



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Holocaust

Israel

Other Relevant Information

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

Holocaust

House of Lords Written Answers

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL7031] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers from Lord Greenhalgh on 23 February (HL6158 and HL 6159), what assessment they have made of the risk of damage to the Victoria Tower from (1) the excavations, and (2) the vibrations from heavy piling work, required for the development of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre at Victoria Tower Gardens.

Lord Greenhalgh: Excavations and piling work for the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will be carefully managed and monitored to ensure minimal impact on the surroundings. There is no expectation that these works will impact on Victoria Tower.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/hl7031>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/hl6158>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-09/hl6159>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service: Construction

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL7032] To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what assessment he has made of the risk of damage to the Victoria Tower from (1) the excavations, and (2) the vibrations from heavy piling work, required for the development of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre at Victoria Tower Gardens.

Lord Touhig: The Senior Deputy Speaker has asked me, as Chair of the Services Committee, to respond on his behalf.

The full assessment of risks to the Parliamentary Estate, including the Victoria Tower, from the construction of the Holocaust Memorial can only be made once detailed design proposals are available to review.

Different construction and excavation plans will have different impacts and risks. We plan to install vibration monitors when and where appropriate.

It is expected that the Holocaust Memorial project team will engage with the House as a key stakeholder throughout the detailed design stage.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-16/hl7032>

TOP

Israel

House of Lords Written Answer

Israel: Palestinians

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL6932] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning recent reports of Israeli soldiers invading Palestinian homes in Tiwani village, near Hebron.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised UK concerns about clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces with the Israeli authorities on 24 March. We recognise Israel's legitimate need to deploy security measures. We encourage them to deploy these in a way that minimises tension, uses appropriate force, and avoids causing unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/hl6932>

United Nations

Recent terrorist attacks in Israel undermine 'prospects for peace': Guterres

Secretary-General António Guterres on Tuesday night condemned recent terrorist attacks in Israel that have claimed the lives of at least 11 Israeli citizens. "Such acts of violence can never be justified and must be condemned by all," he [said in a statement](#) ...

Tuesday's terrorist assault on the street in Bnei Brak, a small ultra-Orthodox city on the eastern outskirts of Tel Aviv, was the third such attack in Israel in a week.

Five people were reportedly shot dead in the suburban attack, three Israelis, and two Ukrainian citizens. ... Amateur video broadcast on Israeli TV stations showed a man dressed in black brandishing a rifle. According to news reports, the Palestinian gunman was a resident of Ya'bad, in the northern West Bank, who was believed to have been working at a local building site.

He was later shot dead by Israeli police, but not before fatally wounding one of the officers who confronted him.

Israeli prime minister, Naftali Bennett, said the country was facing a new wave of terrorism. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, also condemned the attack. ...

The attack marked one of the bloodiest weeks in Israel in recent years, ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, beginning next weekend.

Two previous attacks just days earlier, saw an Israeli Arab drive his car into a cyclist, killing him. The attacker, who reportedly had planned to join terrorist group ISIL - then stabbed three people to death outside a shopping centre.

Five days later, two Israeli Arabs killed two police officers in Hadera, after opening fire on them at a bus stop. ISIL reportedly said that it was behind the assault.

"In the spirit of the upcoming religious holy days, the Secretary-General calls for an immediate end to violence, which only serves to undermine the prospects for peace," ...

The UN chief also extended his "heartfelt condolences" to the families of the victims and wishes a prompt recovery to those injured.

To read the full press release see

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1115082>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN Human Rights Committee publishes findings on Bolivia, Cambodia, Iraq, Israel and Qatar

... The Committee expressed concerns about the Israel's increased and intensified demolitions of Palestinian houses and other infrastructure in the West Bank, including schools, water facilities, and sanitation and hygiene structures. The Committee urged an end to implementing evictions and demolition orders based on discriminatory planning policies, laws and practices affecting Palestinians, including Bedouins, in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It also called on the State party to review and reform its planning and zoning regime.

Concerning the continued absence of specific legislation on prohibition of torture, the Committee called for an absolute ban on torture in the country. The Committee also noted the lack of an independent monitoring mechanism over detention facilities. It urged the State party to establish an independent and effective monitoring mechanism over all detention facilities within its territory and occupied territories, keep audio and visual documentation of all interrogations in the Israeli Security Agency's detention facilities and ensure that such documentation can be used as evidence in court. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/un-human-rights-committee-publishes-findings-bolivia-cambodia-iraq-israel>

Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Israel

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/ISR/INT_CCPR_COC_ISR_48266_E.docx

TOP

Other Relevant Information

Equality and Human Rights Commission

EHRC publishes plan to address biggest equality and human rights challenges in today's Britain

... The Equality and Human Rights Commission's strategic plan for 2022 to 2025 sets out six priority areas to improve the lives of everyone in the country as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic. They are:

- equality in a changing workplace
- equality for children and young people
- upholding rights and equality in health and social care
- addressing the equality and human rights impact of digital services and artificial intelligence
- fostering good relations and promoting respect between groups
- ensuring an effective legal framework to protect equality and human rights ...

For the first time, the Commission will examine the implications for people's rights in our increasingly digitalised society. ...

The Commission will also work to foster good relations between different groups,

particularly where divisive debate can reinforce prejudices or reduce social cohesion. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/ehrc-publishes-plan-address-biggest-equality-and-human-rights-challenges-today's>

Strategic plan: 2022 to 2025

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/about-us-strategic-plan-2022-2025.pdf>

[TOP](#)

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>

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**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Government Response to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee's Eighth Report

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/9407/documents/161164/default/>

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/>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated today

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>

TOP

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