



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Israel

Foreign Affairs

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.



Israel

Northern Ireland Assembly Written Answer

Northern Ireland: Israeli Companies

Gerry Carroll (People Before Profit Alliance) [AQW 12107/22-27] To ask the Minister for the Economy whether she is aware of any Israeli companies involved in the (i) Information Technology sector; (ii) Cyber Security sector; and (iii) Data Analytics sector in Northern Ireland.

Minister for the Economy: I am not aware of any Israeli companies involved in the Information Technology sector; Cyber Security sector; and/or Data Analytics sector in the North.

<https://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=402060>

United Nations

Global Refugee Crisis Growing Worse, with Aid Workers near Breaking Point, Little Respect for Basic Rules of War, High Commissioner Warns Security Council

Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stressing today's grave challenges to peace and security, said the number of people displaced by war, violence and persecution reached 114 million at the last count by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). ... Parties to conflicts — almost all of them — have stopped respecting the basic rules of war. Civilians are killed in growing

numbers. Rape and sexual violence are used as weapons of war. Civilian infrastructure is destroyed. Humanitarian workers are targets. And since the brutal conduct is meant to terrify, civilians have no choice but to flee, he said.

What has happened in Gaza since the Hamas attacks 7 October and throughout the Israeli offensive is a case in point. “Let me add my voice to those who have been urging you to pursue an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages, and the full resumption of humanitarian aid,” he said. Among the many haunting images from this conflict is that of desperate people trapped and often killed inside a war zone. “Their safety should be our — your — paramount concern,” he said. “The atrocious dilemma of whether Palestinians should exit Gaza — or not — is one that Israel has the clear responsibility to avoid.” Under international law, an occupying Power must not force a civilian population to flee the territory it occupies, he said, adding that another forced exodus of Palestinians will only create one more intractable problem.

On Syria, he highlighted the presence of 5.6 million Syrian refugees and proposals by some European countries to send back refugees to so-called “safe areas” in the country. ...

Meanwhile in Myanmar, over 3 million people have been displaced by fighting ...

In Ukraine, international humanitarian law gets violated every day, he said, pointing to unrelenting attacks on the Ukrainian power network ... Displacement in Ukraine, too, is increasing, mostly within the country. Turning to Sudan, he said 9 million people are displaced inside the country or refugees in neighbouring countries. ...

The representative of the United Kingdom, observ[ed] that around 1 million Rohingya refugees live in camps in Bangladesh — following the ethnic cleansing by the Myanmar military ... Further, Sudan is now the “world’s largest displacement crisis” ...

The representative of China ... urged Israel to implement relevant Council resolutions and the orders of the International Court of Justice, immediately stop its collective punishment of the Palestinian people and halt its attack against Rafah. ...

The representative of the Russian Federation stressed that Israel’s bloody military operation in Gaza is now in its eighth month and indiscriminate bombing has already forced more than 1.8 million Gazans to flee their homes. The situation in Rafah is egregious, she said, adding that an estimated 1 million civilians have sought refuge there. “The situation in Gaza and the smear campaign against UNRWA once again clearly illustrates the regrettable trend of politicizing refugee and IDP [internally displaced person] issues,” she said ...

To read the full press release see

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15713.doc.htm>

TOP

Foreign Affairs

United Nations

General Assembly Pays Tribute to Late President of Iran, Hailing His Visionary Leadership, Contributions for Multilateralism, Development

The General Assembly convened ... to pay tribute to Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the late President of Iran, and his entourage, all of whom perished in a tragic helicopter accident on 19 May. ...

Dennis Francis (Trinidad and Tobago), President of the General Assembly, offered “our deepest condolences to the Government and people of Iran”, recalling that President Raisi “led his country’s contribution to shape the tenets of our multilateral system and international cooperation”. ...

The General Assembly President also honoured the memory of Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian — “a consummate diplomat who faithfully stood alongside President Raisi in representing Iran on the global stage”. ...

Also extending his condolences to the families, the Government and people of Iran, **António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations**, observed that President Raisi “led Iran at a challenging time for the country, the region and globally”. ...

Pakistan’s representative, speaking for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), took solace in the late President’s historical contributions to the vision and mission of that body — notably its central codes of restoring the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and protecting the sanctity of the holy mosque of Al-Quds. ...

Expressing deep gratitude ... **the representative of Iran** stressed that President Raisi and Minister Abdollahian “were visionary leaders” whose terms were “dedicated to promoting peace, stability, and sustainable security in our region and beyond”. Under President Raisi’s leadership, the Government of Iran consistently participated in all efforts to preserve peace and security in the Persian Gulf region, building “bridges of brotherhood” ...

To read the full press release see

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12602.doc.htm>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Holocaust Memorial Bill

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

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/>

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

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

Petitioning against the Holocaust Memorial Bill (closing date 17 July 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>

£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