



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Israel

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

#### **Five outposts to be legalised in West Bank: FCDO statement**

The UK government gave a statement in response to Israel announcing that five outposts are to be legalised in the West Bank. ...

The UK strongly opposes the announcement that five outposts are to be legalised in the West Bank as well as further punitive measures against the Palestinian Authority.

Israel must halt its illegal settlement expansion and hold to account those responsible for extremist settler violence. We are clear that actions by Israel to weaken the Palestinian Authority must stop. We call for longer-term measures to be put in place to ensure continued correspondent banking relations and assurance that Israel will release frozen funds without delay.

The UK's priority is to bring the Gaza conflict to a sustainable end as quickly as possible and ensure a lasting peace in the Middle East, through an irreversible pathway towards a two-state solution.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/five-outposts-to-be-legalised-in-west-bank-fcdo-statement>

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#### **Diplomatic Missions condemn demolitions in South Hebron**

Representatives from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EU, Finland, France, Germany,

Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK made a joint visit to the village of Um al Kheir in South Hebron following a mass demolition operation on 26 June. This was the largest demolition operation in the West Bank since 7 October.

During their visit, diplomats witnessed the aftermath of the demolition of multiple properties and its distressing impact on the community. This included residential structures, the community centre and an electricity generator which had supplied power to the Um al Kheir community.

The delegation called on Israel to halt demolitions and confiscations in Um al Kheir or Khallet al-Taba which would be devastating for the local communities and could raise the risk of forcible transfer. The delegation also noted further demolitions had taken place in Beitillu, Silwan, At-Tur, Al Auja, and east of Jericho city, and called on Israel to halt further demolitions throughout Area C and East Jerusalem.

The delegation called on Israel to respect all its obligations under Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the prohibition on forcible transfer, and reiterated their opposition to illegal settlements, which fuel violence and impede the two-state solution.

The delegation called on Israel to halt demolitions and confiscations of Palestinian property in accordance with its obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian law. They also called on Israel to cease the policy of settlement construction and expansion, of designating land for exclusive Israeli use, and of denying Palestinian development. Failure to do so could risk violating international law, undermines a two-state solution and is a major impediment to peace and security.

In addition, the delegation reaffirmed their commitment to upholding Palestinian rights and assisting vulnerable populations in Area C, emphasising the need for Israel, as the occupying power, to ensure the safety of all Palestinian communities living in Area C.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/diplomatic-missions-condemn-demolitions-in-south-hebron>

*The Fourth Geneva Convention, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.33\\_GC-IV-EN.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf)

## United Nations

### **Press Conference by Security Council President on Programme of Work for July**

... Vassily A. Nebenzia (Russian Federation), who holds the 15-member organ's rotating presidency for the month, said "there is a high demand in the international community for a strategic discussion on the future security architecture beyond the horizon of the current crises". ...

"Obviously, the situation in Palestine will remain in the spotlight," he said ...

On Israel's "unabated attacks" in Gaza, he called for "a verifiable ceasefire" and expressed regret that the recently adopted resolution's "so-called three-point plan" is vague. Despite reassurances by the United States, Israel's representative announced after the adoption that they will not deal with Hamas. Yet, now they are blaming Hamas as if Israel has agreed to cooperate, he said, adding: "This ping pong continues, but nothing happens in reality." ...

**To read the full press release see**

[https://press.un.org/en/2024/240701\\_sc.doc.htm](https://press.un.org/en/2024/240701_sc.doc.htm)

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### **Gaza: 250,000 set to be displaced by new Khan Younis escalation**

"Chaos and panic" are spreading in southern Gaza where an estimated 250,000 people are set to be impacted by new Israeli military evacuation orders from Khan Younis in Gaza, UN humanitarians warned on Tuesday. ...

Only a few weeks ago, Khan Younis was deserted after intense Israeli bombardment damaged or destroyed homes and buildings, but families with few other options went there after Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) moved into Rafah at the beginning of May.

“It’s another devastating blow to the humanitarian response here, it’s another devastating blow to the people, the families on the ground. It seems that they’ve been forcibly displaced again and again,” said UNRWA Senior Communications Officer Louise Wateridge. ...

“How do parents decide where to go; where is there to go? Already by this morning, just to the middle Gaza area, along the coastal road, you can see the makeshift shelters right up to the shoreline, right up to the water coming in. It is absolutely packed with families who have already had to move.” ...

Despite a lack of fuel and safety, Ms. Wateridge insisted that the UN agency has continued to deliver water, food parcels, flour, nappies, mattresses, tarpaulins and healthcare.

“But it is becoming almost impossible for the UN to provide any kind of response due to the Israeli imposed siege and now further displacement orders that once again impact our access to the Kerem Shalom border crossing to receive aid”. ...

Gaza’s healthcare sector alone requires 80,000 litres of fuel every day to function but only 195,000 to 200,000 litres last arrived at the end of June; “since then, no fuel has entered Gaza” via Kerem Shalom, said Dr Hanan Balkhy, regional director for the Eastern Mediterranean. ...

“As a result, hospitals are once again short on fuel, risking disruption to critical services ... injured people are dying because ambulance services are facing delays due to shortage of fuel,” Dr Balkhy said, adding that a lack of gasoline and diesel were also affecting essential water and sanitation services such as water, delivery, sewage pumping and waste collection. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1151686>

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### **Tens of thousands displaced in new Gaza City escalation**

Ongoing heavy fighting in northern Gaza has now forced an estimated 84,000 people to flee eastern Gaza City in a matter of days, while also cutting off access to a key aid distribution hub, UN humanitarian said ...

The exodus from Gaza City’s eastern Shujaiya district follows days of reported intense bombardment by the Israeli military, whose tanks have been sighted “around 100” metres east of Salah El Din road, the main north-south axis.

“People in this area tell us about the looming famine, and how people are eating tree leaves or only have flour to survive on,” said the UN aid agency assisting Palestine refugees, UNRWA. ...

The violence has also prevented the agency from accessing its distribution centre in Gaza city’s Tuffah neighbourhood, “due to its proximity to the front line”.

Of the approximately 84,000 people currently displaced, some 10,600 have found shelter in a total of 27 locations including UNRWA schools, where pop-up health points are available and under increasing pressure to cope with demand.

Others are staying in government schools, buildings and open areas ...

To help those forcibly uprooted by the latest escalation in the conflict, sparked nine months ago by Hamas-led terror attacks and hostage-taking in multiple locations across southern Israel, the UN agency has already distributed water, food parcels and flour.

The distribution of nappies, mattresses and tarpaulins is also planned ...

... OCHA said ... that the Israeli authorities had facilitated fewer than half of the more than 100 planned humanitarian assistance missions, coordinated to reach northern Gaza this month.

“The rest were either impeded, denied access, or cancelled due to logistical, operational

or security reasons.”

OCHA also noted that a military operation in the area of al-Mawasi west of Khan Younis resulted in “scores of casualties” arriving at a nearby field hospital and the displacement of at least 5,000 people, according to partners on the ground. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1151651>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Institute for Jewish Policy Research

**Jewish voting intentions on the eve of the 2024 UK General Election**

[https://www.jpr.org.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Jewish%20voting%20intentions%20on%20eve%20of%202024%20UK%20General%20Election.Final\\_.pdf](https://www.jpr.org.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Jewish%20voting%20intentions%20on%20eve%20of%202024%20UK%20General%20Election.Final_.pdf)

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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

**\*\* closes in 9 days**

**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/](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/](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