

G4S

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To: lphr@live.co.uk &lt;lphr@live.co.uk&gt;;

Our reference: EMOP/3198/2016

02 November 2016

*Dear Mr Shrourou,*

Thank you for your email of 21 September to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), enclosing a letter for the Foreign Secretary, about G4S. The Near East Department in the FCO has been asked to reply.

Whilst international law does not impose direct obligations on corporations, the British Government has made clear our concerns about Israel's treatment of Palestinian detainees to G4S and our clear position on the illegality of settlements,.

As you are aware, the British Government has placed advice online to raise awareness of the key security and political risks which UK businesses may face when operating abroad, including in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-business-risk#middle-east>

This includes guidance on Israeli settlements. We are advising British businesses to bear in mind the British Government's view on the illegality of settlements under international law when considering their investments and activities in the region.

When approached by businesses, we set out the UK's clear position on Israeli settlements, and share with them our online guidance. This is voluntary guidance to British businesses on doing business in Israel and OPTs. Ultimately it is the decision of an individual or company whether to operate in settlements in the Occupied Territories, but the British Government neither encourages nor offers support to such activity. The British Government also firmly opposes calls to boycott Israel.

This approach is in keeping with our policy with respect to other countries. The FCO continues to work closely with our colleagues in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Department for International Development, with respect to our advice to British businesses.

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. More details can be found in the FCO's human rights and democracy report, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2015>.

On behalf of the  
Near East Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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