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Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

From: **AINAGCorrespondence@fco.gov.uk**

Sent: 15 March 2016 13:19:01

To: **lphr@live.co.uk**

Our reference: EMOP/181/2016

15 March 2016

Dear Mr Shrourou,

Thank you for your email of 16 February to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), enclosing a letter for the Foreign Secretary, about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). The Near East Department in the FCO has been asked to reply.

The UK Government remains concerned about Israel's extensive use of administrative detention which, according to international law, should be used only when security makes this absolutely necessary rather than as routine practice, and as a preventive rather than a punitive measure. Most recently, on 3 November officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised the issue of administrative detention with Israeli officials from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Deputy Attorney General.

We also have concerns about mistreatment of Palestinian detainees and the high rate of convictions of those arrested under military law. We have raised these concerns with the Israeli authorities on many occasions, including at Foreign Minister, Attorney General and National Security Adviser levels.

We support the statement issued on the 2 February by the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance and Development Aid, on Israel's continued practice of administrative detention.

I can assure you that the UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and compliance with international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). We have a regular dialogue with the Government of Israel with regard to the implementation of their obligations under international law, and regularly and robustly raise our serious concerns on issues relating to Israeli actions in the OPTs.

On behalf of the
Near East Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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