



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

#### **UK endorses new guidelines for countering antisemitism**

On 17 July at the Argentina Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Buenos Aires, 36 countries endorsed new [Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism](#), including the UK.

The UK was one of several countries who provided examples of best practice which the US reflected in the guidelines.

Lord Pickles, the United Kingdom Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, said: Congratulations to Argentina and the US. I am delighted that the global guidelines were one of the first documents the UK's new government endorsed.

We need to learn from the IHRA non-legally binding definition that it is easy to adopt initiatives, but it is much harder to implement them. We must recognise the importance and protection of Jewish life. If we cannot protect our citizens, the state fails.

This is not just a responsibility for governments. Civil society has an important role to play, and these guidelines will be crucial in addressing the ongoing scourge of antisemitism.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-endorses-new-guidelines-for-countering-antisemitism>

### The Charity Commission

#### **Regulator refreshes meetings guidance for the Zoom era**

... The refreshed guidance emphasises the importance of complying with a charity's governing document when holding meetings.

The guidance stresses that trustees should make sure any rules around holding meetings are up to date and practical. This has become particularly important now that many charity meetings are held online.

This includes updating a charity's governing document to set out details such as how votes will be held at virtual meetings and whether all meetings will be virtual or hybrid.

It also recommends that charities that wish to hold virtual meetings have a policy that says how people can ask questions, join in the debate, and what would happen to the meeting

if there were technical problems.

The guidance covers all types of charities including membership charities, as well as different types of meetings, such as trustee meetings and Annual General Meetings. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulator-refreshes-meetings-guidance-for-the-zoom-era>

**Updated Guidance: Charity Meetings**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-meetings-cc48/charities-and-meetings>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

#### Israel and Gaza

*col 300* **The Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (David Lammy):** ... Last weekend, I visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, meeting leaders on both sides. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has also spoken to both Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas ... This has been a priority from day one because of the desperate situation in Gaza, and the serious risk of escalation in Lebanon in particular. I must be frank: Britain wants an immediate ceasefire. The fighting must stop. The hostages must be released. Much, much more aid must enter Gaza—Israel promised a “flood of aid” back in April, but imposes impossible and unacceptable restrictions—and there must be de-escalation on the Israeli-Lebanese border. ...

I have been discussing with partners the need for planning for what follows, on reconstruction, governance and security, and for reforming and empowering the Palestinian Authority, but President Biden presented his proposals nearly two months ago, so we in this new Government have not sought to cloak our position in qualifications or conditions. This horror must end now.

... I met the families of those murdered and taken hostage so cruelly by Hamas, now separated from their loved ones for so long. ... I also met Palestinians displaced by settlers. Settlement expansion and settler violence have reached record levels. The Israeli Government have seized more of the west bank in 2024 than in the past 20 years. That is completely unacceptable. This Government will challenge those who undermine a two-state solution.

Finally, I met aid workers from the United Nations agencies operating in Gaza. More aid workers have been killed in Gaza than in every other conflict globally combined this year. ... With journalists banned from entering, aid agencies are a vital source of information from the Gaza strip, and their reports are devastating: almost 40,000 killed, mothers so malnourished that they cannot produce milk for their babies, rivers of sewage in the streets, a surge in disease among children ... and looting ... I announced on my visit new funding for field hospitals run by UK-Med, which has treated more than 60,000 Gazans since the conflict began.

*col 301* Humanitarian aid is a moral necessity in the face of such a catastrophe ... UNRWA is absolutely central to those efforts; no other agency can deliver aid on the scale needed. ... I was appalled by the allegations that UNRWA staff were involved in the 7 October attacks, but the UN took those allegations seriously. ... Following Catherine Colonna's independent review, we are reassured that UNRWA is ensuring that it meets the highest

standards of neutrality and is strengthening its procedures, including on vetting. ...

I can confirm to the House that we are overturning the suspension of UNRWA funding. Britain will provide £21 million in new funds, with some directed at supporting the management reforms recommended by the Colonna review. ...

Our overarching goal is clear: a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, alongside a safe and secure Israel. There is no way out of this crisis without a route to both Palestinians and Israelis enjoying security, justice and opportunity in lands that they can call their own. ...

Our commitment to international law is clear, and we are following the necessary processes. As soon as I took office, I tasked officials with a comprehensive review of Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law, and that process is now under way. ...

