

Political Affairs Digest

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

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Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL9568] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 9 July (HL8938), when they expect to discuss with the government of Israel the bill currently before the Knesset that would impose a five-year prison term for anyone filming or distributing footage on social media that documents confrontations between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv continue regularly to discuss concerns with the Israeli authorities relating to Knesset legislation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-16/HL9568/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-25/HL8938/>

Israel: Gaza

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL9572] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel about the missile attack by Israel on al-Kateeba in western Gaza.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we have not raised this specific incident with the Israeli authorities, we are concerned by the escalation of violence in Gaza and Southern Israel, and have urged restraint from all sides. We appreciate Egyptian and UN efforts to reduce tensions. The people of Gaza and Israel deserve peace and security. The Government has recently announced a new £38 million programme to support economic development in Gaza and the West Bank. We will also be releasing £38.5 million for the UN Relief and Works Agency to help vulnerable Palestinian refugees, as well as £2 million to UNICEF, to help provide Gazans with access to clean water and sanitation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-16/HL9572/>

Palestinians: Demonstrations

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL9624] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Palestinian Authority regarding the Palestinian

Authority Security Force breaking up a non-violent Palestinian demonstration in Ramallah.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our Consul General in Jerusalem raised our concerns over the actions of the Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces and police during the demonstration held in Ramallah on 13 June with senior officials from the PA multiple times in June and July. The PA has accepted that there were mistakes in the policing and has undertaken to learn from these mistakes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-17/HL9624/>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL9625] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about (1) the closure of two universities in East Jerusalem, and (2) the banning of an academic conference due to be held to discuss the status of Muslim endowment and property, and the protection of Islamic status and Christian heritage in Jerusalem.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we have not raised these issues, we will continue to press the Israelis and Palestinians strongly on the need to refrain from taking actions which make peace more difficult.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-17/HL9625/>

Israel: Gaza

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL9626] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the destruction of the Arts and Crafts Village in Gaza.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-17/HL9626/>

Israel: Discrimination

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL9627] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the bill currently before the Knesset that could support the establishment of segregated religious and racial communities.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The 'Nation-State Bill' has passed through the Knesset into law. The final wording of the legislation did not contain the clause which would have explicitly allowed a community composed of people of the same faith or nationality to maintain an exclusive community. As part of their regular diplomatic work with Israeli authorities and legislators, British diplomats in Israel discussed the Nation State Bill alongside other legislation and developments. Israel's long standing commitment to equality for all its citizens is one of its great strengths as a fellow democracy. As friends of Israel we would be concerned about any development that would undermine this commitment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-17/HL9627/>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

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>

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Financial Memorandum of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

(closing date 31 August 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/109042.aspx>

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 4 September 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/108999.aspx>

20 years of the Human Rights Act (closing date 14 September 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2017/20-years-human-rights-act-launch-17-19/>

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