



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

**The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP**  
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Rt Hon. Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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28 April 2021

*Dear Sir George,*

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 April to the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of a number of your constituents, about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). I am replying as the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa.

The UK remains committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding children in detention. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. Reports of the heavy use of painful restraints and the high number of Palestinian children who are not informed of their legal rights, in contravention of Israel's own regulations, are concerning, as is the continued transfer of Palestinian child and adult detainees to prisons inside Israel, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

We continue to make representations to the Israeli authorities on this issue. Specifically, we advocate for the mandatory use of audio-visual recording of interrogations, a reduction in the use of single hand ties, alternatives to night arrests and for the Israeli authorities to inform more consistently detainees of their legal rights. The UK continues to fund projects providing legal aid to minors and capacity building to local lawyers.

The UK's longstanding position on the Middle East Peace Process is clear: we support a negotiated settlement leading to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state; based on 1967 borders with agreed land swaps, Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a just, fair, agreed and realistic settlement for refugees.

*Yours ever,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Cleverly', written in a cursive style.

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