There are those in this House who, like me, represent constituents who are convinced that the world does not understand Israel's predicament. To them I say that Israel is in a tough neighbourhood and is threatened by those who want it annihilated. There is no equivalence between Israel's democratic Government and Hamas, a terrorist organisation responsible for an act of barbarism on 7 October that sought to kill countless Israelis and provoke wider conflict with Palestinians. I fully supported the UK's role in defending Israel when Iran launched its unprecedented attack, and I utterly condemn the Houthi attack on Tel Aviv overnight.

*col 302* There are also those who, like me, represent constituents who are convinced that the world does not understand the depth of Palestinian suffering. To them I say that civilians in Gaza are trapped in hell on earth. The Palestinian people have been in purgatory for decades, and have been denied the state that is their inalienable right. ...

**Alicia Kearns (Conservative):** ... Israel did suffer an appalling terrorist attack—the deadliest in its history. As we said from the outset, Israel has the right to defend itself in accordance with international humanitarian law, and we must remove Hamas's capacity to launch attacks against Israel.

As the right hon. Gentleman rightly set out, the situation in Gaza is desperate. Too many Palestinian civilians have been killed. We continue to see strikes on humanitarian infrastructure and the humanitarian situation is unforgivable. The index on famine states that Gaza is now in just that: full famine. ... We need an immediate end to the fighting and to secure the release of the hostages, whose families continue to suffer unbearable torment on a daily basis ...

*col 303* ... has the Foreign Secretary secured any reassurances to increase the number of trucks going into Gaza? Seventy-odd a day is just not enough. ... The right hon. Gentleman announced today the return of funding to UNRWA. Can he please advise the House on the timeline for that, and provide assurances that taxpayers' funding will be directed with due regard?

Only an end to the fighting will enable a significant scaling up of humanitarian aid. The right hon. Gentleman rightly stated that Biden set forward a proposal backed by Israel and the UN Security Council to end the hostilities. What action is he taking to move that proposal forward? Can he also provide us with any reassurances he has secured in his meetings with Netanyahu? He rightly raised the case of extremist settlers ... Can he assure us that he raised this issue with the Israeli Government, and whether more sanctions will be forthcoming? ...

... can I please ask whether his Department assesses any change in Iranian intent, activities or funding following the sham election of the Iranian President? When they sat on the Opposition Benches, both the right hon. Gentleman and the now Home Secretary were crystal clear that, were they in government, they would proscribe the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, so can we please now have the timing for this proscription? ...

**David Lammy:** ... The hon. Member asked me about the safety of the hostages. That is of primary concern. .... They remain paramount in the Government's mind

as we head, I hope, towards the ceasefire that we all want.

*col/ 304* The hon. Member was right to centre her remarks on the question of aid. Seventy trucks a day, when we know there should be 500, is not enough. ...

Let me reassure the hon. Member that we allocated an extra £5.5 million to support UK-Med in Gaza because those field sites are so important against a backdrop in which hospitals and medical facilities have been pummelled and bombed into the ground. She is right to focus on the Biden plan, which we would like to see adopted in the next few days. ...

There is a sticking point with prisoner release as well as with hostage release: what happens on the day after? Israel's security is paramount. Hamas cannot remain in charge of Gaza. But equally, the Israel Defence Forces cannot remain situated in Gaza. ...

The hon. Member is right to raise the terrible situation on the west bank. It was important for me to meet the new Prime Minister on the west bank to discuss the finances that have been withdrawn and the febrile situation we saw against a backdrop of an unbelievable expansion, which breaches international law ...

On the role that Iran plays in sponsoring Hamas, sponsoring Hezbollah and engaging in malign activity, we keep a close eye. ...

**Sharon Hodgson (Labour):** ... What discussions has [the Minister] had on a deal to secure the release of the hostages? Can he inform the House of the welfare of the remaining hostages?

**David Lammy:** It has now been many months indeed, and it is sadly possible that some of the hostages are no longer alive ... I have spoken to hostage families, aware that, in this case, their sons may no longer be with us. Of course, like any parent, they want the body returned. ...

*col/ 305* **Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat):** ... The situation in Gaza is, frankly, soul shattering. It has been nearly 300 days, and the death toll stands at 38,000, with the vast majority of those killed being women and children. Only three days ago, 22 people lost their lives in a strike on a UN-run school—the fifth attack on or near a school in the last eight days. Those who survive the bombings are at severe risk of disease and malnutrition, against the backdrop of a medical system that has been completely decimated. I warmly welcome the restoration of funding to UNRWA as a backbone of Gazan society, but the number of deaths will only increase exponentially now that polio has been found—*The Lancet* estimates that the number might reach 186,000.

This has to end now. We need an immediate ceasefire, but we also need the hostages out and the aid in. It is also right that we should start thinking about not just the next day, but how we stop this ever happening again. There is only one viable answer, which is a two-state solution. ...

I have to express disappointment that the Foreign Secretary refuses to pull the lever that would best signify our commitment to a two-state solution, which is to recognise the Palestinian state on 1967 borders. Ireland, Spain and Norway did it in May. Will he consider it? If not, why not? ...

The ICC has issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant and Hamas leaders, but there is confusion about the Foreign Secretary's position on the block. Will he clarify that for the House today? ...

**David Lammy:** ... We are all reminded of her family's plight in Gaza ... I welcome her support for restoring funding to UNRWA. Many of our allies made that decision months ago, back in April and May, and I am sorry that it has taken a change of Government to look at it clearly and reach this point. ...

There is no confusion on this party's position on Palestinian recognition. We are committed to Palestinian recognition. We hope to work with partners to achieve that, when the circumstances are right. ...

*col/ 306* The hon. Lady is right that the chief prosecutor at the ICC has made his

intention clear in relation to arrest warrants, but she will know that there are further hearings to determine whether they will actually be issued. ...

**Paul Waugh (Labour Co-op):** ... Many of my constituents ... feel deeply appalled by the ongoing deaths and suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza, but they are also deeply appalled by the rising tide of settler violence and expansion in the west bank. ...

**David Lammy:** ... We are clear that the International Criminal Court is the primary international institution for investigating and prosecuting the most serious international crimes. We fully respect the rules-based order and the ICC's independence and impartiality. ...

**Richard Holden (Conservative):** ... I am concerned by the Government's decision to resume funding to UNRWA. UNRWA schools have been repeatedly used by terrorists both to store weapons and to launch attacks, and over 100 UNRWA staff have had links to terrorist groups in the region. Is the right hon. Gentleman able to give UK taxpayers an unequivocal assurance that Hamas have no links to UNRWA in Gaza?

**David Lammy:** I had the pleasure of meeting Catherine Colonna in her role as the Foreign Secretary of France. She is a woman of tremendous capability and integrity. She looked at these issues in depth, she reported and all our allies have continued to fund UNRWA. ... In finding the money available for UNRWA and restoring its funding, I have also ensured that there is £1 million of funding to support the implementation of those recommendations.

*col 307* **Andy Slaughter (Labour):** ... When will [the Minister] publish the Government's assessment of whether any party has breached international law since 7 October and what the consequences of any such breaches should be?

**David Lammy:** ... this is a quasi-legal process ... I will consider those assessments when they are made available to me. I instigated a process on my first day in office. ...

**Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat):** ... I welcome the decision to restore UNRWA funding and the overall change of tone from his predecessors on this issue. The Liberal Democrats have long called for arms sales to Israel to be suspended while there are questions over its human rights record. As shadow Foreign Secretary, [the Minister] called on the Conservative Government to publish the legal advice that they had received on this matter. Will he commit to doing so now?

**David Lammy:** ... I will seek to make my decision with full accountability and transparency.

**Melanie Ward (Labour):** I welcome the Foreign Secretary's announcement on UNRWA ... we must be careful about believing any misinformation about its work. ...

Does the Foreign Secretary agree that, as well as an immediate and lasting ceasefire, accountability is essential in upholding international law, and that the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice are doing vital work on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories that must be supported and acted on? ...

*col 308* **David Lammy:** ... My hon. Friend makes an important statement about the independence of the work of the ICC and the ICJ. I believe in the separation of powers ... It is for judges and the judiciary to have the time to reflect and make their considerations and for politicians to step back and respect them in that process. ...

**Ellie Chowns (Green):** I welcome ... in particular the emphasis on the need for an immediate ceasefire, for the immediate release of all hostages and for a stop to settler violence and expansion in the west bank. I welcome the resumption of funding to UNRWA. I add my voice to the calls that a couple of hon. Members have made for the Foreign Secretary to commit to publishing the comprehensive review of Israel's compliance or non-compliance with international humanitarian law, as soon as officials have completed it. In the meantime, will he apply the precautionary principle and act to stop all UK arms exports to Israel, given the already widespread evidence of considerable breaches of international law?



**David Lammy:** ... this is one of the toughest neighbourhoods in the world. Israel is surrounded by people who would see its annihilation—it is being attacked by the Houthis, Hezbollah are firing missiles and Hamas want to wipe it off the map. For those reasons, it would not be right to have a blanket ban between our countries and Israel; what is right is for me to consider in the normal way the issues in relation to offensive weapons in Gaza, following the quasi-judicial process that I have outlined.

**Matt Western (Labour):** ... The restoration of funding to UNRWA is long overdue; as we have heard, many other nations did this many months ago. ...

My right hon. Friend may be aware of the Oxfam report showing that the IDF has almost systematically weaponised water in Gaza; there has been a 94% reduction in the water supply, to just five litres per person per day. ... What does he believe the UK can do to assist the restoration of the water supply in Gaza?

*col 309* **David Lammy:** ... He is right to mention the importance of water. I think it is now half a million people who are at category 5—the definition that constitutes starvation and famine—and in large part that is due to there being no access to clean water. He knows of the scenes of sewage getting into the system. The lack of clean water is a desperate situation. In the end, what we need is a ceasefire, because only with a ceasefire can reconstruction work begin.

**Barry Gardiner (Labour):** My right hon. Friend ... spoke of the Government's needing to make an assessment of Israeli compliance with international humanitarian law in Gaza, but the question then arises: after that assessment has been made, what is going to happen? He said in his statement that the horror must end now, and indeed it must, but he has just explained ... that to cease supplying arms to Israel would cause, as he sees it, a greater problem. What is the leverage that he has? ...

**David Lammy:** ... for nine months, Foreign Secretaries have stood at this Dispatch Box and said that the aid must get in and that we must follow international humanitarian law—and now, months later ... there are still serious concerns about international humanitarian law and the aid has simply not got in in the quantities needed. He shares my frustration, and it was frustration indeed that I shared with leaders in Israel. ...

**Emily Darlington (Labour):** ... I congratulate ... and thank him for the restoration of funding to UNRWA. ... Does he agree that the solutions in the Israel-Palestine conflict are not necessarily solutions here in Parliament, but solutions that we will have to work with our international partners to build?

*col 310* **David Lammy:** ... emphasis on the partnerships that we have to strike with allies across the world is essential if we are to see the change that we need, particularly in Gaza but also in the Occupied Territories.

**Gregor Poynton (Labour):** ... Does the Secretary of State agree that there is no peace without a two-state solution, and that opposing a two-state solution is wrong for both Israelis and the Palestinian people?

**David Lammy:** ... The vote by the Knesset yesterday was hugely disappointing. We believe passionately in two states. I say to those who reject two states, "If you are a proponent of one state, you have to explain how everyone enjoys equality under the law. And if you are a proponent of no state, you are effectively suggesting that occupation continues." That is unacceptable ...

**Florence Eshalomi (Labour Co-op):** ... I welcome [the] statement outlining the restoration of UNRWA funding ... We met many aid organisations throughout the last Parliament, including Islamic Relief, which is based in my constituency, who told me, two days after 7 October, the harrowing story of losing contact with all their staff on the ground. We know that blockades and restrictions are key issues, so will he outline how they will be lifted so that urgent aid can get to the people who need it?

**David Lammy:** ... I pay tribute to Islamic Relief for its work. One issue is that Rafah

is now closed, and it needs to reopen. Another issue is not just the trucks getting across but the distribution once they are there. Very sadly, the picture that is now being painted is one of lawlessness in Gaza: widespread looting from the trucks that get across, and, very sadly, a driver losing his life yesterday. ...

**col 311 Andrew Pakes (Labour):** I welcome ... the restoration of funding to UNRWA.... I know that [the Minister] will share the House's revulsion at the ongoing horror faced by hostages, their families and the innocent civilians in Gaza facing this enduring crisis. ... What message would he send ... to say that ... we have a new approach to deal with the immediate crisis and achieve the recognition of Palestine?

**David Lammy:** ... We are absolutely committed to the two-state solution. The global community has, for too many years, talked about it but not acted, and I recognise that there is now almost tremendous cynicism when that phrase is used, but there is no way out of this crisis without a plan for afterwards. That plan must, of course, guarantee the security of Israel, but the Palestinian cause is a just cause, and we must work with Arab partners and build up the Palestinian Authority. ...

**John Singer (Labour):** ... Does he agree that the UK's extensive, long-standing diplomatic, economic, cultural and defence ties with the Gulf Arab and other middle eastern Governments mean that we are better placed to bring our influence to bear and work in co-operation with our international partners, in order to achieve a two-state solution that ensures a safe and secure Israel and a viable, sovereign and—one day, we hope—prosperous Palestinian state? ...

**David Lammy:** ... That is why in opposition, I spent so much time with partners in the region ... All of them want to be engaged, want peace and want to move towards a process of normalisation, but they are all crystal clear that that cannot happen by ignoring the plight of the Palestinian people, or without setting up a road map to two states. ...

**col 312 Laurence Turner (Labour):** I ... strongly welcome the decision announced today to restore funding for UNRWA ... The Israeli Government's decision to end the legal routes for Palestinians to work in Israel has played an important role in the entrenchment of poverty and political instability in the west bank, alongside the illegal settlements programme. Will the Foreign Secretary make representations on this important matter, recognising that both the Israeli Histadrut and the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions, as pillars of civil society in both nations, have an important role to play in the establishment of a lasting peace?

**David Lammy:** ... The situation [on the west bank] is febrile—it is anxious. There is tremendous hardship because of the withdrawal of those funds. It is phenomenally tense, and against that backdrop, people are watching their land being taken from them before their eyes. ...

**Dan Tomlinson (Labour):** ... I ask [the Minister] to commit to do everything he can to ensure those hostages are released immediately.

**David Lammy:** I welcome my hon. Friend and north London colleague to his seat. He represents a part of the country with a significant Jewish population; in my own constituency, I am very proud of the Stamford Hill area of Tottenham, which is also a historic home of the Jewish population. They are hugely concerned about the plight of hostages, and they worry that the discussion about hostages has fallen off the lips of so many people. They worry that the horrors of 7 October have been forgotten against the backdrop of this unfolding crisis and this war, and I want to reassure them and my hon. Friend that they have not been forgotten. The British Government—and this is a cross-party issue—are working very closely with the Israelis and others to see the hostages released.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-19/debates/CEEB9B68-0D16-45BD-85E3-AA2F02F415DE/IsraelAndGaza>

The Colonna Review, referred to above by David Lammy, can be read at [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024/04/unrwa\\_independent\\_review\\_on\\_neutrality.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2024/04/unrwa_independent_review_on_neutrality.pdf)

The report referred to above by Matt Western can be read at <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/10546/621609/1/bp-water-war-crimes-180724-en.pdf>

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**David Lammy** The humanitarian situation in Gaza is devastating. No other agency but @UNRWA can get aid in at the scale needed. The Conservative government suspended funding to @UNRWA. Today, the Labour government is restoring it. [plus video] <https://x.com/DavidLammy/status/1814335272316006502>

**Anneliese Dodds** Only UNRWA can deliver aid at the scale desperately needed in Gaza. That's why the UK is lifting the pause on UNRWA funding with immediate effect. Today I met @UNLazzarini to discuss this lifesaving decision and offer condolences for the 197 UNRWA staff who have been killed. [plus photos] <https://x.com/AnnelieseDodds/status/1814276203924103214>

## International Court of Justice

### Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

#### Press Release

... It is recalled that, on 30 December 2022, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution A/RES/77/247 in which ... it requested the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on the following questions:

“(a) What are the legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, from its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of related discriminatory legislation and measures?”

(b) How do the policies and practices of Israel referred to above affect the legal status of the occupation, and what are the legal consequences that arise for all States and the United Nations from this status?”

In its Advisory Opinion, the Court responds to the questions posed by the General Assembly by concluding that:

- the State of Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful;
- the State of Israel is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible;
- the State of Israel is under an obligation to cease immediately all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
- the State of Israel has the obligation to make reparation for the damage caused to all the natural or legal persons concerned in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
- all States are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the continued



- presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
- international organizations, including the United Nations, are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and
  - the United Nations, and especially the General Assembly, which requested the opinion, and the Security Council, should consider the precise modalities and further action required to bring to an end as rapidly as possible the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-pre-01-00-en.pdf>

*The resolution referred to above can be read at*

<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/77/247>

### **Advisory Opinion**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>

### **Summary of Advisory Opinion**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-sum-01-00-en.pdf>

### **Declaration of President Salam**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-01-en.pdf>

### **Dissenting Opinion of Vice-President Sebutinde**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-02-en.pdf>

### **Declaration of Judge Tomka**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-03-en.pdf>

### **Joint Opinion of Judges Tomka, Abraham and Aurescu**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-04-en.pdf>

