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All Palestinians and Israelis deserve to live in peace: UK statement at the Security Council

… I have three brief points to make.
First, we are alarmed by rising violence across the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which this month culminated in Israel’s operation in Jenin.
153 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli Security Forces in the West Bank since January, more than the entirety of those killed in 2022. We support the Palestinian Authority’s independent role in securing Area A of the West Bank, as agreed in the Oslo Accords.
We urge Israel to support the Palestinian Authority in this endeavour and work collaboratively to ensure the safety and protection of civilians across the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We reiterate our condemnation of all indiscriminate attacks on civilians, including recent terror attacks in Tel Aviv and Kdumim.
We are appalled by the unprecedented scale of settlement advancement in Area C of the West Bank, which we urge Israel to reverse. Settlements are illegal under international law, raise tensions, and undermine the prospects for a two-state solution.
We also urge Israel to uphold its responsibility to protect Palestinian communities in Area C, particularly from rising settler violence that has recently led to...
and the relocation of the Palestinian Bedouin community of Al-Baqaa.
We are concerned by the forced eviction of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family from their home in the Old City of Jerusalem. We urge Israel to desist from further settlement expansion, demolitions and evictions.
Third, the UK is concerned by the provocative visit and inflammatory language used by Israeli ministers at the Haram al-Sharif, the Temple Mount, today. We reaffirm our support for the historic status quo and Jordan’s role as custodians.
The UK calls for all actors to respect the sanctity of the holy sites and avoid actions which undermine the cause of peace.
Finally, the UK underlines our firm support to UNRWA, which has a stabilising impact on the region. We call on members of the Council to ensure critical funding gaps are filled, so that vital services continue to be provided to Palestinian refugees.
All Palestinians and Israelis deserve to live in peace and security and this can only be achieved through a two-state solution.

United Nations

Surge in Israeli-Palestinian Violence Must be ‘Wake-up Call’ for Global Community to Redouble Efforts towards Achieving Peace, Delegate Tells Security Council … Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, said the deterioration of the security situation in the West Bank has continued, punctuated by a two-day Israeli operation in Jenin — the most intensive of its kind in nearly 20 years. “This deterioration is taking place alongside ongoing unilateral steps that undermine a two-State solution, the absence of a peace process and the continuing economic challenges facing Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority,” he stressed. From 27 June through 24 July in the occupied West Bank, 25 Palestinians, including 5 children, were killed, and 249 Palestinians, including 5 women and 22 children, were injured by Israeli security forces during demonstrations, clashes, search and arrest operations, and attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis. Another 20 Palestinians, including 1 woman, and 5 children were injured by Israeli settlers or other civilians in shooting attacks and stone-throwing.
According to Israeli sources, two Israeli security forces personnel were killed while another 39 Israelis, including 4 women, 3 children and 8 Israeli security forces personnel were injured by Palestinians in shooting and ramming attacks, the throwing of stones and Molotov cocktails, and other incidents …
During the reporting period, Palestinians carried out several attacks or alleged attacks against Israelis, including ramming attacks and stabbings, injuring several Israeli civilians, including a pregnant woman, he continued. The period also witnessed Palestinians attempting to launch rudimentary rockets from the Jenin area towards Israel or Israeli settlements. Israeli settler violence continues, albeit not at the scale witnessed in June. Amid the escalating violence the Palestinian security forces conducted a series of arrests across the occupied West Bank. And while the situation in Gaza remained relatively calm, militants fired five rockets from there towards Israel, responding to the operation in Jenin on 4 July. All were intercepted by Israel. Israeli security forces, in response, carried out air strikes. …
Riyad H. Mansour, Permanent Observer for the State of Palestine, said the Israeli Government is one of the settlers, by the settlers and for the settlers. …. “So, let us start by calling things by their name,” he urged, stating that “the Israeli occupation is a settler-colonial occupation” and that the only way the international community can end it is to
address its settler-colonial nature. …
Against that backdrop, he called on the international community to hold accountable the settlers who walk into Palestinian villages and destroy homes, crops and wreak havoc in the streets. “We need an action plan, with the necessary resources and the will to implement it,” he stressed. The International Criminal Court investigations must start yielding results by providing justice for victims and deterring perpetrators. …

Gilad Menashe Erdan (Israel) noted that today marks the saddest day for Jews, an anniversary of destruction of Jewish holy temples. But, Jewish sovereignty has returned to Jerusalem, a concept Palestinians refuse to accept. Nonetheless, this Council has not focused its attention to the Palestinian arsenal to destroy a Jewish State. Palestine poisons the minds of children and fosters hate-filled youth — a fact not mentioned in the Secretary-General’s latest report on children in armed conflict. … Among the victims of Palestinian violence was a pregnant woman who lost her baby when she was run over by a Hamas truck. … On the Jenin refugee camp, he said that it has become a hotbed for Palestinian terrorists. Israel conducted two days of counter-terrorism operation there with surgical precision targeting terrorists and avoiding civilian casualties. In total, 12 Palestinian terrorists were killed, he said, adding that not a single civilian was among them. Israel forces found tunnels and explosive devices and weapons stored there. The Secretary-General did not commend Israel for uprooting terrorists, but instead repeated Palestinian lies, he said. In doing so, he emboldened terrorists. …

Robert A. Wood (United States), pointing out that the escalating trend of violence in 2023 underscores the fragility of the situation in the West Bank, condemned all extremist violence, regardless of the nationality of the perpetrator. … he urged all parties to take proactive measures to counter all forms of violence and to ensure that justice and accountability are pursued with equal rigour in all cases of extremist violence. …

Dmitry A. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) said that regular outbreaks of violence in the West Bank and elsewhere have generated heightened instability throughout the entire region, undermining the prospect of reviving the peace process. The latest illustration of the deteriorating situation was the military operation conducted by the Israeli Defense Forces in Jenin earlier in July — as a result, 500 Palestinian families were forced to flee their homes and more than 10 people died. Moreover, Israel continues to conduct indiscriminate strikes against Syria in the Golan. …

Nicolas De Rivière (France) said that trust between the parties is at rock-bottom … Israel’s security imperatives cannot absolve it from complying with its international obligations, including the need to protect civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to use proportionate force. While condemning terrorist acts against Israel and reiterating unwavering commitment to that country’s security, he also condemned the continued Israeli colonization of the Territory. …

Barbara Woodward (United Kingdom) … sounded alarm over rising violence across the Occupied Palestinian Territory … To date, 153 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces in the West Bank since January, more than the entirety of all those killed in 2022. … Condemning all indiscriminate attacks on civilians — including recent terror attacks in Tel Aviv and Kдумim — she urged Israel to reverse the unprecedented scale of settlement advancement in Area C of the West Bank … [Click here to read this speech in full]

To read the full press release see https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15368.doc.htm
Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3475

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186

Holocaust Memorial Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325

Online Safety Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137

Nakba Commemoration Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3461

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188

Same Sex Marriage (Church of England) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3438

Schools Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163

Universal Jurisdiction (Extension)
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3454

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill
Consultations **new or updated today**

**Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill** (closing date not specified – no later than 14 September 2023 but may be earlier)

**UK international development white paper** (closing date 16 September 2023)

**A Human Rights Bill for Scotland** (closing date 5 October 2023)

**The future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales** (closing date 26 October 2023)
https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/