



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02842/SN02842.pdf>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Iran: Sanctions

**David Lammy (Labour)** [87726] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of additional sanctions against Iran to help prevent manufacture and supply of drones used for attacks against (a) Ukraine, (b) Israel and (c) Saudi Arabia.

**David Rutley:** Iran's supply of weapons, including unmanned aerial vehicles, to state and non-state actors continues to pose a serious threat to international security. Iran's provision of weapons and military support to the Houthis is in clear breach of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2216 and the supply of drones to Russia is in violation on UNSCR 2231. Reporting suggests that Iran was behind a recent UAV attack on Israeli-owned MV Pacific Zircon. We will work with partners to ensure that those responsible are held to account.

The UK has sanctioned over 300 Iranian individuals and entities for their role in weapons proliferation, human rights abuses, and terrorism, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in its entirety. On 20 October, the Government issued new sanctions targeting Iranian individuals and businesses responsible for supplying Russia with drones. We urge Iran to uphold their obligations under international law and cease illegal activity which is escalating the conflict in Ukraine and threatening civilian lives.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-15/87726>

### **Adopting 5 Middle East Texts, General Assembly Calls for Credible Talks on Final Status Issues, Israel to Cease Actions Aimed at Altering Occupied Palestinian Territory**

The General Assembly adopted five resolutions ... on the questions of Palestine and the Middle East, including a text that called on Israel to cease all actions contrary to international law that are aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. ...

**Cheikh Niang (Senegal), Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People**, introduced its annual report (document A/77/35) ...

... he said the Committee laments the lack of accountability for illegal Israeli actions; calls on leaders to reject violence, speak up against those who try to inflame the situation and refrain from actions that fuel tensions; urges Israel to conduct prompt, independent, and impartial investigations into all incidents, including the killing of the Palestinian Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh; and calls on that country to uphold its obligations under law and respect the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem. ...

Israel's blockade of Gaza must be lifted, he continued before condemning that country's designation of six non-governmental organizations as terrorist organizations. For their part, relevant States must reconsider their decisions to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and withdraw embassies from the city. Member States must support UNRWA financially, provide support for the State of Palestine Government's fiscal stability and institutions and ensure efforts to stabilize conditions on the ground are linked to a credible political framework.

He then introduced four draft resolutions: "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" (document A/77/L.23), "Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat" (document A/77/L.24), "Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat" (document A/77/L.25) and "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine" (document A/77/L.26). ... "L.23", he said, requests the Committee to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people as well as for restoring a political horizon and advancing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. ... "L.24" renews the mandate for the Division and requests it to dedicate its activities in 2023 to the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Nakba. "L.25" renews the mandate of the Special Information Programme, condemns the killing of Ms. Akleh and calls for accountability. "L.26" reaffirms and updates the consensus positions of the international community while reiterating the fundamental principles which should govern the peaceful settlement of the conflict. ...

**Riyad H. Mansour, State of Palestine**, said today the General Assembly will finally acknowledge the historical injustice that befell the Palestinian people, adopting a resolution that decides to commemorate in the Assembly Hall the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nakba. The people of Palestine deserve recognition of their plight, justice for the victims, reparation for their loss, and fulfilment of their rights. 2022 has been the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the Second Intifada, he said, stressing: "There is nowhere safe in Palestine, nowhere. There is no one safe in Palestine, no one." The right to security belongs to the people under occupation, not to those occupying them.

He called once again on the international community to provide the Palestinian people with the protection they are entitled to. ... Some countries keep denouncing what they refer to as "singling out Israel", but what truly singles out Israel is not the amount of criticism legitimately directed against its crimes and violations, but the level of impunity it enjoys despite these condemnations. Israeli exceptionalism has only emboldened Israel's worst instincts. That is not defending Israel; it is shielding its illegal occupation and annexation of Palestinian land.

This is the end of the road for the two-State solution, he stressed. Either the international

community summons the will to act decisively, or it will let peace die passively. There is no two-State solution without a sovereign and independent State of Palestine on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Anybody serious about the two-State solution must help salvage the Palestinian State and recognize it now without further delay, supporting its sovereignty, warning that the alternative is a regime that has combined the evils of colonialism and Apartheid. ...

The only way to end the Israeli occupation is by ending impunity, he said. Justice in Palestine would mean that the international law-based order has triumphed over impunity and double standards, and that freedom, peaceful settlement and coexistence have triumphed over oppression and discrimination. ...

**Gilad Menashe Erdan (Israel)** said the Assembly will soon be voting on several resolutions whose sole purpose is to blame everything in the Middle East solely on Israel while absolving the Palestinians of their responsibility for their situation. Year after year, all such distorted resolutions pass, ensuring that the conflict never ends. This does not help the Palestinian people, but rather turns the United Nations and Member States into accomplices in a Palestinian jihad war that destroys any chances for reconciliation. "This conflict, like any conflict, can be solved in one way, and one way only, with both sides sitting down at the negotiating table and – surprise, surprise - both sides making mutual concessions." Yet every time peace proposals are put forward, the Palestinians reject them, refusing to negotiate or to budge one inch from their position, which would entail the destruction of the Jewish State. Due to the automatic support of the United Nations, they are allowed to continue along this destructive path, he said.

The Palestinian leadership will not compromise on any demands if every United Nations resolution is supported ... Within these resolutions, the Palestinians have planted a clause showing their twisted vision of truth to all, namely, a request to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of Israel with a high-level event in the Assembly chamber ... He urged delegations to stop supporting the Palestinians' libels and to stop voting in favour of these dangerous fabrications. ...

**Andrew Weinstein (United States)** emphasized that his country is deeply committed to a two-State solution and that it is focused on supporting the parties on the ground as well as working with the Palestinian people to build confidence through constructive negotiations. He voiced concern, however, that 2022 has been the most violent year in the West Bank since 2004, with 150 Palestinians and 29 Israelis killed. Though sustainable peace seems impossible, the international community must take steps to stabilize the situation and end the conflict. But instead, "we are engaged in the annual UN ritual of rubber-stamping outdated and ineffective resolutions that purport to advance the cause for the Palestinian people but instead reveal a profound anti-Israel bias". Resolutions are not a substitute for peace, he said, asking the Assembly to instead focus on supporting both parties and the broader shifts under way in the region. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/ga12475.doc.htm>

**Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/77/35)**

[https://documents-dds-](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/463/25/PDF/N2246325.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/463/25/PDF/N2246325.pdf?OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/463/25/PDF/N2246325.pdf?OpenElement)

**Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/77/L.23)**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/77/L.23>

**Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat (A/77/L.24)**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/77/L.24>

**Special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat (A/77/L.25)**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/77/L.25>

**Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine (A/77/L.26)**

<https://undocs.org/en/A/77/L.26>

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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>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/48625/documents/2590>

#### **Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety\\_rm\\_rep\\_1201.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_1201.pdf)

Written Ministerial Statement

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-30/debates/22113030000010/OnlineSafetyBillGovernmentAmendments>

#### **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

### **Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

### **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

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

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