



Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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United Nations

Delegates Call for Long Overdue Creation of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Middle East, as Inaugural Conference Opens at Headquarters

... many delegates noted the absence of Israel and the United States from the proceedings. Some emphasized that Israel is the only State in the region that is not party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that its nuclear facilities are not subject to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) comprehensive safeguards regime.

Amal Mudallali (Lebanon) said Israel's 80 to 90 nuclear warheads are a major source of concern at a time when the non-proliferation landscape is weak and the pillars of the arms control regime are dying.

"The absence of the only nuclear-weapon State in the Middle East does not bode well," said **Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia)** ... it is a failure on the part of the entire international community ... that Israel continues to hinder any attempt to build a regional zone free of nuclear weapons. ...

Riyad H. Mansour, Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine, said Israel's absence demonstrates its international isolation. Moreover, Israel's boycott of the conference echoes its longstanding policy of obstructing the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and its behaviour is a serious threat that looms over the prospect of international peace and security.

Bashar Ja'afari (Syria) said ... the absence of Israel and the United States sends a negative message that demonstrates that their allegations about the presence of weapons of mass destruction in the region are just political manoeuvres.

Majid Takht Ravanchi (Iran) said the "two main obstacles" to a Middle East free of nuclear weapons are the Israeli regime's unwillingness to engage in this Conference and its weapons of mass destruction, supported by the United States. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/dc3818.doc.htm>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Press briefing note on Israel/OPT

Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Rupert Colville [said,] As

part of the UN Secretariat, we continue to follow the longstanding position of the United Nations that the Israeli settlements are in breach of international law.

A change in the policy position of one State does not modify existing international law, nor its interpretation by the International Court of Justice and the Security Council.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25315&LangID=E>

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Other Relevant Information

Council of Europe

Secretary General: urgent measures needed to fight anti-Semitism and online hate speech

... Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić has highlighted the key role of the Council of Europe in countering a rising trend of anti-Semitism and online hate speech in Europe and further afield. Speaking after an official visit to the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, the Secretary General drew attention to the Council's work in the field of Holocaust remembrance, and emphasised that all countries and international organisations needed to do more to tackle anti-Semitism. ...

To watch the video see

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/secretary-general-marija-pejcinovic-buric-on-anti-semitism-and-online-hate-speech>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

Scottish Parliament

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

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

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Consultations ** new or updated today

**** closes 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>

Draft content of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Specified Type A Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations (closing date 11 December 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/human-tissue-regulations-2019/>

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill (closing date 31 January 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/113449.aspx>

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