

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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CPS

Racist who called for murder of Muslims and Labour leader jailed

An extremist who posted online messages calling for Muslims to be put on bonfires and said he would kill Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn if he came to power has been jailed for 16 months ...

Jonathan Jennings, 34, had earlier pleaded guilty to publishing material intended to stir up religious hatred and sending material with the intention of causing distress and anxiety.

Between March and August last year, Jennings from Carmarthenshire, South Wales, posted a number of messages on a social networking website known as GAB. Many of them targeted Muslims, public figures and one threatened the Jewish community.

The online posts called for Muslims to be forcibly sterilised and those who tried to convert others to Islam should be sentenced to death. He repeatedly called for the murder of all Muslims and supported "bomb a mosque day" which had been suggested by another extremist who was later jailed.

Another message stated that Hitler was born a 100 years too soon and all Muslims should be gassed. ...

Deb Walsh from the CPS said: "Jonathan Jennings' hatred of Muslims led him to post online messages stirring up animosity towards a whole community.

"He did not limit himself to expressing his views but called on others to indiscriminately kill Muslims and bomb mosques.

"Jennings also targeted the Jewish community and called for public figures whose views he did not like to be executed.

"The prison sentence reflects the seriousness of his crimes".

To read the full press release see

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/racist-who-called-murder-muslims-and-labour-leader-jailed>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Flag flying: proscribed terrorist group

S5W-17824 Patrick Harvie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the reported display of a flag of the proscribed terrorist group, National Action, at a far right demonstration in Glasgow on 21 July 2018, and what action it is taking to counter the threat posed by such organisations.

Humza Yousaf: National Action was proscribed by the Home Office as a terrorist organisation in December 2016. Any allegation of criminality arising from this proscription is a matter for the Crown Office and Police Scotland. Scottish Government is committed to delivering the UK Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST). CONTEST seeks to address all forms of terrorism.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-17824>

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Other Relevant Information

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Zeid warmly welcomes appointment of new UN Human Rights Chief

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Friday warmly welcomed the UN General Assembly's appointment of Michelle Bachelet to succeed him when his mandate comes to an end on 31 August 2018.

"I am truly delighted by the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the next UN High Commissioner for Human Rights," Zeid said. "She has all the attributes – courage, perseverance, passion, and a deep commitment to human rights – to make her a successful High Commissioner. ...

Bachelet most recently served as President of Chile (from 2014 to 2018, and 2006 to 2010). She was the first Executive Director of UN-Women between 2010 and 2013. She has also served as Minister of Defence and Minister of Health in Chile. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23446&LangID=E>

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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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