



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Hezbollah

George Howarth (Labour) [59351] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in the UK have been prosecuted for expressing support for Hezbollah since that group was fully proscribed.

George Howarth (Labour) [59472] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in the UK have been prosecuted for inviting support for Hezbollah since that organisation was fully proscribed.

Tom Tugendhat: The Government takes proscription offences seriously. On 1 March 2019, the proscription was extended to cover the Hizballah group in its entirety.

Data on arrests, charges and convictions for the section 12 Terrorism Act 2000 offence of inviting or expressing support for a proscribed organisation is grouped with other proscription offences (sections 11 and 13 of the Act) in the quarterly Home Office publication 'Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000'. Data is not published on the specific proscribed organisation that the arrest, charge or conviction relates to. The most recent publication up to year ending June 2022, was published on 8 September 2022:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/operation-of-police-powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000-quarterly-update-to-june-2022>

The quarterly publications establish transparency by ensuring that data is publicly available on the use of police powers in a consistently categorised way. As with all crime statistics published by the Home Office, the data published in the Terrorism statistics are offence based, where police provide a count of the number of offences recorded. Data providers are not required to provide further detail on events leading to the arrest, as to do so would place a disproportionate burden on the organisations responsible.

This includes the National Counter-Terrorism Police Operations Centre, the Crown Prosecution Service's Counter-Terrorism Division, the Metropolitan Police Service

and the National Counter-Terrorism Policing Headquarters. As with all Official Statistics, we continually review outputs taking account of user needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59351>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59472>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Hamas: Prosecutions

John Spellar (Labour) [62687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in the UK have been prosecuted for (a) belonging and (b) professing to belong to Hamas since that group was fully proscribed.

John Spellar (Labour) [62688] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in the UK have been prosecuted for publishing an image or another article in support of Hamas since that group was fully proscribed.

Tom Tugendhat: The Government takes proscription offences seriously. Hamas' military wing (Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades) has been proscribed since 2001. This was extended to cover the organisation in its entirety in November 2021. Data on arrests, charges and convictions for the proscription offences in sections 11 - 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 can be found in the quarterly Home Office publication 'Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000'. Data is not published on the specific proscribed organisation that the arrest, charge or conviction relates to. The most recent publication up to year ending June 2022, was published on 8 September 2022:

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-13/62687>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-13/62688>

Downing Street

Prime Minister Liz Truss's statement in Downing Street: 20 October 2022

I came into office at a time of great economic and international instability.

Families and businesses were worried about how to pay their bills.

Putin's illegal war in Ukraine threatens the security of our whole continent.

And our country had been held back for too long by low economic growth.

I was elected by the Conservative Party with a mandate to change this.

We delivered on energy bills and on cutting national insurance.

And we set out a vision for a low tax, high growth economy – that would take advantage of the freedoms of Brexit.

I recognise though, given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected

by the Conservative Party.

I have therefore spoken to His Majesty The King to notify him that I am resigning as Leader of the Conservative Party.

This morning I met the Chair of the 1922 Committee Sir Graham Brady.

We have agreed there will be a leadership election to be completed in the next week.

This will ensure we remain on a path to deliver our fiscal plans and maintain our country's economic stability and national security.

I will remain as Prime Minister until a successor has been chosen.

Thank you.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-liz-truss-statement-in-downing-street-20-october-2022>

Home Office

The [Final] Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1112123/the-report-independent-inquiry-into-child-sexual-abuse-october-2022.pdf

Crown Prosecution Service

Charge rates show steady increase across all crime types as CPS publishes latest statistics

- Charge rates have increased across All Crime, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime and Rape
 - All-crime charge rate has increased by 2.3 percentage points to 78.8%
 - Domestic Abuse charge rate has increased from 72.6% to 77.2%
 - Hate Crime charge rate has increased by 2.4 percentage points to 87.3%
 - The Rape charge rate has increased from 71.1% to 72.8%. ...
- Completed prosecutions decreased by 6.8% from 107,035 to 99,797 ...
- A 5.1% reduction in the completed prosecutions for Hate Crime cases from 3,365 to 3,192 ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/charge-rates-show-steady-increase-across-all-crime-types-cps-publishes-latest-statistics>

CPS data summary Quarter 1 2022-2023

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/cps-data-summary-quarter-1-2022-2023>

Hate Crime

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/cps-data-summary-quarter-1-2022-2023#a03>

Prosecution Crime Types Data Tables Year Ending June 2022

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/Prosecution-Crime-Types-Data-Tables-Year-Ending-June-2022.xlsx>

Pre-Charge Data Tables Year Ending June 2022

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/Pre-Charge-Data-Tables-Year-Ending-June-2022.xlsx>

Man convicted of stirring up racial hatred on Russian social media site

A British man has been convicted of trying to stir up racial hatred by posting racist memes on VK, a Russian social media site.

David Hutchinson, 61, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment ... having pleaded guilty to seven offences earlier this year. ...

