

From: [Near East Department, FCO]
Sent: 24 May 2016 18:07
To: FOI requester
Subject: RE: Home demolitions at Jabal Baba

Dear [name redacted]

Thanks for your e-mail. We share your concerns about demolitions in the OPTs. The UK Government is clear that demolitions cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary people; are harmful to the peace process; and are almost always contrary to international humanitarian law.

We are extremely concerned by reports of a huge increase in the rate of demolitions in 2016, compared with 2015. We are also concerned at the increase in demolition of structures funded partly or fully by international donors. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv has raised our opposition to demolitions with the Israeli authorities repeatedly and robustly. Most recently, on 15 May, our Ambassador raised strong concerns and urged the Israeli authorities to provide a legal route for Palestinians to obtain building permits. We see demolitions as paving the way for settlement expansion, which we also raise at the highest levels publicly and with the Israelis. In February the Prime Minister made clear in Parliament that we do not support illegal settlements, describing the situation in East Jerusalem as “genuinely shocking”.

In terms of practical action, we support Bedouin communities and Palestinians in Area C facing demolition or eviction through our funding to Rabbis for Human Rights and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) legal aid programme. This helps residents challenge decisions in the Israeli legal system. We are pleased to report that the NRC has successfully suspended demolitions and evictions in 99% of the cases they represent.

I hope this is useful.

Best wishes,

[Near East Department, FCO]

From: [BE Tel Aviv]
Sent: 22 July 2016 10:55
To: [Near East Department, FCO]

Subject: RE: Parliamentary Questions Session 2016-17 : NAMED DAY PQ 43520: whether the UK Ambassador to Israel was asked to sign the letter, signed in July 2016 by eight European ambassadors, to Israeli officials on the confiscation of EU-funded structures and the

Hi [Near East Dept, FCO]

Perhaps we might add something like

- A. Our Ambassador to Israel was not asked to sign this letter. We understand that a group of international donors to the [oPt Humanitarian Pooled Fund](#) wrote to note concerns on Israel's confiscation of several humanitarian assistance projects. The UK is not part of this Fund.

NB Barry – I think Dfid have a similar question. We might link up with them on the response.

[BE Tel Aviv]

[Type text]

From: [Near East Dept, FCO]

Sent: 22 July 2016 12:51

To: [BE Tel Aviv]

Subject: FW: Parliamentary Questions Session 2016-17 : NAMED DAY PQ 43520: whether the UK Ambassador to Israel was asked to sign the letter, signed in July 2016 by eight European ambassadors, to Israeli officials on the confiscation of EU-funded structures and the

[BE Tel Aviv]

Can we give a fuller response to this PQ? i.e. making clear that we weren't part of the funding group for the structures, as referenced in your e-mail (attached)?

Q. whether the UK Ambassador to Israel was asked to sign the letter, signed in July 2016 by eight European ambassadors, to Israeli officials on the confiscation of EU-funded structures and the displacement of 49 people in Jabal al Baba; and if he will make a statement.

A. Our Ambassador to Israel was not asked to sign this letter.

[Near East Dept, FCO]

[Type text]