



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

31 July 2020

Our reference: MC2020/11061

Tareq Shrourou
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights
C/O Bates Wells Braithwaite
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

Dear Mr Shrourou

Thank you for your letter of 8 June to the Foreign Secretary about Laith Abu Zeyad. I am replying as the Minister responsible for our relations with the Middle East and North Africa.

We are aware of the travel ban imposed on Laith Abu Zeyad and have been monitoring the situation closely. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised Mr Abu Zayed's case with the Israeli authorities on 22 June.

As we made clear in our previous letter, we remain concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement within the West Bank, including to and from East Jerusalem. Through our Embassy in Tel Aviv we have lobbied the Israeli authorities on the issue. We continue to work closely with international partners to call on Israel to ease restrictions on movement and access.

We continue to make clear that a strong, vibrant civil society is in Israel's own interest. As a friend of Israel, we would be concerned by any developments that may undermine this commitment.

Ultimately, a just and lasting resolution that ends the occupation and delivers peace for both Israelis and Palestinians is long overdue. Without a negotiated settlement the occupation and the problems that come with it will continue.

The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP
Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa