

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

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Tue 21/06/2016 17:22

Inbox

To: lphr@live.co.uk <lphr@live.co.uk>;

Our reference: EMOP/821/2016

21 June 2016

Dear Mr Shrourou,

Thank you for your email of 05 May 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's position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the recurring escalations of violence, is clear and transparent. In line with the EU, we take the position that respect for justice, the rule of law and international human rights and international humanitarian law by all parties are cornerstones of peace and security. The continuing violence that has led to significant loss of life in Israel and the OPTs in recent months is deeply troubling.

We condemn any violence against civilians and all acts of terror as unacceptable. We insist that all perpetrators of crimes or of acts of terror, on both sides be brought to justice. Israelis and Palestinians people have the right to live in peace and security.

We remain firm on our position on accountability. We are deeply concerned by continuing the violence, loss of life and damage to the lives of ordinary people of this ongoing conflict. We have urged both sides to act in a manner that is proportionate and to take all measures to prevent the loss of civilian life, and comply with international humanitarian law. We support the full investigation of allegations of violations and/or abuses. Where there is evidence of wrongdoing those responsible should be held accountable.

The review proposed in the resolution in our view did not constitute an effective means to enhance accountability in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We valued the Palestinian Mission for its engagement on this resolution but could not justify support for the resolution due to its language. As a consequence, the UK, along with several other EU Member States decided to abstain on this resolution.

On behalf of the
Near East Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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