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Minister of State

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Tareq Shrourou,
Director,
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights

Aimee Shalan,
Chief Executive Officer,
Medical Aid for Palestinians

18 December 2017

Dear Tareq + Aimee

Thank you for your letter of 16 November about the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

I would like to thank you for your comments, which we have taken on board and will be considering in the run up to the UPR.

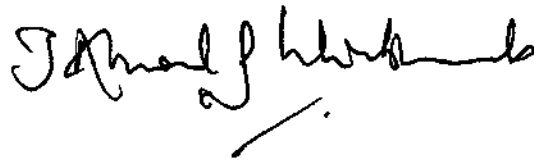
The UK values the universality of the UPR, which allows an open and constructive dialogue on the key human rights concerns of all 193 UN member states. We encourage all UN member states to reap the benefits of such a dialogue by engaging fully with the UPR process.

The UK engages consistently and comprehensively in the UPR process. We have spoken at every session and on every country since the process began, and are committed to its improvement. During the second cycle, we worked with other States to limit the number of recommendations made to States under review, and ensure that they were of good quality. As part of the UK's Human Rights Committee (HRC) re-election campaign, we pledged to continue to share our experiences and offer advice and support to others. We took the lead alongside Paraguay, Morocco and Brazil on a joint statement at the March HRC session, outlining commitments to improve implementation of UPR recommendations. The UK also supported UPR related projects, and through the Magna Carta Fund, is a key partner of UPR info, a Non- Governmental Organisation (NGO) dedicated to promoting the UPR.

The UK continues to have strong concerns about continued reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian minors in Israeli military detention. We remain committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding children in detention in Israel. We welcomed progress made in recent Israeli policy amendments. This includes a reduction in the number of detainees aged 12 to 14 years old, the increase in the age of maturity from 16 to 18 years old, the establishment of separate juvenile courts and the enactment of a special statute of

limitations for minors. Initial detention periods have also been shortened. We regularly raise this issue with the Israeli authorities. I most recently raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities during his visit to Israel in August 2017. We continue to push for the full implementation of changes and to encourage further changes in practice.

Yours sincerely,



LORD AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON
Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN
Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict