



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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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

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Israel

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

David Cameron Yesterday I spoke with @SigridKaag regarding the devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Israel needs to meet the commitments made on aid and access, and Hamas needs to accept the deal on the table to bring an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people.

https://x.com/David_Cameron/status/1806381549828620570

UKinJerusalem Today, representatives of [Belgian, Danish, Irish, Mexican, Norwegian, and British flag icons] visited the Batan Al Hawa neighborhood in Silwan, East Jerusalem with @PeaceNow and @IrAmim. We were briefed by community members about ongoing discriminatory practices and the imminent threat of eviction.

<https://x.com/UKinJerusalem/status/1806347815871807614>

UKinJerusalem There are currently 85 families, numbering over 700 Palestinians, facing eviction from the neighborhood. We want to express our solidarity with the families concerned and call upon the Israeli authorities to uphold international law.

<https://x.com/UKinJerusalem/status/1806347819105575275>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Christine Grahame (SNP) [S6M-13818] **Crisis in Gaza** – That the Parliament notes with concern the ongoing crisis in Gaza, where, according to Oxfam, at least 37,658

Palestinians have been killed since October 2023, in addition to 86,237 people injured, and more than 10,000 people missing, presumably under rubble and awaiting recovery; understands that, of those missing, Save the Children has said that thousands of them are believed to be children, and has stated that "it is nearly impossible to collect and verify information under the current conditions in Gaza but at least 17,000 children are believed to be unaccompanied and separated and approximately 4,000 children are likely missing under the rubble, with an unknown number also in mass graves"; further understands that, in addition, at least 1,512 Israelis and foreign nationals, including 312 soldiers, have been killed in Israel, the vast majority on 7 October 2023, with an estimated 120 Israelis and foreign nationals remaining captive in Gaza, including fatalities whose bodies are being withheld; considers that the eight months of relentless violence in Gaza has led to a grave humanitarian situation, with figures released by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification showing that 96% of the population of Gaza is facing acute food shortages, and more than 495,000 people, including children, are facing starvation due to an extreme lack of food, in addition to risks of epidemic, injury and disease; further considers that this situation represents a human tragedy of unimaginable scale, and calls on the international community, including the UK Government, to do more to de-escalate the conflict and to urgently assist with the humanitarian crisis facing the people of Gaza.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-13818>

International Criminal Court

Request by the United Kingdom for Leave to Submit Written Observations Pursuant to Rule 103

Note that this document was originally classified as "secret" but at the request of the United Kingdom, it has now been reclassified as "public" and published.

... 1. On 5 February 2021, in the course of its ruling on territorial jurisdiction in the situation in Palestine, the majority of Pre-Trial Chamber I did not determine the jurisdictional issues relating to the Oslo Accords ... instead holding that "[w]hen the Prosecutor submits an application for the issuance of a warrant of arrest or summons to appear under article 58 of the Statute, or if a State or a suspect submits a challenge under article 19(2) of the Statute, the Chamber will be in a position to examine further questions of jurisdiction which may arise at that point in time" ...

2. The Prosecutor has now submitted applications for the issuance of warrants of arrest under article 58 of the Statute, including in relation to Israeli nationals which would be directly affected by the outstanding Oslo Accords issue.

3. In accordance with the Jurisdiction Decision, and pursuant to Articles 19(1) and 58 of the Statute, the outstanding further questions of jurisdiction must now be addressed in determining the application for arrest warrants. The United Kingdom seeks leave pursuant to Rule 103 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence ... to submit written observations to assist Pre-Trial Chamber I in examining these further questions of jurisdiction, specifically regarding the effect of the Oslo Accords on the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court ...

To read the Request in full see

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/RelatedRecords/0902ebd180892e1f.pdf>

The [Rome] Statute, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf>

The Rules of Procedure and Evidence referred to above can be read at

https://legal.un.org/icc/asp/1stsession/report/english/part_ii_a_e.pdf

Public redacted version of ‘Order deciding on the United Kingdom’s request to provide observations pursuant to Rule 103(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, and setting deadlines for any other requests for leave to file amicus curiae observations’

... 1. On 10 June 2024, the United Kingdom filed a request to provide written amicus curiae observations on ‘[w]hether the Court can exercise jurisdiction over Israeli nationals, in circumstances where Palestine cannot exercise criminal jurisdiction over Israeli nationals pursuant to the Oslo Accords.’ ...

5. Given the potential relevance of the issue the United Kingdom wishes to address for the Chamber’s assessment, and without prejudice to any future decision by the Chamber on this matter, the Chamber considers it appropriate to authorise the United Kingdom to file written observations ... by 12 July 2024.

6. Whilst the following must not be understood as an open call by the Chamber for amicus curiae submissions, the Chamber acknowledges that the Request, and the Chamber’s decision to grant the United Kingdom leave to file observations, may result in other requests to submit observations. ... any such requests ... must also be received by 12 July 2024.

To read the Order in full see

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/0902ebd1808bb469.pdf>

United Nations

Security Council Extends Mandate of United Nations Observer Force in Golan for Six Months, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2737 (2024)

The Security Council ... extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan for six months until 31 December and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Force has the required capacity and resources to fulfil its mandate “in a safe and secure way”. ... the 15-member organ also stressed that Israel and Syria are obliged to “scrupulously and fully respect” the terms of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement. ...

The Council also called all groups other than the Force to abandon all UNDOF positions and return the peacekeepers’ vehicles, weapons and other equipment. Further, it called on all parties to cooperate fully with UNDOF operations to ensure the Force’s freedom of movement, the security of the UN personnel carrying out their mandate, and unhindered and immediate access for them. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15748.doc.htm>

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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

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>

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill (closing date 16 August 2024)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult_view/

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill: Financial Memorandum (closing date 16 August 2024)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult_view/

Gaps in Equality Legislation [Northern Ireland] (closing date 6 September 2024)

<https://consult.nia-yourassembly.org.uk/committee-for-the-executive-office/gaps-in-equality-legislation-inquiry>

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