



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Holocaust

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

SCoJeC is incurring significant extra costs as a result of the war in Israel and Gaza, including producing expanded issues of this digest. Please help us maintain these resources by donating at

www.scojec.org/donate.html

Thank you very much for your support.



Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Religion: Education

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [26564] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department plans to update statutory guidance for schools on religious education following publication of Ofsted's report entitled Subject report series: religious education on 17 April 2024.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [26564] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that pupils have equal access to religious education.

Damian Hinds: There are currently no plans to update the department's non-statutory guidance on religious education (RE). The government believe that RE is an important subject, developing an individual's knowledge and understanding of the religions and beliefs which form part of contemporary society, as well as serving to inform their own values and behaviour.

To ensure that pupils have equal access to RE, it is a compulsory subject that must be taught in all mainstream state-funded schools, including academies, to all pupils up to the age of 18. In support of that aim, the Oak National Academy has commissioned the development of RE teaching resources to ensure that high-quality lessons are available nationwide, benefitting both teachers and pupils, should schools opt to use them. Oak RE resources will be available for teaching from autumn 2024, with full packages expected to be available by autumn 2025.

Additionally, the Religious Education Council has recently launched its 'Religion and Worldviews Approach to RE' Toolkit which consists of a handbook, exemplar frameworks and accompanying resources to assist curriculum developers in designing their own RE curricula.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26564>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26565>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/subject-report-series-religious-education/deep-and-meaningful-the-religious-education-subject-report>

The Toolkit referred to above can be read at

<https://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/rwapproach/>

Religion: GCSE

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [26566] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average Attainment 8 score was for (a) disadvantaged and (b) non-disadvantaged pupils who (i) were and (ii) were not entered for GCSE Religious Studies in the latest period for which data is available.

Damian Hinds: The data is included in the attached spreadsheet.

[26566 religious studies data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26566>

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine: Monitoring

Sharon Hodgson (Labour) [26983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to monitor the activities of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the UK.

Tom Tugendhat: His Majesty's Government is unable to comment further on intelligence and security matters. We are committed to tackling those who spread views that promote violence and hatred within our communities. We have some of the strongest laws in the world to protect our citizens.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/26983>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Christian Wakeford (Labour) [27208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has plans to proscribe the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine as a terrorist group.

Christian Wakeford (Labour) [27209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of proscribing the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine as a terrorist group.

Tom Tugendhat: While the UK Government keeps the list of proscribed organisations under review, we do not routinely comment on whether an organisation is or is not being considered for proscription.

To proscribe an organisation, the Home Secretary must have a reasonable belief that it is concerned in terrorism. This means the organisation participates or commits; prepares for; promotes, encourages or unlawfully glorifies; or is in some way otherwise concerned in terrorism. As well as considering whether the statutory test for proscription has been satisfied, the Home Secretary's decision to proscribe must be necessary and proportionate, having taken into account all relevant factors. HMG is unable to comment further on intelligence and security matters.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) was proscribed in June 2014. PFLP-GC is a left wing nationalist Palestinian militant

organisation formed in 1968. It is based in Syria and was involved in the Palestine intifada during the 1970s and 1980s. The group is separate from the similarly named Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/27208>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/27209>

House of Lords Written Answer

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

Lord Weir of Ballyholme (DUP) [HL4656] To ask His Majesty's Government why they have not proscribed the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organisation.

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: While the UK Government keeps the list of proscribed organisations under review, we do not routinely comment on whether an organisation is or is not being considered for proscription.

The UK Government has long been clear about our concerns over the malign activity of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The UK maintains sanctions on over 400 Iranian individuals and entities covering human rights abuses and nuclear proliferation. The Government has also imposed sanctions on the IRGC in its entirety and on several senior security and political figures in Iran, including senior commanders within the IRGC and its Basij force.

On 24 January 2024, we took coordinated action with the US and imposed sanctions on several members of the IRGC for their involvement in plots to assassinate individuals on UK soil. Following Iran's attack against Israel on 13 April, the UK has sanctioned a number of individuals and companies with links to Iran's UAV and missile industries, as well as leading Iranian military figures and entities that have enabled Iran's destabilising regional activity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/hl4656>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [799] **165th anniversary of Jewish Care Scotland** That this House congratulates Jewish Care Scotland as they celebrate their 165th anniversary; notes that Jewish Care Scotland dates back to 1858, when it was mentioned in the earliest written record of the Glasgow Hebrew Philanthropic society, with the organisation requesting the use of a room at a Glasgow synagogue to dispense charity to Glasgow's Jewish population; understands that Jewish Care Scotland is Scotland's only exclusively Jewish care charity and thus uniquely able to provide culturally sensitive services including a Kosher foodbank, detailed care, a well-being hub and social support visits; further notes that the organisation is marking 165 years of existence with 165-for-165, asking 165 supporters to raise £165 throughout the year, and that this effort is accompanied by a booklet containing 65 unique fundraising ideas; applauds the efforts of everyone involved with Jewish Care Scotland and notes the significant input of over 22,000 hours from dedicated volunteers; appreciates Jewish Care Scotland's vision is to create a strong community with Jewish values at its heart, empowering individuals to take control of their own lives, providing excellent responsive person centred advice and support, and maximising opportunities for connection; and wishes everyone involved with Jewish Care Scotland all the very best for the future.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/62303>

TOP

Holocaust

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Holocaust Memorial Bill: Note of promoter's position

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holocaust-memorial-bill-note-of-promoters-position-for-house-of-lords-select-committee/holocaust-memorial-bill-note-of-promoters-position>

TOP

Israel

See also Commons written answers 26983 "Popular Front for Palestine: Monitoring", and 27208 and 27209 "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" that is included in the Home Affairs section above.

House of Commons Oral Answers

Business of the House

Penny Mordaunt: ... Yesterday, I met some of the families of those still held hostage in Gaza: the families of Eli Sharabi, the late Yossi Sharabi, whose body is still held by Hamas, Naama Levy, Alon Ohel, Yair and Eitan Horn, Evyatar David and Guy Gilboa-Dalal. Our thoughts and focus will continue to be with them and all others who need our attention during this election period. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-23/debates/C52D3989-077A-4399-8E91-EB312A43EA86/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-BA37BB32-BF2D-4365-B985-1843B6A6D05E>

Support for People in Gaza

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [902973] What steps the Church of England is taking to provide support for people in Gaza.

Andrew Selous: The Church of England calls for the immediate release of the hostages in Gaza and an end to the fighting, which has caused the loss of so many lives and caused so much suffering to the Palestinians. The diocese of Jerusalem and the worldwide Anglican communion continue to support financially the al-Ahli Anglican Hospital in Gaza City, which, as I know from the diocese of Jerusalem synod last week, is still operating with the wonderful medics in it and is still providing care.

Rachael Maskell: ... Of course, while Parliament is not sitting we know that the horrendous situation in Gaza will continue, and it is really important that we put the focus on those institutions that can make interventions over the next few weeks. I therefore ask him: how is the Church of England using its soft power and leverage to bring peace and justice to the region, particularly to the people of Gaza?

Andrew Selous: I thank the hon. Lady for her very pertinent and important question. She will know that the Archbishop of Canterbury himself went out to the Holy Land just after 7 October. I can tell her that the Bishop of Chelmsford was there very recently and the Bishop of Suffolk is also a frequent visitor. The worldwide Anglican communion, as well as the Church of England, will absolutely continue to play its part in bringing peace and justice to this terrible conflict, which has gone on for far too long. ...

Of course, there will also be a massive need for reconstruction in Gaza, which we

all want to see.

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-23/debates/3207205D-2075-46F9-ADFB-52B62A594CFB/SupportForPeopleInGaza>

House of Commons Written Answers

Gaza: Israel

Stephen Crabb (Conservative) [26390] To ask the Deputy Foreign Secretary, whether his Department is taking steps to improve cooperation with the Israeli Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories unit.

Andrew Mitchell: The Foreign Secretary's Representative for Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, along with the British Embassy in Israel, are maintaining close and regular contact with the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories unit and are working intensively to address the blockages preventing more aid reaching Gaza.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26390>

Gaza: Humanitarian Situation

Tahir Ali (Labour) [26606] To ask the Deputy Foreign Secretary, what recent assessment his Department has made of the risk of famine in Gaza.

Andrew Mitchell: The situation in Gaza is desperate. Many Palestinian civilians have been killed and there is an urgent need to get more aid to the people of Gaza to prevent a famine.

The UK is doing all it can to get as much food into Gaza as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26606>

House of Lords Written Answers

Israel: Visits Abroad

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Labour) [HL4786] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the alleged threat by Israeli settler Elchanan Groner to the life of the Foreign Secretary; and what are the implications for his security during future visits to Israel and engagement with Israeli government officials.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: It is long-standing policy not to comment on Ministerial travel. To do so could compromise the integrity of protective security arrangements and affect the safety of the individuals involved.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/hl4786>

Refugees: Gaza

Lord Wigley (Plaid Cymru) [HL4664] To ask His Majesty's Government how many refugees from Gaza have been accepted into the UK since October 2023.

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office publishes data on asylum decisions in table Asy_D02 of the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)' on gov.uk. The latest data relates to 2023. Data for the year ending March 2024 will be published on 23 May 2024. From October to December 2023, 69 asylum claims (relating to 84 people) from nationals of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, of which Gaza forms a part, were granted some form of protection.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/hl4664>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Labour) [HL4785] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to sanction (1) Israeli government ministers, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, and (2) leaders of the settler movement, who have expressed support for acts of violence against (a) Palestinians, (b) aid workers and convoys, and (c) UNRWA facilities.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK policy on settlement expansion is clear: settlements are illegal under international law and only make it harder to progress to achieving peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians. We have called on the Israeli Government to halt seizures of Palestinian lands immediately.

On 3 May, the Foreign Secretary announced new sanctions on extremist groups and individuals for inciting and perpetrating settler violence in the West Bank. The measures impose financial restrictions on the entities and individuals, and travel restrictions on the individuals. The UK will not hesitate to take further action if needed, including through further sanctions.

The Foreign Secretary has made our position clear to his Israeli counterparts, including during his visit to the region on 17 April.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/hl4785>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-extremist-groups-and-individuals-for-settler-violence-in-the-west-bank>

Arms Trade: Israel

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL4515] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to their response to the First Joint Report of the Committees on Arms Export Controls Session 2022–23 Developments in UK Strategic Export Controls, published in January 2023 (CP 775), when, if at all, they intend to review whether their arms and equipment export licences to Israel meet the criteria contained in that response; and what assurances they have received from the government of Israel that those arms exports will not be used to violate international humanitarian law in Gaza.

Lord Offord of Garvel: We are monitoring the situation in Israel and Gaza very closely. All export licences are assessed against the Strategic Export Licensing Criteria and are kept under careful and continual review as standard.

As part of the Government's robust arms export control regime we periodically review advice on Israel's capability and overall commitment to comply with International Humanitarian Law, which includes a range of evidence. Ministers act in accordance with that advice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-09/hl4515>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/30529/documents/176077/default/>

The Criteria referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-12-08/hcws449>

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Lord Mott (Conservative) [HL4738] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likelihood of Iran firing nuclear missiles at Israel; and what are the implications for UK policy of such action.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are determined to use all diplomatic options available to ensure that Iran never develops a nuclear weapon. We condemned in the strongest terms Iran's direct attack against Israel on 13 April, which was a dangerous escalation.

The UK will continue to stand up for Israel's security as well as the security of all

our regional partners and we are working with our allies to deescalate the situation.
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-16/hl4738>

Islamic Resistance in Iraq: Israel

Lord Shinkwin (Conservative) [HL4711] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq attack on the Israel Defence Forces naval base in Eilat on 1 April; and how this is reflected in their public statements.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of reports of a drone strike on 1 April, but have not made any specific public comment on these. The UK wants to see a lasting peace, and we are working with partners to de-escalate the situation in the region.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4711>

Hamas: Hostage Taking

Lord Mott (Conservative) [HL4737] To ask His Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of reported allegations of the widespread abuse of Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: After more than 200 days in captivity, 132 hostages remain in Gaza, including British nationals and others with strong UK links. We are extremely concerned about reports regarding the conditions they are being held in. The implications for the health and psychological well-being of hostages can be catastrophic, as is the impact and lasting trauma on their families and on their communities. We reiterate our call for the ICRC to be granted urgent access to all hostages and for their immediate release. Nothing can justify their continued detention. Their families are showing great courage in horrific circumstances. Hamas must act on this now. It was wrong to kidnap them on 7 October, it has been wrong to hold them in captivity for so long and it is wrong to hold them any longer. We strongly support the intensive diplomatic efforts by Egypt, Qatar and the United States to secure their release.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-16/hl4737>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Layan Nasir

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL4774] To ask His Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the release of Layan Nasir, a young Palestinian Christian woman, from administrative detention following her arrest on 6 April.

Israel: Palestinians

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL4776] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the human rights implications of the government of Israel's practice of administrative detention.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to be alarmed about reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees in military detention. We have been clear that Israel must fulfil its responsibilities under International Humanitarian Law, most recently during the Foreign Secretary's call with Foreign Minister Katz on 13 May.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/hl4774>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/hl4776>

Gaza: Hamas

Baroness Altmann (Conservative) [HL4670] To ask His Majesty's Government what implications the statement by Bakr Ahmed Bakr Qanita that Hamas is using the management building, the specialist building and the maternity ward at al-Shifa hospital in

Gaza will have for their policies in the region.

Gaza: Palestinian Islamic Jihad

Baroness Altmann (Conservative) [HL4671] To ask His Majesty's Government what implications the statement by Nabeel Rajab Abed Shteivi that Palestinian Islamic Jihad is using al-Shifa hospital and schools as shelter will have for their policies in the region.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Hamas and other terrorist organisations are putting Palestinian civilians at grave risk by embedding themselves in the civilian population and civilian infrastructure. The UK is aware of reports of Hamas and other terrorist organisations using healthcare facilities and other infrastructure, such as schools, as bases and command nodes.

This does not absolve parties from their responsibility to ensure that their actions are compliant with International Humanitarian Law, and minimise harm to civilians. The UK is particularly clear that civilian buildings must not be targeted, and extra care must be taken in relation to hospitals and other medical facilities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4670>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4671>

Israel: Hamas

Lord Shinkwin (Conservative) [HL4710] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that over 500 terrorists were captured by the Israel Defence Forces at al-Shifa hospital in Gaza; and how this is reflected in their public statements.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of these reports, but have not made any specific public comment on them. The UK Government closely follows the security situation in the Middle East and maintains a regular dialogue with international counterparts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4710>

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Labour) [HL4787] To ask His Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel on the opening of the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings to allow aid into Gaza.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have been clear that entry points for humanitarian aid, including Rafah and Kerem Shalom, must be reopened quickly to allow aid in. Israel must facilitate immediate uninterrupted humanitarian access in the south, including the entry of fuel.

The Foreign Secretary has pressed these points with Israeli Foreign Minister Katz.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/hl4787>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Lord Weir of Ballyholme (DUP) [HL4612] To ask His Majesty's Government what level of humanitarian aid they are currently providing to Gaza.

Lord Weir of Ballyholme (DUP) [HL4613] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the level of humanitarian aid being provided to Gaza.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The situation in Gaza is desperate. Too many Palestinian civilians have been killed and there is an urgent need to get more aid to the people of Gaza to prevent a famine. We trebled our aid commitment in the last financial year and we are doing everything we can to get more aid in as quickly as possible by land, sea and air.

As of 9 May, the UK has participated in 12 airdrops into Gaza delivering a total of 110 tonnes of aid. On 17 April we announced £3 million of additional funding for

equipment to support UN and aid agencies to get more aid into Gaza, including trucks, forklifts, generators, fuel stores and lighting towers. This follows a £9.7 million package of military and civilian support to set up a maritime aid corridor to Gaza, including the deployment of a Navy ship.

UK support includes a field hospital, provided by UK Aid funding to UK-Med, which is up and running in Gaza and has already treated thousands of patients. We have provided funding for the World Food Programme to provide 2,000 tons of food aid, enough to feed 275,000 people in Gaza.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/hl4612>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/hl4613>

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL4519] To ask His Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of Egypt concerning the current humanitarian situation in Gaza; and what support they are providing to Egyptian authorities, together with international partners, to prevent the forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza to the Sinai region of Egypt.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We maintain a close dialogue with Egypt on a range of issues relating to the conflict in Gaza. The Foreign Secretary most recently discussed the situation with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry on 10 May. The UK Government firmly rejects any suggestion of the resettlement of Palestinians outside of Gaza.

The UK's position is clear: Gaza is Occupied Palestinian Territory and will and must be part of a future Palestinian state. We support a two-state solution that guarantees security and stability for both the Israeli and Palestinian people.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-09/hl4519>

West Bank: Homicide

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL4517] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that at least three residents of the Nur Shams refugee camp in the West Bank were summarily executed or used as human shields by the Israeli military; and what action they have taken in response.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Reports of this nature are shocking. We continue to call upon Israel and the Palestinian Authorities to comply with their legal obligations in the West Bank, affording proper respect to the rights of all persons living there, and to investigate any reports of this thoroughly and transparently.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-09/hl4517>

Northern Ireland Assembly Written Answer

Invest NI: Israel

Matthew O'Toole (SDLP) [AQW 12174/22-27] To ask the Minister for the Economy whether any company in receipt of Invest NI funding has (i) manufactured (a) munitions; and (b) a component part of a munition; and (ii) provided any support service, for the State of Israel.

Minister for the Economy: Invest NI is also not aware of companies in receipt of funding that manufacture either munitions or a component part of a munition or are providing any support service for the State of Israel.

<https://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=402127>

International Court of Justice

Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel): Request for the modification and the indication of provisional measures

... In its Order the Court:

Reaffirms the provisional measures indicated in its Orders of 26 January 2024 and 28 March 2024, which should be immediately and effectively implemented ...

Indicates the following provisional measures:

- The State of Israel shall, in conformity with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and in view of the worsening conditions of life faced by civilians in the Rafah Governorate ...
- Immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part ...
- Maintain open the Rafah crossing for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance ...
- Take effective measures to ensure the unimpeded access to the Gaza Strip of any commission of inquiry, fact-finding mission or other investigative body mandated by competent organs of the United Nations to investigate allegations of genocide ...
- Decides that the State of Israel shall submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order, within one month as from the date of this Order. ...

In its Order, the Court emphasizes that the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip which, as stated in its Order of 26 January 2024, was at serious risk of deteriorating, has deteriorated, and has done so even further since the Court adopted its Order of 28 March 2024. It notes that,

“[a]fter weeks of intensification of military bombardments of Rafah, where more than a million Palestinians had fled as a result of Israeli evacuation orders covering more than three quarters of Gaza’s entire territory, on 6 May 2024, nearly 100,000 Palestinians were ordered by Israel to evacuate the eastern portion of Rafah and relocate to the Al-Mawasi and Khan Younis areas ahead of a planned military offensive.

The military ground offensive in Rafah, which Israel started on 7 May 2024, is still ongoing and has led to new evacuation orders. As a result, according to United Nations reports, nearly 800,000 people have been displaced from Rafah as at 18 May 2024.”

The Court considers that these developments are exceptionally grave and constitute “a change in the situation within the meaning of Article 76 of the Rules of Court”. The Court is also of the view that the provisional measures indicated in its Order of 28 March 2024, as well as those reaffirmed therein, do not fully address the consequences arising from the change in the situation, thus justifying the modification of these measures.

The Court further considers that, on the basis of the information before it, the immense risks associated with a military offensive in Rafah have started to materialize and will intensify even further if the operation continues. In addition, the Court is

“not convinced that the evacuation efforts and related measures that Israel affirms to have undertaken to enhance the security of civilians in the Gaza Strip, and in particular those recently displaced from the Rafah Governorate, are sufficient to alleviate the immense risk to which the Palestinian population is exposed as a result of the military offensive in Rafah”.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-pre-01-00-en.pdf>

Order of 24 May 2024

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

Dissenting Opinion of Vice-President Sebutinde

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-01-en.pdf>

Declaration of Judge Nolte

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-02-en.pdf>

Declaration of Judge Aurescu

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-03-en.pdf>

Declaration of Judge Tladi

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-04-en.pdf>

Dissenting Opinion of Judge *ad hoc* Barak

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-05-en.pdf>

The announcement of the Order can be viewed at

<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1j/k1ju1o38md>

The Order of 26 January 2024 can be read at

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

The Order of 28 March 2024 can be read at

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240328-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Arms Trade (Inquiry and Suspension) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3567>

Criminal Justice Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3511>

Disestablishment of the Church of England Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3539>

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3475>

The Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Regulations 2023 [Draft]

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348253191/contents>

Genocide Determination Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3535>

Genocide (Prevention and Response) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3521>

**** Holocaust Memorial Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421>

Note of promoter's position

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holocaust-memorial-bill-note-of-promoters-position-for-house-of-lords-select-committee/holocaust-memorial-bill-note-of-promoters-position>

Petitioning against the Holocaust Memorial Bill: online portal (closing date 21 June 2024)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8481/petitioning-against-the-holocaust-memorial-bill/>

House of Lords: Guidance on the right to be heard

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55634/documents/4871>

House of Lords: Guidance on submitting your petition

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55632/documents/4869>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3596>

**** Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3564>

Amendment Paper

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0039/amend/international_day_pbc_0424.pdf

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

Faith school designation reforms (closing date 20 June 2024)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/faith-schools-policy-team/faith-school-designation-reforms/>

**** Petitioning against the Holocaust Memorial Bill** (closing date 21 June 2024)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8481/petitioning-against-the-holocaust-memorial-bill/>

House of Lords: Guidance on the right to be heard

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55634/documents/4871>

House of Lords: Guidance on submitting your petition

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55632/documents/4869>

Review of the RSHE statutory guidance (closing date 11 July 2024)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/>

£20k registration threshold for charities in Northern Ireland (closing date 11 August 2024)

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-ps20k-registration-threshold-charities-northern-ireland>

[TOP](#)

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