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Tareq Shrourou  
Director, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights  
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EC4A 4BL

Our reference: MOP/50635/2013

03 July 2013

*Dear Tareq Shrourou,*

Thank you for your letter of 30 May to the Foreign Secretary about the about the situation of the Bedouin living in the Negev/Naqab region of Israel. I have been asked to reply.

The UK continues to follow closely Israeli Government plans with respect to Bedouin land claims and unrecognised villages in the Negev. We remain concerned by the possible relocation of thousands of Bedouin. Alistair Burt, the FCO Minister responsible for our relations with the Middle East, discussed the proposed legislation with Members of the Knesset when he visited Israel in June 2013. Officials at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv are in regular contact with Bedouin leaders and activists, and our Ambassador has discussed the proposed legislation with relevant Ministers and parliamentarians.

More generally, we continue to have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories which we raise regularly with the Israeli authorities. More details about our concerns and actions can be found at: <http://fcohrdreport.readandcomment.com/human-rights-in-countries-of-concern/israel-and-the-opts/>

*Yours sincerely,*

*B.J. Griffiths*

**Barry Griffiths**