



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Non-governmental Organisations: Gaza

Wayne David (Labour) [118512] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what written assurances her Department has given to international NGOs operating in Gaza that the proscription of Hamas as a terrorist organisation will not adversely affect their work.

Damian Hinds: Hamas' proscription was extended to cover the organisation in its entirety in November 2021. The US, Canada and the EU also designate the group in its entirety as a terrorist organisation.

The Government is confident that the UK's counter-terrorism framework, including the proscription power, does not prevent organisations from operating overseas. This includes international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) delivering legitimate humanitarian aid.

In October 2021, the Government published an updated Information Note, primarily for INGOs, on operating within counter-terrorism legislation, sanctions, and export controls. Ministers of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office have also met with INGOs to discuss Hamas' extended proscription.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-04/118512>

The Information Note referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/operating-within-counter-terrorism-legislation/for-information-note-operating-within-counter-terrorism-legislation>

Jerusalem: Palestinians

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [116069] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether the Government has taken steps in response to the case of the Palestinian Sumarin Family in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan.

James Cleverly: The UK Government raises the issue of demolitions, confiscations and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the Government of Israel.

Our British Embassy Tel Aviv did most recently with Israel's Ministry of Defence on 20 January and Ministry of Justice on 27 January. Such evictions cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; and, in all but the most exceptional of cases, are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-01/116069>

Karim Younes and Maher Younes

Steve McCabe (Labour) [111479] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Answer of 11 July 2017 to Question 3584 on Karim and Maher Younes, what representations the Government has made to the Palestinian Authority the naming of town squares in Jenin and Tulkarem after Karim Younes and Maher Younes respectively; and what assessment she has made of the impact of those representations on the decision not to rename those town squares.

Dalal Mughrabi and Omar Abu Laila

Steve McCabe (Labour) [111480] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Answer of 23 July 2019 to Question 277622 on Dalal Mughrabi and Omar Abu Laila, what representations the Government has made to the Palestinian Authority on the naming of youth summer camps after Dalal Moughrabi and Omar Abu Laila; and what assessment she has made of the impact of those representations on the decision not to rename those youth summer camps.

James Cleverly: Our partnership with the Palestinian Authority includes a commitment from the Palestinian leadership to adhere to the principle of non-violence and to tackle any language and actions that could incite violence or hatred. We continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to avoid engaging in, or encouraging, any type of action and language that makes it more difficult to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-25/111479>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-25/111480>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2017-07-06/3584>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2019-07-16/277622>

Amal Nakhleh

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [116903] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the reported deteriorating health condition of 18-year-old Amal Nakhleh who has been held in administrative detention by Israel since January 2021, if she will make representations to her Israeli counterpart to call for (a) the urgent provision of necessary healthcare for Amal's autoimmune disease and for the treatment of covid-19 and (b) his immediate release.

James Cleverly: Officials from the British Embassy Tel Aviv raised Amal Nakhleh's case with the Israeli Ministry of Justice on 27 January. We remain committed to encouraging the Government of Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding the treatment of detainees, including access to essential healthcare, and regularly raise this with the Israeli Ministry of Justice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-02/116903>

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Other Relevant Information

CST

Antisemitic Incidents Report 2021

CST's *Antisemitic Incidents Report 2021*, published today, shows 2,255 anti-Jewish hate incidents reported nationwide in 2021. This is the highest annual total that CST has ever recorded and is a 34% increase from the 1,684 antisemitic incidents reported in 2020. This is the first time CST has ever recorded over 2,000 incidents in a single year and is 24% higher than the previous record annual total of 1,813 incidents in 2019. The UK has seen record annual totals for antisemitic incidents in five of the past six years. ...

A further 752 reports of potential incidents were received by CST in 2021 but were not deemed to be antisemitic and are not included in this total of 2,255 antisemitic incidents. Many of these 752 potential incidents involved suspicious activity or possible hostile reconnaissance at Jewish locations; criminal activity affecting Jewish people and buildings; and anti-Israel activity that did not contain antisemitic language, motivation or targeting. ... The record figure of 2,255 antisemitic incidents in 2021 is driven by the significant spike in anti-Jewish hate reported during and following the escalation in violence in Israel and Gaza last year. In May 2021, the month when the conflict in the region intensified, CST recorded a record 661 antisemitic incidents, and in June CST recorded the fifth-highest ever monthly total of 210 incidents. ...

Over a third of all antisemitic incidents in 2021 ... alluded or were related to Israel and the Middle East, evidenced anti-Zionist motivation alongside anti-Jewish language, targeting or motivation, or combined a mixture of these elements. There were 502 incidents in which offenders used far right or Nazi-related discourse, including 90 instances of 'Holocaust celebration', in which perpetrators celebrated the Nazi genocide of the Jewish people or expressed a wish for it to happen again. There were 62 incidents in which a direct comparison was made between Israel and Nazi Germany, while the terms "Zionism" or "Zionist" were employed in 103, often as euphemisms for "Jewishness" and "Jew". Explicit calls for the destruction of the State of Israel, or any idea of a Jewish nation, were made in 120 antisemitic incidents, alongside explicitly anti-Jewish comments or abuse aimed at unsuspecting Jewish people. Forty-nine antisemitic incidents recorded by CST in 2021 contained discourse relating to Islam and Muslims (25 of which occurred in May), significantly more than the eight reported in 2020, while 20 showed evidence of Islamist extremist ideology, compared to seven such incidents in 2020. ...

CST recorded 176 violent antisemitic incidents in 2021, the most ever recorded in any year and an increase of 76% from the 100 violent incidents in 2020. ... Three of the 176 violent incidents were serious enough to be classified as 'Extreme Violence', meaning they involved potential grievous bodily harm (GBH) or a threat to life ... There were 82 incidents of Damage & Desecration of Jewish property in 2021; 1,844 incidents of Abusive Behaviour ... 143 direct antisemitic threats; and 10 cases of mass-mailed antisemitic leaflets or emails. The figure for Abusive Behaviour alone eclipses the all-category incident total for every year prior to 2021. ...

Online antisemitic incidents fell by 13%, from 638 online incidents in 2020 to 552 in 2021. This is the second year in a row in which online incidents have fallen. These totals understate the scale of online antisemitism ... Targeted campaigns directed at individual victims often involve dozens of accounts sending hundreds or even thousands of tweets, images or posts within a concentrated timespan, or hundreds of tweets from a single offender, but each campaign of this type will only be recorded by CST as a single incident. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2022/02/10/antisemitic-incidents-report-2021>

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867>

Assisted Dying Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875>

Charities Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2877>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2878>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3017>

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900>

Nationality and Borders Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942>

Northern Ireland Assembly

Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/primary-legislation---bills-2017---2022-mandate/organ-and-tissue-donation-deemed-consent-bill/>

Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 8 days**

Marriage Law (Northern Ireland) (closing date 18 February 2022)

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-consultation-marriage-law>

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland Draft Corporate Plan 2022-2025

(closing date 25 February 2022)

<https://www.equalityni.org/CorporatePlanConsultation#gsc.tab=0>

Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights (closing date 8 March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/human-rights-act-reform-a-modern-bill-of-rights>

Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland (closing date 28 March 2022)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-hate-crime-legislation-northern-ireland>

Trade with Israel (closing date 30 March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/trade-with-israel-call-for-input>

CPS: Public interest guidance for suicide pact and 'mercy killing' type cases

(closing date 9 April 2022)

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/consultation/consultation-public-interest-guidance-suicide-pact-and-mercy-killing-type-cases-0>

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