



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Israel

Foreign Affairs

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

Israel

See also Commons written answer 135680 "Middle East: Christianity", which is included in the Foreign Affairs section below.

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL6529] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, if any, with the government of Israel regarding reports of detention and abuse of (1) disabled, (2) underage, and (3) vulnerable, Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We call on the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law and either charge or release detainees. We do this both bilaterally and in co-operation with like-minded diplomatic partners. We have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation and stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/hl6529>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL6530] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proportionality of the security response by Israeli forces to Palestinians accused of throwing stones.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, in particular the need to protect children. We encourage Israel to deploy security measures in a way which minimises tensions. We call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/hl6530>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL6531] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they will make, if any, to the government of Israel about the use of isolation for Palestinians prisoners, including for minors.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children. We remain committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding children in detention and raise this with the Israeli Ministry of Justice. We also fund projects providing legal aid to assist children with legal representation and capacity building to local lawyers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/hl6531>

Gaza: Human Rights

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL6532] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the human rights of Palestinians of (1) the restrictions placed on Gaza by the government of Israel, and (2) Israeli military activity in Gaza.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK will continue to raise the issue of freedom of movement and access into and out of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including for emergency services, with the Israeli authorities. These restrictions undermine economic development and living standards for ordinary Palestinians in Gaza. We recognise Israel's legitimate need to deploy security measures and we encourage them to deploy these in a way that minimises tension and uses appropriate force.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/hl6532>

Israeli Settlements: Geneva Conventions

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL6554] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effects of Israeli settlement activity on the Geneva Convention.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK's position on settlements is clear. They are illegal under international law. Minister James Cleverly raised UK opposition to settlement expansion with the Government of Israel on 9 November. The Fourth Geneva Convention, which applies to all occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, prohibits demolitions or forced evictions absent military necessity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/hl6554>

Mohammad Shehadeh

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL6555] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made, if any, to the government of Israel regarding the killing of 13-year-old Mohammad Rezaq Shehadeh Salah by Israeli forces near Bethlehem.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, in particular the need to protect children. We encourage them to carry out swift, transparent and thorough investigations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/hl6555>

Gaza: Israel

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL6556] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about incursions by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We recognise Israel's legitimate need to deploy

security measures and we encourage them to deploy these in a way that minimises tension and uses appropriate force. We call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-01/hl6556>

TOP

Foreign Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Middle East: Christianity

Marco Longhi (Conservative) [135680] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to support the Christian population of the Middle East.

Amanda Milling: The UK is committed to defending freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) for all, and promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities. Bilaterally, Ministers and officials regularly raise specific cases of concern, and do not shy away from challenging those we believe are not meeting their obligations. Multilaterally, we work with the UN, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of Europe, G7 and other fora to promote FoRB. In addition to our bilateral and multilateral action, we will host an international Ministerial conference on 5-6 July 2022, in London. The UK-hosted International Ministerial Conference on FoRB will drive forward international efforts on this agenda and demonstrate the UK's leading role in supporting freedom and openness. This conference will allow us to use our global influence to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief for all internationally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135680>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867>

Assisted Dying Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2878>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3017>

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900>

Nationality and Borders Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942>

Northern Ireland Assembly

Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/primary-legislation---bills-2017---2022-mandate/organ-and-tissue-donation-deemed-consent-bill/>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland (closing date 28 March 2022)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-hate-crime-legislation-northern-ireland>

Trade with Israel (closing date 30 March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/trade-with-israel-call-for-input>

CPS: Public interest guidance for suicide pact and 'mercy killing' type cases

(closing date 9 April 2022)

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/consultation/consultation-public-interest-guidance-suicide-pact-and-mercy-killing-type-cases-0>

TOP

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