Nick Price, head of the CPS Counter Terrorism Division, said: "Over a 10-month period David Hutchinson persistently posted these derogatory racist memes on a social media site which he believed consisted of like-minded people.

"His comments went beyond free speech and demonstrated hostility to several racial groups. By his pleas he has accepted they were intended to stir up hatred against those groups.

"Hate crimes have a corrosive effect on society and we will always prosecute where there is sufficient evidence to do so." ...

Luke Crompton, 30, was convicted in 2020 after using the same site to post extreme material – photographs, images and words – expressing hatred and contempt for, amongst others, gay people, Jews, Muslims and black people. His posts called for and encouraged extreme activity against them, such as the destruction of the Jewish and Islamic faiths, the torching of mosques and the murder of black people, Muslims and Jews. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-convicted-stirring-racial-hatred-russian-social-media-site>

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Israel

Also see written answers 59351 and 59472 "Hezbollah", and 62687 and 62688 "Hamis: Prosecutions" in the Home affairs section above.

House of Commons Written Answers

Research and Science: Migrant Workers

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [61116] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent steps his Department has taken to support international collaboration to help UK science and research teams recruit talent from abroad.

Nusrat Ghani: BEIS recognises the value of international collaborations in producing high quality research and innovation. At CSR21, BEIS secured funding to support global R&I collaborations on priority themes and with strategic partners. BEIS also co-funds (with FCDO) the Science and Innovation network across the Government's Diplomatic footprint, promoting science, technology, research and innovation. SIN are working on MOUs with partner countries including Switzerland and Israel that include exploring talent exchange opportunities. BEIS also represents UK R&I interests in multilateral negotiations, including the G7 and G20, and UK participation in world-leading international Research Infrastructures such as CERN. BEIS also supports the Government's visa route reforms to enable researchers to come to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/61116>

Ahmad Manasra

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [60087] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to Answer of 4 July to Question 26842, whether he has representations to his Israeli counterpart on Israel's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that depriving children of their liberty should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

Gillian Keegan: We are aware of Israel's use of administrative detention which, according to international law, should be used only when security makes this absolutely necessary. We call on the Israeli authorities to either charge or release detainees. We are committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding children in detention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60087>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-28/26842>

European Court of Human Rights

Slovenian courts' recognition of Israeli judgments against renowned neurosurgeon for operation in Ljubljana breached his rights

The applicant, Vincenc Vinko Dolenc, is a Slovenian national who was born in 1940 and lives in Ljubljana.

An Israeli citizen was left severely disabled after he had been operated on by Mr Dolenc in May 1992 at Ljubljana University Hospital.

The patient brought proceedings in Israel against Mr Dolenc seeking damages for medical negligence. ... He was eventually found fully liable in 2005 for the damage caused to his former patient. ...

Mr Dolenc had refused to attend the trial in Israel or be examined via video link, insisting from the beginning that Slovenian law should apply in the dispute and that he and his witnesses be examined by the Slovenian courts via the Hague Evidence Convention procedure.

In 2003 the Israeli District Court had submitted a request under this procedure to the Slovenian authorities for the examination of witnesses. A year later, however, it had cancelled that request, citing the lack of progress in the proceedings and the claimant's right to a trial within a reasonable time.

In parallel, in April 2004, Mr Dolenc had cancelled the power of attorney of his Israeli legal representative. ...

In 2011 the patient applied to have the Slovenian courts recognise the Israeli court decisions and in 2018 the Supreme Court found in his favour. A constitutional complaint by Mr Dolenc was subsequently rejected in 2019.

In those proceedings, the Slovenian courts reviewed Mr Dolenc's complaints that the guarantees of a fair trial had not been respected by the Israeli courts. ...

The application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights on 30 April 2020. ...

... the Court agreed with the Slovenian courts' finding that Mr Dolenc had been notified of the trial in Israel but had not provided sufficient reasons for his refusal to attend in person.

The decision by the Israeli courts not to hear the applicant via the Hague Evidence Convention procedure had therefore been justified.

... the Court considered it reasonable in the particular circumstances of the case that the evidence should be gathered in Slovenia using the procedure provided for under the Hague Evidence Convention. Moreover, the grounds on which the Slovenian courts relied had not justified the Israeli District Court's discontinuation of this procedure. ...

The Court found ... that the applicant had never explicitly waived his right to participation in the proceedings in Israel. Nor had there been anything in the case file to support the conclusion that the applicant had been apprised of any of the events in the proceedings in Israel following the cancellation of his Israeli lawyer's power of attorney. The fact that the applicant had not appointed a new lawyer did not mean that there was no requirement to conduct the proceedings in accordance with the fundamental principles of a fair trial.

Overall therefore, the Slovenian courts had failed to attach sufficient weight to the consequences that the non-examination of the witnesses ... via the Hague Evidence

Convention procedure and the ensuing exclusion of their statements had had for the applicant's right to present evidence. That right was a fundamental component of the principle of a fair hearing and the Slovenian courts should have satisfied themselves that it had been respected in the proceedings in Israel before recognising the Israeli judgments. There had accordingly been a violation of Article 6 § 1 of the Convention. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/app/conversion/pdf/?library=ECHR&id=003-7469230-10241267&filename=Judgment%20Dolenc%20v.%20Slovenia%20-%20Israeli%20judgments%20against%20renowned%20neurosurgeon%20for%20operation%20in%20Ljubljana.pdf>

To read the full judgement see

<https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-219946>

United Nations

Security Council Press Statement on Maritime Boundary between Lebanon and Israel

The following Security Council press statement was issued today by Council President Michel Xavier Biang (Gabon):

The members of the Security Council commended the announcements that Lebanon and Israel have agreed to end their dispute over their maritime boundary and delineate it permanently. This is a major step, which will contribute to the stability, the security, and the prosperity of the region. It will benefit both countries and their people and will allow both parties to benefit equitably from energy resources in the eastern Mediterranean.

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15069.doc.htm>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN experts condemn Israel's 'sadistic' punitive measures against French-Palestinian rights defender Salah Hammouri

UN independent experts have called on Israel to immediately release Salah Hammouri, an arbitrarily detained French-Palestinian human rights defender and lawyer, who has just ended a 19 day hunger strike in objection to the systematic policy of administrative detention.

"We are concerned by Israel's pervasive misuse of administrative and criminal law proceedings and use of secret information against Palestinians, including human rights defenders such as Mr. Hammouri. This is a deliberate measure designed to silence human rights defenders, which has a profound chilling effect on all Palestinian and Israeli civil society actors," said the experts.

"The detention practices Mr. Hammouri is being subjected to are not just unlawful: they are sadistic."

The experts said Israeli authorities have targeted Mr. Hammouri during the past 20 years with harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, and other forms of abuse. Acts of retaliation against him intensified after he became a human rights defender and lawyer defending and advocating for prisoners' rights with Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, one of the six Palestinian civil society organisations that Israel has [designated](#) as "terrorist". Most recently, he has been placed under administrative detention since 7 March 2022, without charge or trial, based on "secret information".

Mr. Hammouri, as a French citizen, had appealed on 14 July to French President Emmanuel Macron to apply pressure on Israel to end his arbitrary detention. Following his appeal, Israeli authorities reportedly classified him as "a prisoner of high risk" and forcibly

transferred him to a high security prison in Hadarim in the Sharon region of central Israel; a transfer journey that involved inhumane treatment, according to Mr. Hammouri's testimony.

"France should not turn a blind eye to these unacceptable acts of retaliation and reprisal against a French citizen and his administrative detention, which is arguably an arbitrary form of detention *per se*," said the experts, noting that Mr. Hammouri's previous administrative detention in 2018 was [found](#) to be arbitrary by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. They urged France to exercise all possible diplomatic and other efforts to ensure Mr. Hammouri's release.

According to the latest information, the Israeli authorities placed Mr. Hammouri in abysmal and inhumane conditions, as punishment for having started a hunger strike together with other 29 detainees under administrative detention without charges. He was reportedly detained in a filthy and pest-infested isolation cell of four-square meters in Hadarim prison, without open air or light for 15 days, and deprived of any contact with the outside world. According to his defense, he was subject to pressure by Israeli prison officials, telling him that if he would leave his hometown Jerusalem and go to France this harassment would end.

The experts also noted that Mr. Hammouri's permanent residency in Jerusalem had been revoked last year, based on "secret information" and allegations of his involvement in "terrorist activities" and "breach of allegiance to the Israeli State".

"Israel's acts of forcibly deporting protected persons from the occupied territory and forcing their allegiance to the occupying power, would constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law, and may amount to a war crime: it is about time such widespread practices are investigated by the International Criminal Court."

The experts have called on Israel to immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Hammouri and other detainees under administrative detention, and to maintain Mr. Hammouri's permanent residency in his hometown, Jerusalem, where he has the right to live freely with his family.

The experts note with concern that according to the latest official figures of the Israeli Prison Service, Israel is holding 798 persons in administrative detention without charges - the highest number in over a decade.

The experts have not received any response from the Government of Israel to concerns expressed in [2020](#), [2021](#) and [2022](#).

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/un-experts-condemn-israels-sadistic-punitive-measures-against-french>

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Foreign Affairs

House of Commons Written Answer

Iran: Nuclear Power

Barry Gardiner (Labour) [60900] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the impact of President Biden's attempts to renegotiate the Iranian Nuclear Deal on (a) sanctions, (b) the freezing of Iranian assets, (c) the strength and stability of the Iranian regime, and (d) the stability of the Middle East.

Gillian Keegan: Iran has refused to conclude a deal that would have restored the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with continued demands beyond the JCPOA's scope. We are considering next steps with our international partners.

We have been clear about our concerns over Iran's destabilising activity throughout

the region including its political, financial and military support to a number of militant groups. The UK has designated over 200 Iranian entities and individuals in relation to human rights abuses, proliferation and terrorism.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/60900>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

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

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

Online Safety Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

Schools Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

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