



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service

Updated: Faith and pastoral care for prisoners: PSI 05/2016

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1110480/psi-05-2016-faith-and-pastoral-care-for-prisoners.pdf

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Israel

House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Israel: Palestinians

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL2253] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding a raid by the Israeli Defence Forces on St Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ramallah on 18 August; and whether they have asked them to undertake an investigation into that incident.

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL2254] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding a raid by the Israeli Defence Forces on the offices of seven Palestinian civil society organisations in Ramallah on 18 August.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We believe the Israeli government's decision to designate six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organisations and the raids on their offices and on St Andrew's Church in Ramallah are deeply troubling developments. Civil society organisations play an important role in upholding human rights and democracy, they must be able to operate freely in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). We continue to engage with a number of these organisations and the UK stands in solidarity with Christian communities in the OPTs. The UK remains committed to working with all parties across the Holy Land to ensure the

safety and security of the holy sites and all who worship there, including Christians from all nations. During her recent visit to Israel and the OPTs in June 2022, the former Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East met with human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organisations to discuss the pressures they face in the region.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/hl2253>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/hl2254>

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Updated Travel Advice: Israel

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

Updated Travel Advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories>

United Nations

Speakers Urge Administrating Powers to Put People's Interests First as Fourth Committee Spotlights Non-Self-Governing Territories

... **Mathu Joyini (South Africa)** ... voiced concern about the brutal violation of the rights of the Palestinian people and called on the international community to strengthen its resolve and take concrete action toward the Palestinian cause. ...

Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud (Jordan) reaffirmed his country's commitment to decolonization worldwide and highlighted the importance of granting the right to self-determination to the Palestinian people. The international community must mobilize efforts to find a real political solution that paves the way for peace talks in the region based on the two-State solution. Condemning ongoing Israeli violations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and denouncing provocations aimed at changing its historic character, he said that Al-Aqsa is a place of worship for Muslims and that Jordan is exclusively responsible for its management. He went on to support the Secretary-General's efforts to relaunch the political process in Western Sahara and commended Morocco's efforts in that regard. ...

Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta (Cuba) ... [said the] international community must ensure that the people of occupied Palestine can enjoy their inalienable right for a viable and independent State with East Jerusalem as its capital. Palestine should not have to see its foreign occupation continue for another half century ...

To read the full press release see

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/gaspd753.doc.htm>

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Other Relevant Information

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

PACE calls for action to combat Islamophobia

The Assembly today expressed its deep concern at the constant increase in signs of Islamophobia in Europe, which has reached a dramatic spike in recent years. ... anti-

Muslim racism is manifested through prejudice, stigmatisation, discrimination (including profiling), hate speech, and exclusion from education, employment and housing. In its resolution, PACE condemned Islamophobic rhetoric in public and political discourse by populist and far-right movements – but which often spreads to mainstream politics – and denounced racist and Islamophobic conspiracy theories, notably the so-called “Great Replacement” theory.

In this context, PACE has called on member States to adopt action plans on preventing and combating Islamophobia or ensure that action plans on racism and discrimination refer to Islamophobia specifically. ...

PACE also encouraged political leaders to speak out against Islamophobia and all other forms of intolerance, and political parties to sign the Charter of European political parties for a non-racist and inclusive society as endorsed in its [Resolution 2443 \(2022\)](#). ...

To read the full press release see

<https://pace.coe.int/en/news/8843/pace-calls-for-action-to-combat-islamophobia>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

**** Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/47164/documents/2295>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

Online Safety Bill

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

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

Schools Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

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