

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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House of Lords Written Answers

Mohammad Husam Abdul-Latif Habali

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12378] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the killing of Mohammad Husam Abdul-Latif Habali by Israeli forces in Tulkarem in the West Bank.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised this incident with the Israeli authorities on 10 December.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12378/>

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12379] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the actions of Israeli forces (1) entering Palestinian villages, refugee camps and towns during the night or early in the morning, and (2) responding to protests by using teargas and live ammunition.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about its conduct in its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We remain concerned about the manner in which the Israel Defence Forces police non-violent protests and the border areas, including use of live ammunition.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12379/>

Palestinians: Religious Buildings

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12380] To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they will give to the Palestinian National Authority to protect holy sites, including the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK's long standing position is that we support the Oslo Accords that set out a process for the gradual and incremental transfer of a range of responsibilities to the Palestinian Authority. We encourage Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan to do all they can to work together to avoid tensions and continue to uphold the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem and elsewhere. The Government attaches great importance to the holy sites and in the

case of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, I visited the mosque last year to both pay my respects, and also to establish how issues of access and maintenance were being addressed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12380/>

Gaza: Travel Restrictions

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12381] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the ability of Palestinian Christians in Gaza to visit Jerusalem for the Christmas celebrations.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have not specifically raised the issue of access for Palestinian Christians with the Israeli authorities. However the Government remains deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement between the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. It remains difficult for Palestinians of all religions, to enter East Jerusalem for work, education, medical treatment or religious worship. Through our Embassy in Tel Aviv, we regularly lobby the Israeli authorities on this matter and encourage them to ease access restrictions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12381/>

Palestinians: Vaccination

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12382] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they will make to the government of Israel about the supply of vaccines to Palestine.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly raise the urgent need to ease all access and movement restrictions on the occupied Palestinian Territories with Israeli authorities. The British Government supports a project that provides medical equipment and training to medical professionals in Gaza.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12382/>

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12383] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UN OCHA report Gaza Strip: early warning indicators—November 2018 about the potential for a humanitarian crisis in Gaza; and what steps they will take in response to the report.

Lord Bates: The UK remains deeply concerned about the situation in Gaza. The most recent UN OCHA report shows that whilst electricity supply has markedly increased, emergency fuel supplies for health, water and sanitation, and solid waste collection facilities remain critically low. Essential healthcare services remain stretched, and access to safe water and sufficient food continue to be daily challenges for many people in Gaza.

The UK is supporting hospitals and patients in Gaza through the International Committee of the Red Cross and addressing critical water and sanitation needs for 2 million people through UNICEF. This is in addition to our longstanding support to UNRWA. On 17 December 2018, the UK announced a further £5 million of emergency funding to UNRWA to provide food to 62,000 vulnerable refugees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12383/>

Israel: Gaza

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL12405] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of allegations of war crimes by the Israeli Defence Force in

Gaza, including reports of armed personnel posing as humanitarian aid workers; and what discussions they have had about such allegations with the government of Israel.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Whilst we have not made any assessment on this issue, we have repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about its

conduct in its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We regularly raise concerns about Gaza with the Israeli authorities and urge them to lift their restrictions in order to improve the humanitarian situation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-18/HL12405/>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/marriageact1949amendment.html>

Online Forums Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Palestinian Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/palestinianstatehoodrecognition.html>

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

**** closes in 5 days**

2021 Census: Outputs Strategy Consultation for Northern Ireland (closing date 9 January 2019)

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/dfp/2021-census-outputs-strategy-consultation-for-northern-ireland-document.pdf>

**** closes in 7 days**

Islamophobia (closing date 11 January 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/islamophobia-call-for-further-evidence-17-19/>

Connected communities – Tackling loneliness and social isolation (Wales)

(closing date 15 January 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/connected-communities-tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On (closing date 16 January 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/macpherson-report-twenty-years-on-inquiry-17-19/>

Extremism in England and Wales (closing date 31 January 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/extremism-in-england-and-wales-call-for-evidence>

Racial harassment in higher education (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

Draft guidance to challenge bullying in schools [Wales only] (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/draft-guidance-challenge-bullying-schools>

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22

(closing date 15 March 2019)

<http://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/ni-human-rights-commission-draft-strategic-plan-2019-2022-consultation>

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