



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

## Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **NHS England: Racial Discrimination**

**Janet Daby (Labour)** [68007] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many and what proportion of complaints received by NHS England in each reporting year since 2017 have been related to racism.

**Will Quince:** We are informed by NHS England (NHSE) that data relating to complaints about racism is not collected centrally by the organisation. NHSE receives complaints made by, or on behalf of, patients only in relation to the services it commissions however this represents a very small proportion of the overall complaints received by the National Health Service (NHS).

Data on complaints made by, or on behalf of, patients about NHS services provided by NHS Trusts and General Practices and Dental practices is collected and published by NHS Digital on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care and can be found at the following link:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/data-on-written-complaints-in-the-nhs>

Neither of these collections include a classification that would allow NHS Digital to identify numbers of complaints relating to racism.

It is possible that such information is collected by NHS organisations who directly manage their complaints locally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-20/68007>

#### **Higher Education: Racial Discrimination**

**Cat Smith (Labour)** [65852] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on tackling institutional racism in higher education institutions.

**Nusrat Ghani:** There is no room for any form of racism in any part of our society, including in higher education and R&D settings. People are at the heart of our R&D system, so it is important that we create a research environment that attracts, develops, and retains a diverse range of people – including at our world-leading

higher education institutions.

BEIS is working closely with other government departments and agencies – including the Department for Education and UK Research and Innovation – and the UK’s research sector to implement the range of actions in the R&D People and Culture Strategy that aim to eradicate discrimination, bullying and harassment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65852>

## Scottish Parliament Motion

**Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-06490] Islamophobia Awareness Month Celebrates 10th Anniversary** – That the Parliament applauds the efforts of all those who have supported Islamophobia Awareness Month over the last ten years; understands that the theme for Islamophobia Awareness Month for 2022 is Tackling Denial, with the focus being on the denial of Islamophobia; acknowledges the discrimination that Muslims may face in society, and the impact that misconceptions about Muslims and Islam may have on individuals and communities in all aspects of society; appreciates the support of police forces, local government, and charitable organisations, and further appreciates the work of stakeholders and all those working towards the elimination of Islamophobia in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06490>

TOP

## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Palestinians: Politics and Government**

**Julie Elliott (Labour) [67904]** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the current situation in the West Bank.

**Andrew Mitchell:** The UK is aware of the fragile security situation in the West Bank and we are monitoring developments closely. We look to all parties to take urgent steps to de-escalate tensions. The British Ambassador to Israel and British Consul General in Jerusalem have been engaging with the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to support them in restoring calm. We engage closely with the US at all levels on these important issues. FCDO officials, including from the British Embassy Tel Aviv and the British Consulate-General in Jerusalem, also engage with the US on a regular basis, including to discuss the situation in the West Bank.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-20/67904>

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Tommy Sheppard (SNP) [69678]** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the legality of Israel’s closure of Palestinian towns and cities including (a) Nablus and (b) Shuafat refugee camps.

**Andrew Mitchell:** The UK is aware of the fragile security situation in the West Bank and are monitoring developments closely. We look to all parties to take urgent steps to de-escalate tensions. The British Ambassador to Israel and British Consul-General in Jerusalem have been engaging with the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to support them in restoring calm. We stress the importance of ensuring

access for humanitarian and development organisations, including in Palestinian refugee camps, even during periods of instability. We also continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/69678>

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Tommy Sheppard (SNP)** [69679] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on (a) the obstruction of ambulances seeking to reach and transport wounded people in the north of the West Bank, (b) the detention of a Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) ambulance driver on 19 October 2022 and (c) other reported violations against health workers.

**Andrew Mitchell:** Access in and out of Gaza, in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, remains essential for humanitarian purposes and for those, including Palestinians, travelling for medical purposes. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of regularised access to healthcare with the Israeli authorities. We strongly condemn all forms of violence and incitement to violence directed towards healthcare workers. The wounded and critically ill in Gaza and the West Bank should be able to access the urgent medical care they need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/69679>

*The following six questions all received the same answer*

#### **Mohammad Akram Ali Taher Abu Salah and Mohammed Shehadeh**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [70948] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he has had recent discussions his Israeli counterpart on launching independent investigations into the death of (a) Mohammad Akram Ali Taher Abu Salah on 14 February 2022 and (b) Mohammed Rezaq Shehadeh Saleh on 22 February 2022.

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [70947] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications of the killing of 21 Palestinian children by Israeli forces and armed civilians in the West Bank between January and September 2022; and if he will make a statement.

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [70949] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the use of live ammunition by Israeli forces against Palestinian children in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement.

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [70954] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on holding independent investigations into the reported use of live ammunition and killing of (a) Yamen Nafez Mahmoud Khanafseh aged 15 years on 6 March 2022, (b) Nader Haitham Fathi Rayyan aged 16 years on 15 March 2022, and (c) Sanad Mohammad Khalil Abu Atiya aged 16 years on 31 March 2022 in that country.

#### **Mohammad Hussein Mohammad Qassim and Shawkat Kamal Abed**

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [70955] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on holding independent investigations into the reported shooting and death of (a) Mohammad Hussein Mohammad Qassim aged 16 on 9 April 2022 and (b) Shawkat Kamal Shawkat Abed aged 17 in April 2022 in that country.

#### **Qusai Fuad Mohammad Hamamra**

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [70956] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on

holding an independent investigation into the reported shooting in the head and killing of Qusai Fuad Mohammad Hamamra aged 14 on 14 April 2022 in that country.

**Leo Docherty:** We regularly raise the issue of the high numbers of Palestinians killed and injured by Israeli Defence Forces in the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out swift, transparent and thorough investigations and, if wrongdoing is found, that those responsible be held to account. We will continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/70948>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/70947>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/70949>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/70955>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/70956>

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

### **The urgent need to avoid further escalation in the West Bank: Statement from Ambassador Barbara Woodward at the Security Council Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question**

... As we have heard from UN Special Coordinator Wennesland, we are seeing an increasingly worrying deterioration of the security situation in the West Bank. It is crucial that all parties take urgent steps to reduce tensions, condemn incitement and avoid further escalation in violence.

The cycle of violence continues to take many lives. We are alarmed by the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, by Israeli Security Forces, including six minors this month. Investigations should be transparent and comprehensive. Where there has been excessive use of force, those responsible must be held to account. We are also concerned by the increase in Palestinian violence, where two IDF soldiers sadly lost their lives this month after being shot by Palestinians. We repeat our call on all parties to take immediate steps to reduce tensions. We also stress the importance of ensuring access for humanitarian and development organisations, including in Palestinian refugee camps, even during periods of instability.

More action also needs to be taken to tackle settler violence, which has affected IDF soldiers, but affects Palestinians on a daily basis across the West Bank, especially during the olive harvest. The Israeli government needs to end the culture of impunity and bring those responsible to justice....

... we should all be reminded of the vital role that UNRWA plays in the region, including in providing education and health services to women and girls. But while girls in the OPTs outperform boys at school and represent around 60% of Palestinian graduates, the fact that employment rates remain low, with only 13% of women over 25 employed, needs urgent and meaningful attention. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-urgent-need-to-avoid-further-escalation-in-the-west-bank>

## British Consulate-General Jerusalem

### **Heads of Mission join Palestinian farmers in olive harvesting**

Heads of Mission and representatives from the UK, EU, Belgium, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden ... took part in the olive harvest, which began this month and which has significant cultural and economic importance for Palestinians. ...

An estimated 100,000 families in the West Bank rely on olive oil for primary or secondary sources of income according to the West Bank Protection Consortium.

Participants heard from locals, the West Bank Protection Consortium and Première Urgence Internationale about settler violence in the Ramallah district, which is getting worse for farmers each year and which often peaks during the Olive Harvest season. ... participants reiterated their continued opposition to Israel's settlement policy and concern over the increasing rates of settler violence.

British Consul General Diane Corner said: "The Olive Harvest is a special time for Palestinians. It is central to their economy, their culture and their heritage. Sadly, persistent settler violence continues to be a major concern. As the occupying power, the Israeli authorities should ensure settlers who are responsible for crimes against Palestinians are held to account and should protect Palestinians against such violence." ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heads-of-mission-join-palestinian-farmers-in-olive-harvesting>

## United Nations

### **2022 Among Deadliest Years for Palestinians in West Bank, Middle East Peace Process Coordinator Tells Security Council**

... **Tor Wennesland, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process**, briefing the Security Council, described a situation in a downward spiral, with too many people, overwhelmingly Palestinian, killed and injured in daily violence, and with mounting hopelessness, anger and tension once again erupting into a deadly cycle of violence that is increasingly difficult to contain. "Fertile ground" for the present situation has been created by decades of violence and its toll on both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as a prolonged absence of meaningful negotiations and a failure to resolve the key issues fuelling the conflict, he said.

Discussions were held to address the volatile situation with Palestinian officials and factions across the West Bank and in Gaza, and a range of Israeli officials and members of the international community, he continued, adding: "My message has been clear: the immediate priority is to work to calm the situation and reverse the negative trends on the ground. This will require determined actions by both parties, supported by the international community." However, he cautioned that efforts are also urgently needed to empower and strengthen the Palestinian Authority and build towards a return to a political process ...

Outlining daily violence that increased throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory during the reporting period, he said that 32 Palestinians, including six children, were killed by Israeli security forces during demonstrations, clashes, search-and-arrest operations, attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis, while another 311 Palestinians, including one woman and eight children, were injured. Israeli settlers or other civilians perpetrated 106 attacks against Palestinians resulting in 63 injuries and/or damage to Palestinian property. In all, two Israeli security forces personnel were killed, and 25 Israeli civilians, including five women and three children, and 13 Israeli security forces personnel were injured by Palestinians in shootings, clashes and the throwing of stones and Molotov cocktails, among other incidents. In total, Palestinians perpetrated 115 attacks against Israeli civilians, 100 of which were stone-throwing incidents, resulting in injuries and/or

damage to Israeli property. ...

“So far, 2022 is on course to be the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs began systematically tracking Palestinian fatalities in 2005. ...” He went on to describe a mounting cycle of heightened tensions, beginning with such operations in refugee camps, which led to exchange of fire which killed Palestinians and bystanders, sparking counter-attacks, strict movement restrictions, and then spreading protests and demonstrations, which led to Palestinians conducting general strikes across the West Bank, leading to yet more clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians.

Settler-related violence and provocations also increased during the reporting period, contributing to a dynamic of escalating violence in the occupied West Bank ... Outlining a number of such attacks in which Palestinians, including children, were injured, accompanied by Israeli security forces, he noted that the Israel Defense Forces announced that it had opened investigations into two separate cases where soldiers were documented violently assaulting Palestinians or shooting towards Palestinian homes. ... adding: “I am appalled that children continue to be the victims of violence.” ...

Despite the overall deteriorating situation, he touched on some positive developments during the reporting period, including, in late September, a call made by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Defense Minister Benny Gantz to mark Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Moreover, the Algeria Declaration was signed on 13 October, following an inter-factional dialogue hosted by the Government of Algeria, 14 Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, in which the factions agreed to recognize the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to hold elections for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Legislative Council and the Palestinian National Council. ...

However, he pointed out that there were delays in the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Gaza Central Desalination Project, due to delays in Israeli approvals of entry for materials ...

Touching on other positive developments, he welcomed the signing on 27 October of an agreement by the Governments of Lebanon and Israel that settles their maritime boundary dispute, mediated by the United States, and expressed hope that the development will promote increased stability in the region. ...

**Riyad Mansour, Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine**, stressed that recognizing Palestine is not a card to be played at the right time, but is the right political, legal and moral step. Pointing out that Israel is trying to destroy the State of Palestine, he called out to the Council that “your role is to protect it or you would be effectively abandoning the two-State solution altogether”. ...

Highlighting that the international law-based order never envisaged a situation of perpetual occupation, he suggested asking the International Court of Justice to make a factual and legal determination on whether Israel has defied the world and the rule of law. Underscoring that standing up with the Palestine means standing up to the occupation, he asked the Council: “If there is anything more you can do, and you know there is much more that can be done, do it. What are you waiting for?”

**Gilad Menashe Erdan (Israel)** said that at the United Nations the Palestinians “paint a picture that is completely detached from reality”. But in order to see past the Palestinians falsehoods, “all one needs to do is look at the facts on the ground”. Israel is in the midst of a terror wave. Since the start of 2022 alone, there have been over 4,000 Palestinian terror attacks perpetrated against Israelis, including rock throwing, stabbing, shooting, rockets and many other acts of Palestinian violence. Rather than investing resources into bettering the lives of its people, the Palestinian Authority prefers to foster a culture of hate. Generations of refusal to recognize the right of a Jewish State to exist is what really prevents any progress. ... The Palestinian Authority may play victim here at the Council

yet on the street of Nablus and Jenin, they praise terrorists. Palestinian senior leadership has consistently refused to sit down at the negotiating table with Israel and has rejected every peace plan placed before them ...

For years, Israel has been saying that Iran is the most critical danger to the Middle East. Iran may publicly threaten Israel with annihilation, yet those who suffer the most from the Ayatollahs' terror are the people of Iran. ... The Ayatollahs' "tentacles of terror" reach far beyond the borders of Iran. ... Thanks to Iranian funding, hundreds of thousands of rockets are currently pointed at Israeli towns and cities. The most significant threat is that Iran is "galloping at full speed" towards nuclear weapons. ...

**Linda Thomas-Greenfield (United States)** expressed concern that 2022 will be deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since 2006, with a spike in violence leading to the deaths of at least 23 Palestinians and 4 Israelis in the past month. Calling on both parties to do everything in their power to prevent such violence, she stressed both peoples deserve dignity and justice. ... she condemned the disproportionate number of resolutions targeting Israel, which do nothing to address realities on the ground, nor the possibilities for progress. However, she voiced understanding that the Palestinian people need and deserve a political horizon and something to hope for. ...

**Caít Moran (Ireland)** ... [said] Israel's continued support for settlement expansion undermines the recognized parameters for a two-State solution ... Noting the sharp increase in coordinated and armed settler violence in parts of the West Bank, where the olive harvest is underway, she further called on Israeli authorities to act urgently to ensure that Palestinians living and farming in the occupied West Bank can go about their daily lives without fear of violence or intimidation. ... She further called for accountability in respect of all civilian deaths and in particular an independent investigation into the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

**Vassily A. Nebenzia (Russian Federation)** said no one who cares about the peaceful coexistence of both States could have remained indifferent to the address of the speaker from Palestine, Riyad Mansour. ... He expressed concern about the uptick in violence, leading to bloody casualties, and expressed regret about incidents affecting civilians due to "Israel's so-called counter-terrorism raids". ...

**Barbara Woodward (United Kingdom)** urged all parties to reduce tensions, condemn incitement and avoid further escalation in violence. "In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, we are alarmed by the number of Palestinians killed, including six minors this month, by Israeli security forces," she said, calling for investigations to be transparent. The United Kingdom is also concerned by the increase in Palestinian violence. ... Underscoring the need to provide education and health services to women and girls, she expressed concern that the employment rate of Palestinian women remains quite low, with only 13 per cent of women over 25 employed. ... [[click here](#) to read this speech in greater detail]

**Nathalie Broadhurst Estival (France)** noted that since the beginning of 2022, more than 120 Palestinians from the West Bank and Jerusalem and 20 Israelis have been killed, and many more injured. Urging the parties to refrain from any provocation or unilateral action, she stressed that France will also never compromise on Israel's security, condemning any attack targeting its territory or its nationals. However, one of the root causes of this resurgence of violence is the continuation of the Israeli settlement policy, illegal under international law. Increasing settler violence must stop and those responsible must be held accountable by competent authorities. ...

**Jeanne Mrad (Lebanon)** noted Israeli policies of expanding settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, uprooting Palestinians from their homes and lands and splitting their cities, aggravate the deadlock and tarnish all efforts towards a two-State solution. ... she stressed that daily Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity represent a threat to peace and security. She called on the Council to force Israel to refrain from further airspace violations and aggressions. Noting the Government ... signed an

agreement with Israel to delineate its southern maritime border, she voiced hope it will bring stability and prosperity to the people of Lebanon and provide momentum towards viable solutions to other issues. ...

**Björn Olof Skoog, Head of Delegation of the European Union** ... reiterated the bloc's opposition to Israel's settlement policy and activities, while condemning the indiscriminate launching of rockets by Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups into Israel. He urged all Palestinian factions to engage in good faith in the reconciliation process, to adhere to previous agreements, renounce violence and terrorism, and recognize Israel's right to exist and to commit to democratic principles. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15086.doc.htm>

### **Third Committee Urges Nations in Conflict, Occupying Forces, to End Forced Displacement, Indiscriminate Killing, Rape, Gender-Based Violence**

... **Navanethem Pillay, Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Israel**, presenting her report (document A/77/328), highlighted the responsibility of Member States to ensure a just solution for the situation in Israel and Palestine that protects the human rights of all. Israel is treating the occupation as permanent, she said, annexing parts of the West Bank while hiding behind a fiction of temporariness. This permanence and annexation, including the purported de jure annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, have led the Commission to conclude that Israel's occupation is now unlawful ...

Her Commission ... has concluded that permanent occupation and de facto annexation policies serve as a root cause of instability and protracted conflict. Noting Israel's security-based justifications for some of its actions, the Commission found that many actions in the West Bank are often used as a pretext to justify territorial expansion and that it could not identify efforts to end the occupation. ... Citing coercive treatment of Palestinians, including destruction of properties and homes, mass incarceration and limitations on access to livelihoods, she said this environment is meant to force Palestinians to leave their homes to make room for more Israeli settlements. ... The General Assembly should address the fact that Palestine is occupied due to the persistent refusal of successive Israeli governments to abide by international law. ... Her Commission strongly recommends that the Assembly request an urgent advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of Israel's permanent occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, of policies employed to achieve this and of its refusal to respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

In the ensuing interactive dialogue, **the representative of Israel** recounted the death of five-year-old Ido Avigal by Hamas rocket shrapnel that penetrated a bomb shelter in Lod during a strike. He said that his story, like those of all Israeli victims of terror, is omitted from the hate-filled Commissioners' report, as it deliberately omits Hamas rockets in lieu of placing blame on the law-abiding democracy of Israel. ... He said that, although it is no longer politically correct today to be antisemitic, the world now burns the Jewish State, as it once burned Jews at the stake, and decried the Human Rights Council's disproportionate targeting of his country. The Council has adopted more resolutions condemning Israel than condemning Syria, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iran combined, he said. ...

**The observer for the State of Palestine** said that Israel has no sovereignty over the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This is guaranteed by law and not an opinion, she stressed. ... The occupation is ongoing with no end in sight, she said. ... Further, not one General Assembly resolution has been implemented by the Government, she lamented ... Israel's refusal to implement these resolutions and the continued lack of action or accountability from the international community will only result

in more arbitrary detentions, land theft, maimings and killings. ...

**The representative of the European Union** ... said that his delegation did not support the creation of this Commission of Inquiry because of concerns over its broad mandate. He expressed great concern over the occupation that began in 1967, calling on Israel to significantly improve the lives of the Palestinian people. ...

... Ms. Pillay said: "I am 81 years old, and this is the first time I have been accused of antisemitism." Expressing astonishment at antisemitic labels for the report, she stressed that it is based on law and that Israel is bound by international law, just like all countries. Addressing criticism of the mandate itself, she said it is open-ended and will allow time to address issues raised, such as armed Palestinian groups and the implications of the conflict on children. She said that the Commission condemns all violence and expressed condolences to the mother of Ido Avigal ... Returning to the report, she recalled that it asks the General Assembly to solicit an opinion from the International Court of Justice on whether the occupation is lawful. ... Acknowledging Israel's legitimate security concerns, she underscored that its actions must conform to international law and that the permanent dispossession and rights denial of the Palestinian people "will never be a recipe for peace". ...

**Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied since 1967** ... stressed that the Occupied Palestinian Territory is experiencing yet another spike in violence, marked by heavy loss of Palestinian lives. The systematic targeting and extrajudicial killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces, while Israeli "settlers" destroy properties and attack, shoot and terrorize unarmed civilians and their children, occurs daily and with complete impunity. This is not an "intractable" conflict between two parties borne of irreconcilable rivalry and incompatible senses of identity. This is the result of a reality shaped by protracted injustice, where two peoples are trapped by an anachronistic settler-colonial enterprise: one the colonizer, the other colonized. The Israeli occupation has crystallized into an apartheid regime, she asserted, criticizing the international community's tolerance of Israel's defiant violation of the most basic provisions of international law.

She went on to underscore that for 55 years Israel has attempted to bury the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination in the occupied territory, which accounts for only 22 per cent of pre-1948 Palestine. ... Israel's systematic violation of the core components of self-determination exposes the nature of its occupation: a segregationist and repressive regime designed to prevent the realization of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, pursuing the "de-Palestinianization" of the occupied territory. In a tragic irony, Israel has been allowed to advance its colonization under the pretence of an occupation maintained for security reasons, all under the watch of the same international community that long ago vowed to end colonialism. ...

... **the observer for the State of Palestine**, stressing the utter importance of the right to self-determination to the Palestinian People, opposed Israel's "veto right" over Palestine's statehood. Echoing the report of the Special Rapporteur, who characterized the occupation as settler-colonial, she said that, today, there are 700,000 Israeli settlers unlawfully present in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. ...

Meanwhile, **the representative of the United Kingdom**, voicing concern over the high number of Palestinian deaths by Israeli Forces so far in 2022, said his Government fully supports Israel's right to self-defence, but where there are accusations of excessive use of force, it advocates swift, transparent investigations. The United Kingdom is appalled by terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens and the resulting deaths, he said, asking what confidence-building measures can be advanced to improve the lives of Palestinians and lay the foundation for final status negotiations. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/qashc4360.doc.htm>

## **Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (A/77/328)**

<https://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/77/328&Lang=E>

### **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **Unlawful targeted killings in West Bank: Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Ravina Shamdasani**

This week saw further violence in the occupied West Bank, raising concerns about the possible resumption of unlawful targeted killings by Israeli security forces.

On Sunday, 23 October, a reportedly senior member of “the Lion’s Den” - a loose group of young armed Palestinian men – was killed in the old city of Nablus, apparently when a boobytrapped motorcycle detonated near him.

During operations on Tuesday, 25 October against “the Lion’s Den” members of the Israeli security forces shot dead three men in the old city of Nablus. One of the men was reportedly armed, while two others are reported to have been unarmed. Also on Tuesday, another man who was reportedly a senior member of the same group, was shot dead. Yet another man was killed when the car he was in exploded right outside of the old city.

Earlier, on 25 September, Israeli security forces opened fire on and killed a member of “the Lion’s Den” who was riding a motorcycle in Nablus. The circumstances of all these incidents are being verified by our Office.

At least 118 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem this year, including 26 children and five women. Three Palestinians, including one child, were killed by settlers or settlement guards, while another child was killed by either a settler or by Israeli security forces. Four members of the Israeli security forces and one settlement guard have been killed by Palestinians in the West Bank.

We recall that international human rights law only permits the use of firearms when absolutely necessary, when there is an imminent threat to life or of serious injury. Any killing resulting from the use of firearms or targeting of individuals who do not present an imminent threat to life or of serious injury, may amount to extrajudicial executions – an egregious violation of the right to life – and willful killings, under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is applicable in the entire occupied Palestinian territory.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/10/unlawful-targeted-killings-west-bank>

#### **Dismantling Israel’s illegal occupation is a sine qua non for Palestinian right to self-determination: UN expert**

Israel’s occupation is illegal and indistinguishable from settler-colonialism, which must end as a pre-condition for the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination, the UN’s independent expert on the occupied Palestinian territory said today.

“For over 55 years, the Israeli military occupation has prevented the realisation of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, violating each component of that right and wilfully pursuing the “de-Palestinianisation” of the occupied territory,” said Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, in a report to the General Assembly.

Albanese’s report found that the Israeli occupation violates Palestinian territorial sovereignty by seizing, annexing, fragmenting, and transferring its civilian population to the occupied territory. The occupation endangers the cultural existence of the Palestinian people by erasing or appropriating symbols expressing Palestinian identity and violates Palestinians’ ability to organise themselves as a people, free from alien domination and control, by repressing Palestinian political activity, advocacy and activism.

“This is, in essence, proof of the intent to colonise the occupied territory, and manifests Israel’s policies of domination through the “strategic fragmentation” of the occupied territory,” the expert said.

According to the report, the international community’s political, humanitarian, and economic approaches to resolving the Israel/Palestine “conflict” have failed without exception.

“These approaches conflate root causes with symptoms and serve to normalise Israel’s illegal occupation instead of challenging it. This is immoral and renders the regulatory and remedial function of international law futile,” Albanese said.

The report calls for “a paradigm shift”, which entails moving away from the narrative of “conflict” between Israel and the Palestine and recognising Israel’s “intentionally acquisitive, segregationist and repressive settler-colonial occupation.”

Albanese urged the international community to formally acknowledge and condemn the settler-colonial nature of the Israeli occupation, demand an immediate end to the illegal occupation, and call on Israel to withdraw its military presence and support to Israeli civilians in the colonies. She cautioned all States against making withdrawal subject to negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

“Meaningful discussions on a political solution for Palestine can only begin when the illegal occupation is dismantled once and for all,” the expert said. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/dismantling-israels-illegal-occupation-sine-qua-non-palestinian-right-self>

**Situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/77/356)**

<https://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/77/356&Lang=E>

TOP

## **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>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety\\_rm\\_rep\\_1028.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_1028.pdf)

## **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>

Stage 1 debate

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13942&i=126396#ScotParIOR>

Vote: That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill: For 88, Against 33, Abstentions 4.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13942&i=126397#ScotParIOR>

TOP

## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated today

**Mapping Exercise - Youth Workers supporting young people facing racism & antisemitism in Scotland** (closing date 14 November 2022)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z5YX2C7>

TOP

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