



Foreign &  
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Office



Department  
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Development

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Tareq Shourou and Rebecca Nguyen van Thuy  
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights  
10 Queen Street Place  
London  
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Dear Mr Shourou and Ms Nguyen van Thuy

Thank you for your letter of 18 June about the killing of Iyad Khairi Hallaq.

As the UK Consul-General in Jerusalem and the UK Ambassador in Tel Aviv stated on 31 May, we were deeply saddened to hear about the death of Iyad Khairi Hallaq after he was shot by Israeli police in East Jerusalem. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

The Government is concerned at the high numbers of Palestinians killed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in the West Bank and Gaza. We have raised this issue with the Israeli authorities. We urge restraint in the use of live fire by the IDF. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations and, if wrongdoing is found, that those responsible be held to account. We have also stressed the importance of the Israel security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population. The perpetual cycle of violence must end.

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