



Foreign &  
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Tareq Shrourou  
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*Tareq Shrourou,*

Thank you for your letter of 12 January about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).

We are aware of the case of Mohammed Tamimi and are closely following developments. We are always concerned about accusations of excessive use of force and in such instances we have advocated swift, transparent investigations.

The Government is very concerned at the high numbers of Palestinians killed by the Israel Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza. We have repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about the manner in which the Israel Defense Forces police non-violent protests and the border areas, including the use of live ammunition. We encourage the Israeli authorities to carry out transparent investigations into the appropriateness of the use of live fire.

The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and compliance with international law in the OPTs. We have a regular dialogue with the Government of Israel on implementation of its obligations under international law. We regularly and robustly raise our serious concerns on issues relating to Israeli actions in the OPTs. More details can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Human Rights and Democracy Report, available on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

We urge Israel and the Palestinian Authority to work together to meet their obligations under the Oslo Accords. We also call on all parties to abide by International Humanitarian Law and to promote peace, stability and security.

We have also stressed the importance of the Israel security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population. We condemn any incidence of violence by settlers against Palestinians. Settler violence must be tackled firmly. We welcome the efforts of Israeli authorities to tackle settler violence, and urge them to thoroughly investigate every instance and bring those responsible to justice.

As you know, the British Government is committed to making progress towards a two-state solution. We believe that negotiations will only succeed when they are conducted between the two parties, supported by the international community. We continue to press the parties to refrain from actions which make peace more difficult.

*/s/ sincerely*  
*Alistair Burt*

**THE RT HON. ALISTAIR BURT MP**  
**Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa**