

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
SCoJeC

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Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-05601 Sandra White: Nakba Anniversary, 69 Years of Palestinian Displacement – That the Parliament notes that 2017 marks the 69th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, which is known by the Palestinian people as the "day of catastrophe", in which the state of Israel was formed after what it understands was the mass eviction over 750,000 people from historic Palestine land, which included the destruction of over 500 towns and villages; believes that this led to generations of pain for the Palestinian people, who continue to live under a state of occupation; understands that it led to a major crisis in which over four million displaced people were registered by the UN as refugees and unable to return home; condemns what it sees as the deepening of the crisis in the form of the illegal settlements, which are unrecognised by the international community; understands that these continue to be built in the occupied territories at a rate of five times that prior to the implementation of the Oslo Accords; believes that, on 15 May 2017, millions of people across Palestine and around the world will mark the anniversary of the Nakba with marches, rallies and vigils, and resolves to support the Palestinian people in the commemoration of Nakba and in seeking the resolution of the Palestinian humanitarian crisis and occupation.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-05601>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN Special Rapporteur on OPT calls on Israel to comply with international law on detention

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, today urged Israel to comply with international law and international standards for detention. ...

"I am particularly concerned with Israel's use of administrative detention, which involves imprisonment without charge, trial, conviction or meaningful due process, as well as the possibility of unrestricted renewal of their detention," the human rights expert said, highlighting that administrative detainees are imprisoned on secret evidence that neither they nor their lawyers can review or challenge.

"Israel's use of administrative detention is not in compliance with the extremely limited circumstances in which it is allowed under international humanitarian law, and deprives

detainees of basic legal safeguards guaranteed by international human rights law,” ...

The Special Rapporteur also noted that many of the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel are incarcerated in prisons within Israel, and not in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in contravention of International Humanitarian Law. ...

“Prisoners everywhere have a right to engage in hunger strikes to protest their living conditions, and they should not be punished as a result,” Mr. Lynk stressed. “Force-feeding is a practice that human rights experts have found could amount to torture.” ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21624&LangID=E>

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Other Relevant Information

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

New OSCE/ODIHR publication aimed at assisting governments in addressing security needs of Jewish communities

... Recent years have seen deadly anti-Semitic attacks in in Toulouse, Brussels, Paris, Copenhagen and elsewhere, as well as frequent non-lethal assaults, underscoring the urgent need for greater efforts to address anti-Semitism. ...

“Anti-Semitic incidents across the OSCE region in recent years have not only had a profoundly negative impact on the daily lives of Jewish individuals and communities and on their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, but have also created a widespread sense of fear and insecurity among them,” Michael Georg Link, ODIHR Director, said at the event. “This publication, in light of the urgent need for greater efforts to confront anti-Semitism, provides governments with effective measures and practices that can be implemented, in co-operation with Jewish communities, to better address their security needs, and thus remove this sense of fear and insecurity.” ...

“In 2013, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that almost two-thirds of the victims of physical violence motivated by anti-Semitism did not report the incident. This shows that we cannot solely rely on statistics to assess the scope of anti-Semitic threats in Europe,” said Petra Pau, Vice-President of the German Bundestag and a member of the Steering Committee of the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combatting Antisemitism. ...”

Gernot Erler, Bundestag Member and Special Representative of the German Federal Government for the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016, said: “Jewish communities are confronted with anti-Semitism, including hate crimes, on a daily basis. It is the primary responsibility of national governments to protect Jewish communities and their individuals. A starting point is the understanding of what anti-Semitism and hate crimes consist of and what they do to their victims. ...”

To read the full press release see

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/317256>

Understanding Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes and Addressing the Security Needs of Jewish Communities: A Practical Guide

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/317166?download=true>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Workplace Diversity (Wales) (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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