

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Human Rights Council holds general debate on High Commissioner's oral update

... Bahrain, speaking on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council, ... [said] Violations of the Israeli occupying force were condemned, in particular their attempt to change the status of the Great Mosque in Jerusalem. ...

Venezuela, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, ... [said] Human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories were condemned. Israel should bring an end to systematic violations of human rights. ...

Qatar highlighted the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israel's occupation. ...

Saudi Arabia stated that ... The Palestinian people deserved to live like any other people without occupation. Saudi Arabia therefore called on the international community to implement necessary measures to put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people and to stop Israel's conduct which was contrary to international law. ...

South Africa shared the concern expressed by other speakers on the question of the Palestinian people. Session after session, the Council received reports on the violations of international obligations by the State of Israel with absolute impunity. ...

Syria said that with respect to the occupation by the Israeli forces of Palestine, including East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, the residents there had fundamental rights which were being violated. The continuation of such practices was unacceptable ...

Israel said it was essential that the Human Rights Council addressed its chronic anti-Israel bias. The country mandate that targeted Israel and the whole item 7 was biased, discriminatory, partial and unfair. Israel was committed to the work of the Council, and had engaged with Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review process, as well as appearing before treaty bodies. ...

BADIL Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights said that Israel's belligerent occupation of the Palestinian territory was the longest occupation in history and pointed to the Israeli intent to permanently change the composition of the population in those territories, including through illegal and forced transfers of the population. The coercive behaviour of Israel left no choice to the Palestinians but to leave their homes. ...

United Nations Watch staunchly opposed the comparison of the Holocaust with the suffering of the Palestinian people by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. He failed to mention that the Government of Jordan had placed its military forces under the command of Egypt during the 1967 war against Israel. ...

To read the full press release see

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21697&LangID=E>

Amnesty International

States must ban Israeli settlement products to help end half a century of violations

... To mark the 50th anniversary of Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, the organization is launching a new campaign calling on states across the world to prohibit settlement goods from their markets and to prevent their companies from operating in settlements or trading in settlement goods.

"For decades, the world has stood by as Israel has destroyed Palestinians' homes and plundered their land and natural resources for profit. While the Palestinian economy has been stunted by 50 years of abusive policies, a thriving multimillion dollar settlement enterprise has been built out of the systematic oppression of the Palestinian population," said Salil Shetty, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

"Fifty years on, merely condemning Israel's settlement expansion is not enough. It's time for states to take concrete international action to stop the financing of settlements which themselves flagrantly violate international law and constitute war crimes."

Hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of goods produced in Israeli settlements built on occupied Palestinian land are exported internationally each year, despite the fact that the vast majority of states have officially condemned the settlements as illegal under international law. ...

Israel's policy of settling Israeli civilians on occupied Palestinian land has led to a myriad of human rights violations. ...

Israel has also unlawfully seized control of Palestinian natural resources, such as water, fertile land, stone quarries and minerals, and diverted these to benefit settlement industries ...

Across the West Bank, settlement infrastructure, including "settler-only" roads, have divided Palestinian towns and villages and have severely limited the ability of Palestinians to move around freely. Israel has also maintained an illegal air, sea and land blockade of the Gaza Strip for nearly 10 years, locking two million people into an area just under half the size of New York City. ...

"The world has seen the terrible toll of 50 years of ignoring gross violations and the relentless spread of illegal settlements. That's why it's crucial for states to take effective steps to end and redress these violations.

"They should start by imposing an international ban on settlement products, a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel and Palestinian armed groups and bring an end to impunity for decades of crimes, including through genuine investigations by the International Criminal Court. Palestinians must not be condemned to endure a further half century of oppression and injustice."

To read the full press release see

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/06/states-must-ban-israeli-settlement-products-to-help-end-half-a-century-of-violations-against-palestinians/>

Israel's Occupation: 50 years of dispossession

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/06/israel-occupation-50-years-of-dispossession/>

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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>

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