent UN Security Council meeting.

**Alistair Burt:** At the UN Security Council Meeting in question, the UK Permanent Representative urged Israel to ensure that its security forces did not resort to the use of excessive force, and noted the urgent need to establish why such a volume of live fire continued to be deemed justified.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145398/>

## **House of Lords Written Answers**

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Lord Judd (Labour)** [HL7619] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the United States State Department's report, Israel and the Golan Heights 2017 Human Rights Report, published on 20 April, in particular (1) its reference to the conclusion of the UNICEF Report of 2013 that "the maltreatment of Palestinian children appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalised", and (2) its reference to the

findings of the Military Court Watch, based on 400 testimonies collected since 2013, that 90 per cent of children continue to be denied access to a lawyer prior to questioning; and what representations they intend to make to the government of Israel on those issues.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention remains a human rights priority for the UK. We will continue to call upon Israel to improve its practices in line with international law and obligations. We have offered to help the Israeli authorities through expert-to-expert talks with British officials. That offer still stands. While we recognise that Israel has made some improvements, it needs to do much more to safeguard vulnerable people in its care. Most recently I raised the issue of children in detention with Israeli Justice Minister Shaked during my trip to the region in April 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7619/>

*The Human Rights report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/277489.pdf>

*The UNICEF report referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF\\_oPt\\_Children\\_in\\_Israeli\\_Military\\_Detention\\_Observations\\_and\\_Recommendations\\_-\\_6\\_March\\_2013.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf)

### **Occupied Territories: USA**

**Lord Judd (Labour)** [HL7620] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of the United States on the decision no longer to refer to the West Bank and East Jerusalem as "occupied territories" in the United States State Department's report, Israel and the Golan Heights 2017 Human Rights Report, published on 20 April, for the first time since the State Department began to issue Human Rights Reports in 1999; what is their assessment of the implications of this change for international law and United States policy; and whether they will re-affirm their own position on those territories and on Gaza.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** While we have not raised this specific issue with the US, the UK position remains clear. We consider that the level of control that Israel retains over the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza amounts to occupation under international law. Hence Israel's presence is governed by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to which Israel is a state party. The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and compliance with international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and we continue to call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7620/>

*The Human Rights report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/277489.pdf>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL7660] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding their reported refusal to release the bodies of those they categorise as terrorists to their families.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not raised this issue recently but officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have previously raised the return of Palestinian bodies with the Israeli authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7660/>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL7661] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the imprisonment of Palestinian minors as young as 12.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I raised concerns over the treatment of Palestinian minors in detention with the Israeli Justice Minister during my visit on 11 April. The treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention remains a human rights priority for the UK. We will continue to call upon Israel to improve its practices in line with international law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7661/>

### Israa Jaabees

**Baroness tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL7662] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the imprisonment of Israa Jaabees and allowing her to receive necessary medical attention.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities. We continue to urge the Israeli authorities to ensure that prisoners are provided with the necessary health care and other provisions that they require in line with international obligations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7662/>

### USA: Israel

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL7663] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to discuss the relocation of the United States embassy to Jerusalem with the President of the United States when he visits the UK in July.

**Lord ahmad of Wimbledon:** We look forward to the working visit by President Trump in July. It will be a timely opportunity for bilateral discussions between the President and the Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister made clear in her statement of 6 December 2017, we disagree with the US' decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem and recognise Jerusalem as the Israeli capital before a final status agreement. We believe it is unhelpful to prospects for peace in the region.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7663/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-statement-on-us-decision-to-move-embassy-to-jerusalem-6-december-2017>

### Israeli Settlements

**Baroness tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL7664] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel about the work started on new settlement homes for former members of the Israeli security forces in East Jerusalem.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We regularly raise our concerns on the issue of settlements with the Government of Israel and urge it to reverse its policy of settlement expansion. The UK's position on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace, and threaten the physical viability of a two-state solution.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7664/>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL7665] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel in regard to the reported use of a new type of live round ammunition, known as the "butterfly bullet", against Palestinian demonstrators.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are not aware of any credible reports of such ammunition being used. The Government has made clear directly to the Israeli Government on many occasions its concerns about the use of live fire.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-08/HL7665/>

### Israel: Palestinians

**The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative)** [HL7754] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to combat uncertainty in the Middle East in view of the delay in the release of the United States' Israeli–Palestinian peace plan.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We share with many the desire to see an end to this conflict. We remain of the view that the best way to achieve this remains a two-state solution negotiated between the parties, to be pursued with urgency. We regularly press both parties to resume direct negotiations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-10/HL7754/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Richard Burden (Labour) (1305) UK arms exports to Israel** – That this House notes with concern that UK licences have been granted in the past two years for the export to Israel of categories of arms and arms components including sniper and assault rifles, pistols, weapon sights, targeting equipment, ammunition for small arms and grenades, smoke canisters, tanks, combat and military helicopters, military support and combat aircraft, and civil riot control protection equipment; believes that the Government must be accountable for the arms export licenses it grants; is therefore concerned that, in response to Questions in this House, Ministers have stated they do not collect data on the use of such equipment after sale; reminds the Government that criteria two and four of the consolidated criteria on arms exports precludes licensing where there is a risk that items must be used for internal repression or in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law and considering the need not to affect adversely regional stability in any significant way and in the light of the extensive use of live fire by Israeli forces against Palestinians in Gaza; and therefore calls for a suspension of UK arms sales to Israel unless it can be demonstrated that weapons and components imported from the UK are used solely in accordance with the consolidated criteria.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1305>

## UNRWA

**Health of Palestine Refugees: 70 years after the original displacement, the “Nakba”, no health without dignity**

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has released its annual Health Report for 2017, which provides important information regarding the health situation of Palestine refugees in the Agency's five fields of operation – Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza and Syria, as well as the UNRWA health programme. ...

The report charts 68 years of progress in the Agency's Health Programme and its

evolution to meet the changing health needs of Palestine refugees. In 2017, about three million registered Palestine refugees received health services free of charge at 143 UNRWA primary health care centres, which provided some 9.2 million medical consultations.

“Protecting and promoting the health of registered Palestine refugees, is at the heart of our mandate, enabling them to achieve the highest attainable level of health until a just and lasting resolution of the Palestine refugee issue is achieved, based on UN resolutions and international law”, remarked Dr. Akihiro Seita, UNRWA Director of Health. ...

The report underlines UNRWA’s commitment to universal health coverage in its free of charge services made available to all Palestine refugees. It also shows that UNRWA continued to maintain strong maternal and child health indicators, such as vaccination coverage, early registration for preventive care and the percentage of pregnant women attending at least four antenatal case visits. Moreover, during 2017 screening and outreach activities for non-communicable diseases were strengthened. ...

UNRWA will continue to advocate for and protect the rights of Palestine refugees, including the right to dignified health services. We believe that there is no health without peace, justice and dignity.” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/health-palestine-refugees-70-years-after-original-displacement-%E2%80%9Cnakba%E2%80%9D-no>

**UNRWA Health Department Annual Report 2017**

[https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/health\\_programme\\_annual\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/health_programme_annual_report_2017.pdf)

## International Criminal Court

### **Referral by the State of Palestine Pursuant to Articles 13(a) and 14 of the Rome Statute**

... 9. The State of Palestine, pursuant to Articles 13(a) and 14 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, refers the Situation in Palestine for investigation by the Office of the Prosecutor and specifically requests the Prosecutor to investigate, in accordance with the temporal jurisdiction of the Court, past, ongoing and future crimes within the court's jurisdiction, committed in all parts of the territory of the State of Palestine. ...

#### *Crimes within the jurisdiction of the court*

11. Pursuant to Article 14(2) of the Rome Statute, the State of Palestine specifies that the circumstances relevant to the present referral include but are not limited to, all matters related to the Israeli settlement regime outlined in earlier communications, monthly reports and submissions by the Government of Palestine, confidentially filed with or conveyed to the Office of the Prosecutor. ...
12. The Referral highlights certain categories of war crimes and crimes against humanity of particular seriousness and concern to the Palestinian people and the international community (as expressed in repeated Security Council Resolutions, including most recently Resolution 2334), to ensure that they form an integral part of the OTP's investigation. However, the crimes set forth below are not the only crimes committed within the jurisdiction of the ICC and are not intended to limit the scope of the OTP's investigation. For current purposes, and given the urgent need for an investigation to be opened without further delay, the State of Palestine hereby specifically identifies the following categories of crimes as being core to the present referral:
  - i. Crimes involving the unlawful appropriation and destruction of private and public properties, including land, houses and buildings, as well as natural resources;

- ii. Crimes involving the forcible transfer of Palestinians, including by means of violence, compulsion, duress and the creation of inhumane living conditions;
  - iii. Crimes involving the unlawful transfer of the Israeli Occupying Power's population into Occupied Palestinian Territory;
  - iv. Crimes involving murders and unlawful attacks on civilians, including through excessive use of force and unlawful killings of Palestinians, including demonstrators exercising their right to protest;
  - v. Crimes involving the torture, cruel and inhumane treatment of Palestinians;
  - vi. Crimes involving persecution, including the grave, widespread and systematic denial or violation of basic human rights on discriminatory grounds against Palestinians, including those resulting in or intended to achieve the deportation or forcible transfer, directly or indirectly, of the Palestinian population, the re-populating of "cleansed" territories with Israeli settlers and the unlawful appropriation of Palestinian land and properties; and,
  - vii. Crimes involving the establishment of a system of apartheid based in particular on the adoption of discriminatory laws, policies and practices as well as the commission of inhumane acts intended to establish an institutionalized regime of separation and advancement of Israeli settlements accompanied by the 4 systematic oppression and domination by Israeli settlers over Palestinians.
13. The present referral pertains to all categories of criminal participation in the commission of the crimes described above, as provided for under the Statute of the Court, pursuant to Articles 25 - 28 of the Statute. This includes, but is not limited to, those who plan, prepare and implement policies linked to the settlements regime as well as those who enable it, whether through financial, military, or logistical support or otherwise aid and abet or encourage the commission of crimes connected to that regime. The referral includes, in particular, those civilian and military leaders who are in a position of command or authority towards those committing the underlying crimes and who, through their acts or omission, contribute to the commission of these crimes or fail to prevent, stop or punish them. ...

***To read the full Referral see***

[https://www.icc-cpi.int/itemsDocuments/2018-05-22\\_ref-palestine.pdf](https://www.icc-cpi.int/itemsDocuments/2018-05-22_ref-palestine.pdf)

**Statement by ICC Prosecutor, Mrs Fatou Bensouda, on the referral submitted by Palestine**

Today, 22 May 2018, I received a referral from the Government of the State of Palestine ("Palestine"), a State Party to the Rome Statute, regarding the situation in Palestine since 13 June 2014 with no end date.

Specifically, pursuant to articles 13(a) and 14 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court ("ICC" or "Court"), the State of Palestine "requests the Prosecutor to investigate, in accordance with the temporal jurisdiction of the Court, past, ongoing and future crimes within the court's jurisdiction, committed in all parts of the territory of the State of Palestine". Pursuant to Regulation 45 of the Regulations of the Court, I have informed the ICC Presidency of this referral.

This is the eighth referral to be received from a State Party since the Rome Statute came into force on 1 July 2002. ...

Since 16 January 2015, the situation in Palestine has been subject to a preliminary examination in order to ascertain whether the criteria for opening an investigation are met. This preliminary examination has seen important progress and will continue to follow its normal course, strictly guided by the requirements of the Rome Statute. ...

A referral or an article 12(3) declaration does not automatically lead to the opening of an investigation. Should I, however, ultimately determine that the situation referred warrants

an investigation in accordance with the statutory criteria, as a result of this referral, the Statute does not require the Prosecutor to seek authorisation from the Pre-Trial Chamber of the Court in order to proceed with an investigation.

There should be no doubt that in this and any other situation before my Office, I will always take the decision warranted by my mandate under the Rome Statute. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=180522-otp-stat>

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## **Relevant Legislation** \*\* new or updated today

### **UK Parliament**

#### **European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

#### **Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

#### **Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/marriageact1949amendment.html>

#### **Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

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## **Consultations** \*\* new or updated today

#### **Integrated Communities Strategy green paper** (closing date 5 June 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>

#### **Measures to further improve the effectiveness of the fight against illegal content online** (closing date 25 June 2018)

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-measures-further-improve-effectiveness-fight-against-illegal-content-online\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-measures-further-improve-effectiveness-fight-against-illegal-content-online_en)

#### **Home Education** (closing date 2 July 2018)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/home-education-call-for-evidence-and-revised-dfe-a/>

#### **Ecclesiastical exemption and guidance on scheduled monuments** (closing date 13 July 2018)

<https://beta.gov.wales/ecclesiastical-exemption-and-guidance-scheduled-monuments>

#### **Antisemitism: Survey of European Jews** (closing date not stated)

<http://www.eurojews.eu/>

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