



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Israel

### Downing Street

#### **G7 Leaders' statement on Gaza**

We, the Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7), fully endorse and will stand behind the comprehensive deal outlined by President Biden that would lead to an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, a significant and sustained increase in humanitarian assistance for distribution throughout Gaza, and an enduring end to the crisis, with Israel's security interests and Gazan civilian safety assured. We reaffirm our support for a credible pathway towards peace leading to a two State solution.

We call on Hamas to accept this deal, that Israel is ready to move forward with, and we urge countries with influence over Hamas to help ensure that it does so.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-leaders-statement-on-gaza-3-june-2024>

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**David Cameron** Greatly saddened to hear about the death of Nadav Popplewell who had been held in captivity by Hamas since 7 October. My thoughts are with his loved ones at this terrible time for them. With a new deal on the table, we reiterate our demand for Hamas to send all hostages home.

[https://x.com/David\\_Cameron/status/1797708099647869376](https://x.com/David_Cameron/status/1797708099647869376)

**Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office** “Seize this opportunity to stop the killing and bring this conflict to an end.” Foreign Secretary David Cameron on Israeli proposal to end the conflict in Gaza [plus video of David Cameron]

<https://x.com/FCDOGovUK/status/1796986040810443021>

**David Cameron** With a new hostage agreement on the table, Hamas must accept this deal so we can see a stop in the fighting, the hostages released and returned to their families and a flood of humanitarian aid into Gaza. As we’ve long argued a stop in the fighting can be turned into a permanent peace if we are all prepared to take the right steps. Let’s seize this moment and bring this conflict to an end.

[https://x.com/David\\_Cameron/status/1796613355655831862](https://x.com/David_Cameron/status/1796613355655831862)

## 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): Palestine files an application for permission to intervene and a declaration of intervention in the proceedings, invoking Articles 62 and 63 of the Statute of the Court**

... the State of Palestine filed in the Registry of the Court an application for permission to intervene and a declaration of intervention in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel). ...

Palestine states that its application for permission to intervene and declaration of intervention are “cumulative and alternative”. It first applies for permission to intervene under Article 62 of the Statute of the Court. It submits that every State party to the Genocide Convention has an interest in ensuring compliance with that instrument and that, therefore, Palestine has an “interest of a legal nature which may be affected by the decision in the case” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240603-pre-02-00-en.pdf>

**Application for permission to intervene and declaration of intervention submitted by Palestine**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240603-int-01-00-en.pdf>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **UN experts urge all States to recognise State of Palestine**

All States must follow the example of 146 United Nations Member States and recognise the State of Palestine and use all political and diplomatic resources at their disposal to bring about an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, UN experts said today.

“This recognition is an important acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinian people and their struggles and suffering towards freedom and independence,” the experts said.

They insisted that Palestine must be able to enjoy full self-determination, including the ability to exist, determine their destiny and develop freely as a people with safety and security.

“This is a pre-condition for lasting peace in Palestine and the entire Middle East – beginning with the immediate declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza and no further military incursions into Rafah,” the experts said.

The State of Palestine, formally declared by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on 15 November 1988, claims sovereignty over the remaining parts of historic Palestine

that Israel occupied in 1967: the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. As of 28 May 2024, the State of Palestine was recognised by the vast majority of Member States of the United Nations.

The experts welcomed the latest recognitions of the occupied Palestinian territory as a State by Norway, Ireland and Spain, which comes after the General Assembly overwhelmingly voted - with 143 votes in favour to nine votes against - to [back](#) Palestine's bid to become a full member of the United Nations on 10 May 2024.

"Even though the prospect of lasting peace and an end to occupation has remained elusive since the Oslo Accords more than 30 years ago, a political solution should not be considered foregone," the experts said. "A two-State solution remains the only internationally agreed path to peace and security for both Palestine and Israel and a way out of generational cycles of violence and resentment."

The UN experts said the move by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to seek arrest warrants against the Israeli Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and top Hamas leaders on suspicions of war crimes and crimes against humanity was a promise of accountability and an end to impunity in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its most recent [ruling on provisional measures](#), ordering Israel to stop its military operations in Rafah, immediately reopen the Rafah crossing to allow life-saving humanitarian aid into the Gaza strip and grant unimpeded access for UN human rights mechanisms, complements the work of the ICC in ensuring full justice in Palestine and preventing any further bloodshed in Gaza," the experts said.

"States must refrain from threats and attacks against the ICC and the ICJ," they said. "These courts must operate without foreign interference and threats, to uphold the promise of global justice and individual accountability for all victims of the conflict."

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/un-experts-urge-all-states-recognise-state-palestine>

*Information about the International Criminal Court move referred to above can be read at <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/statement-icc-prosecutor-karim-aa-khan-kc-applications-arrest-warrants-situation-state>*

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### **Occupied Palestinian Territory: Türk condemns over 500 West Bank killings, calls for accountability**

UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk today issued a renewed call for an end to the sharp rise in deadly violence in the occupied West Bank since 7 October, and urged accountability for the killing of over 500 Palestinians by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) and settlers.

On Saturday, 1 June, Israeli forces shot dead 16-year-old Ahmed Ashraf Hamidat and critically wounded 17-year-old Mohammed Musa Al Bitar near Aqabat Jaber refugee camp, Jericho. Al Bitar died the following day. Their deaths, along with the killings of four more Palestinians by the ISF on Monday, took the Palestinian toll since 7 October to 505 dead, according to information assessed by the UN Human Rights Office.

In the same period, 24 Israelis, of whom eight were ISF members, were killed in the West Bank and Israel in clashes or alleged attacks by Palestinians from the West Bank.

"As if the tragic events in Israel and then Gaza over the past eight months were not enough, the people of the occupied West Bank are also being subjected to day-after-day of unprecedented bloodshed. It is unfathomable that so many lives have been taken in such a wanton fashion," the High Commissioner said.

"The killing, destruction and widespread human rights violations are unacceptable, and must cease immediately. Israel must not only adopt but enforce rules of engagement that are fully in line with applicable human rights norms and standards. Any allegation of unlawful killings must be thoroughly and independently investigated and those responsible

held to account.

“Pervasive impunity for such crimes has been commonplace for far too long in the occupied West Bank. Such impunity has created an enabling environment for more and more unlawful killings by the ISF. International law must be respected and enforced, and accountability must be ensured.”

The two boys killed at the weekend were shot at a distance of about 70 metres while running away after throwing stones and/or Molotov cocktails towards a military post outside a settlement near Aqabat Jaber, CCTV footage shows.

The ISF has often used lethal force as a first resort against Palestinian protesters throwing stones, incendiary bottles, and firecrackers at ISF armoured vehicles, in cases where those shot clearly did not represent an imminent threat to life. The prevalence of Palestinians who died after being shot in the upper part of the body, along with a pattern of the denial of medical assistance to those injured, suggests intent to kill in violation of the right to life, rather than a graduated application of force and an attempt to de-escalate tense situations.

“Fatality verification and in-depth monitoring of over 80 cases by the UN Human Rights Office indicates consistent violations of international human rights law on the use of force by the ISF through unnecessary and disproportionate use of lethal force and an increase in apparently planned targeted killings,” said Türk. “They also show the systematic denial or delaying of medical assistance to those critically injured.

“The violence by the ISF and Israeli settlers, against the backdrop of the scale of killing and destruction continuing in Gaza, have instilled fear and insecurity among Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.”

The killing of Palestinians by the ISF, which had already reached a record high in the first nine months of 2023, rose sharply after the horrific attacks by Palestinian armed groups on Israel last October. Since the start of 2024, almost 200 Palestinians have been killed by the ISF, compared with 113 and 50 killed in the same periods in 2023 and 2022 respectively.

Since 7 October, despite the absence of armed hostilities in the occupied West Bank, the ISF has carried out at least 29 militarised operations, involving airstrikes by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) or planes and the firing of ground-to-ground missiles on refugee camps and other densely populated areas. During these operations, 164 Palestinians have been killed, including 35 children.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/occupied-palestinian-territory-turk-condemns-over-500-west-bank-killings>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Keele University

**#ContestingIslamophobia: Representation and Appropriation in Mediated Activism**

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/research/ourresearch/humanities/mediacultureandcreativepractice/contestingislamophobia/contesting-islamophobia-online-2024-1.pdf>

### MDPI

**Prison Chaplaincy as A Microaggressive Environment for the Non-Religious**

<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/15/5/597>

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## 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>

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## 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>

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