



Foreign &
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Department
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Tareq Shrourou and Angelina Nicolaou
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights
C/O Bates Wells Braithwaite
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Dear Mr Shrourou and Ms Nicolaou,

Thank you for your letter of 12 September about the UK's position on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon and myself. You raise the US statement by Mr. John Bolton on the ICC and suggest a number of actions that the UK government could take.

The UK is clear that the ICC can play an important role in ending impunity for the most serious international crimes. It has our full support in pursuing the mandate it was given under ICC Statute.

On 13 September at the European Parliament, the EU High Representative/Vice-President spoke on behalf of all EU Member States when she said that the EU will continue to be a strong supporter of the ICC. We continue to support international criminal justice and accountability at the national or international level.

We regularly discuss a full range of issues with the US Administration at every level, and will continue to do so. The Foreign Secretary raised the ICC with Secretary Pompeo recently and highlighted the UK's ongoing support for international criminal justice and accountability.

You mention the ICC investigation into Israel's conduct in the West Bank and Gaza. The UK respects the independence of the ICC Prosecutor and her role in undertaking a Preliminary Examination into the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. On 8 April, the Prosecutor made a statement explaining that recent events and any future incidents may fall within the scope of this Preliminary Examination.

You also mention the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Washington. We are aware of the US decision to close the PLO office in Washington. This is a matter for the US. The UK maintains links with the Palestinian Mission in London, the Palestinian representation to the United Kingdom. The UK remains committed to achieving a two-state solution, with Jerusalem as a shared capital. We continue to encourage all parties to engage constructively with the US administration on their efforts towards peace.

Kind regards
Alistair Burt

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