### **Separate Opinion of Judge Yusuf**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-05-en.pdf>

### **Declaration of Judge Xue**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-06-en.pdf>

### **Separate Opinion of Judge Iwasawa**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-07-en.pdf>

### **Separate Opinion of Judge Nolte**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-08-en.pdf>

### **Joint Declaration of Judges Nolte and Cleveland**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-09-en.pdf>

### **Declaration of Judge Charlesworth**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-10-en.pdf>

### **Déclaration de M. le Juge Brant (only available in French)**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-11-fr.pdf>

**Opinion Individuelle de M. le Juge Gómez Robledo** (only available in French)

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-12-fr.pdf>

**Separate Opinion of Judge Cleveland**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-13-en.pdf>

**Declaration of Judge Tladi**

<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-14-en.pdf>

**Video of the Court's presentation of the Advisory Opinion**

<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k13/k136ri1smc>

## United Nations

### **Secretary-General Transmitting to General Assembly International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion on Israel's Policies, Practices in Occupied Palestinian Territory**

The International Court of Justice has delivered today its Advisory Opinion in the proceedings concerning Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The Secretary-General will promptly transmit the Advisory Opinion to the General Assembly, which had requested the Court's advice. It is for the General Assembly to decide how to proceed in this matter.

The Secretary-General reiterates that the parties must re-engage on the long-delayed political path towards ending the occupation and resolving the conflict in line with international law, relevant UN resolutions and bilateral agreements. The only viable path is the vision of two States — Israel and a fully independent, democratic, contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian State — living side by side in peace and security within secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

The Secretary-General reiterates his urgent call for a humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages held in Gaza.

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sgsm22312.doc.htm>

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### **Gaza: What human rights mean to displaced youth: Ajith Sunghay, Director of OHCHR in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and students in Deir El-Balah, in central Gaza, talk about human rights.**

... "We want to show solidarity with them, support them, work with them and see how we can strengthen our relationship," [Ajith Sunghay] told *UN News*. ...

At the outset, Mr. Sunghay asked the students how well they understood human rights. ...

"Everyone has a right," one student said.

"My right to go to school or university," another stated, referring to the right to education.

Still another indicated "the right to live in a safe place," meaning the right to life. ...

Mr. Sunghay explained the two main objectives for his visit to the enclave.

"First and foremost, I came to see how we can increase the protection of people," he said.

"It is not easy. ... We are all trying to see how we can protect civilians. And that includes all of you as well." ...

"But, I am also here to see and assess the human rights situation and more importantly, to meet people and understand the challenges and difficulties they face and the human rights violations that are taking place in Gaza and to engage with civil society, which is the

backbone of our response.” ...

Another girl asked whether children in Gaza had the same rights as children in other parts of the world.

“Of course, you have rights in these agreements on paper and then comes the implementation,” the UN official replied. “You’re right, there are a lot of contradictions around the world. ...

“But, we cannot give up and that is why we continue to fight with civil society, governments and UN institutions. ... Yes, we are all equal and should be treated as such. Yes, there are implementation problems, and we need governments to work with us. ...

As the dialogue continued, another girl asked about the right to return to her home.

He said they have the right to live in a safe place, the right to housing, the right to shelter, the right to life.

“We have a long way to go to achieve all rights, and we cannot give up on that,” he continued. ...

Tala Al-Khatib, a 13-year-old displaced from Jabalia camp in northern Gaza Strip, said she wanted to convey her message “to all the bad people who wanted to occupy our city, Gaza”.

“They killed thousands of children and orphaned thousands more,” she said. “They killed men and made women widows. Where is our right to live in peace and security? Where is freedom for us, the children who live in fear of the occupation? We want our full rights.” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152341>

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### **A look into the lives of Palestine refugees in Lebanon awaiting a solution to their plight**

The Al Biddawi camp for Palestine refugees was established in 1955 to host many of those who had been forcibly displaced from the Upper Galilee and northern coastal cities during what is known as the Palestinian [Nakba](#), or catastrophe in Arabic.

Since then, the camp’s population has ballooned as violence continued to haunt the stateless population, from the Lebanese civil war to the conflict in Syria, which resulted in a flood of Syrian and Palestinian refugees across the border into the tiny Mediterranean country. ...

As is the case with many of the deprived neighbourhoods surrounding the camp, work has become scarce for its population following the economic crisis that has engulfed Lebanon since late 2019, and even those who do work are barely making ends meet. ...

Ahmad is an unemployed father of eight who suffers from several chronic illnesses. ...

Ahmad said he often can’t find anyone to lend him money until some relief comes from UNRWA’s cash assistance. The agency provides him with \$50 per child under 18 years of age every 12 weeks, and even this amount had recently been reduced to \$30 due to budgetary issues before more funding was made available. ...

Ahmad’s kitchen has nothing but empty water bottles and a bag of bread. ...

UNRWA is doing what it can to support the Palestinian population in the Al Biddawi camp and across the entire region ... The UN agency has taken over the vast majority of civil affairs, offering education, health, protection and social services while security and governance in the camp are the responsibility of committees and Palestinian factions. ...

... Dr. Husam Ghuniem, UNRWA’s chief of health in northern Lebanon ... explained ... “If UNRWA disappeared tomorrow, there would be a catastrophe in this camp because we don’t have any other humanitarian actor that can and does provide the level of assistance that UNRWA is providing,” ...

In addition to services provided at the centre, Dr. Ghuniem explained that UNRWA has contracts with seven Lebanese Government and private hospitals as well as the

Palestinian Red Crescent Hospital through which it covers the majority of secondary and tertiary care expenses that can be extremely costly in Lebanon. ...

Dr. Ghuniem stressed that the question of Palestine refugees is what perpetuates the need for UNRWA to exist. ... "As long as there is a question of Palestinian refugees, UNRWA has to exist in parallel," he insisted. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152306>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **Gaza: Killing of Hind Rajab and her family – a war crime too many, warn experts**

The killing of five-year old [Hind Rajab](#), her family and two paramedics may amount to a war crime, independent experts warned today, denouncing Israeli claims that its troops were not in the area at the time as "unacceptable."

They urged an immediate halt to the attacks against the civilian population in Gaza, which have already killed more than 38,000 Palestinians, including 13,000 children, warning that the systemic nature of the attacks may amount to a crime against humanity.

"The absence of proper investigation and accountability, more than five months after the tragic killing of Hind and six other members of her family trapped in a car which came under Israeli fire in Gaza is deeply troubling and may in itself amount to a violation of the right to life," the experts said.

Two paramedics from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society were also killed when their ambulance came under Israeli fire while attempting to save Hind's family. ...

Recent forensic analysis of the crime scene offers compelling evidence about the location of the family's car stranded in the line of sight of an Israeli tank and how it was shot at from very close range using a type of weapon that can only be attributed to the Israeli forces.

"The brutality of these killings seem to illustrate how reckless the army has been in its Gaza campaign: all instances of extrajudicial killing must be duly investigated and accounted for," the experts said. ...

"They were shot dead while fleeing the neighbourhood of Tal Al-Hawa seeking safety, in what seems to be part of a broader pattern of indiscriminate killings of civilians attempting to find shelter and escape the fighting in Gaza upon so-called 'evacuation' orders by the Israeli military." ...

"The wilful or indiscriminate killing of protected persons, including civilians, medical personnel and humanitarian workers, amount to war crimes, and if systematic, crimes against humanity, and should be prevented at all costs," the experts warned. "We remain deeply troubled by the total impunity and apparent lack of investigations, and prevention of these crimes. This is all the more worrisome in the context of the recent order from the International Court of Justice for Israel to take immediate measures to protect Gaza's population from the risk of genocide," the experts said. ...

Renewing calls for an immediate end to the bloodshed and grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the unconditional release of all hostages, the experts urged the international community to ensure accountability for those responsible and protection and urgent assistance for the population in Gaza.

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/gaza-killing-hind-rajab-and-her-family-war-crime-too-many-warn-experts>

**Water War Crimes: How Israel has Weaponised water in its military campaign in Gaza**

<https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/10546/621609/1/bp-water-war-crimes-180724-en.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

**Independent review into civil unrest in Leicester 2022** (closing date 5 August 2024)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/independent-review-into-civil-unrest-in-leicester-2022/independent-review-into-civil-unrest-in-leicester-2022>

**£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>



**Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2025-2028** (closing date  
3 October 2024)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/our-work/our-strategic-plan-consultation-2025-2028>

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