

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Abd a-Rahman a-Shteivi

Sarah Wollaston (Liberal Democrat) [291575] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Israeli Government on the alleged shooting by the Israeli Defence Force of a 9 year old Palestinian boy, Abd a-Rahman a-Shteivi on 12 July 2019; and if he will make a statement.

Andrew Murrison: Our Embassy in Tel Aviv has raised the death of Abd a-Rahman with the Israeli authorities, stressing the importance of protecting civilians, especially children. The Government is very concerned at the high numbers of Palestinian children killed and injured by Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza. We have raised the issue of excessive use of force, including use of live ammunition with both the Office of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories and the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-27/291575/>

West Bank: Demolition

Jeff Smith (Labour) [912505] What steps his Department is taking to support Palestinian families threatened by home demolition and forcible transfer in (a) East Jerusalem and (b) the rest of the West Bank.

Andrew Murrison: The Government has repeatedly raised our concerns on this issue with the Israeli authorities. I did so personally during my visit to Israel and subsequently.

In all but the most exceptional of circumstances demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians and is harmful to the peace process.

Our firm position is evidenced by our support for Palestinians facing demolition or eviction through our legal aid programme, which helps residents challenge decisions in the Israeli legal system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/912505/>

Israel: Palestinians

Andy Slaughter (Labour) [912507] What representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the potential effect of annexing the Jordan valley on the social and economic well-being of the Palestinian people.

Andrew Murrison: With France, Germany, Spain and Italy, the UK has made clear publicly our deep concern over recent suggestions that parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territories would be annexed.

Such a move would be contrary to international law, damaging to peace efforts and could not pass unchallenged.

The Government has regularly raised these concerns with the Israeli authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-02/912507/>

The joint statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-possible-annexation-of-areas-in-the-west-bank>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill

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

**** Domestic Abuse Bill**

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

Second Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-02/debates/C3488538-CFEC-4670-9299-732672E2BE67/DomesticAbuseBill>

International Development Assistance (Palestinian National Authority Schools) Bill

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

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

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

Online Forums Bill

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

Palestinian Statehood (Recognition) Bill

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

Scottish Parliament

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Welsh Government Strategic Equality Objectives 2020-24 (closing date 19 November 2019)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-09/strategic-equality-objectives-2020-2024-consultation.pdf>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438