



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office



**Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon  
Minister of State (Middle East,  
North Africa, South Asia and The  
UN)**

**Prime Minister's Special  
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MC2022/31749

25 January 2023

*Dear George,*

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 December 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 of State for the Middle East.

The UK opposes Israel's decision to revoke the residency of and deport Salah Hammouri, a Palestinian East Jerusalemite. Israel must abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law. We have also called upon the Government of Israel to fully respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of human rights defenders and organisations and to allow them to freely operate in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories.

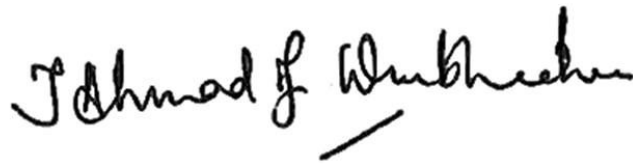
We oppose Israel's extensive use of administrative detention which, according to international law, should be used only when security makes this absolutely necessary. We continue to call on the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law and either charge or release detainees.

We remain committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding detainees. We have raised with the Government of Israel the continued reports of ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli military detention. These include reports of the heavy use of painful restraints and the high number of Palestinians who are not informed of their legal rights, in contravention of Israel's own regulations, as well as the continued transfer of Palestinian child and adult detainees to prisons inside Israel in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In our dialogue with the Israeli authorities we have recognised their legitimate need to deploy security measures to address violence. We encourage them to deploy these in a way which minimises tension and uses appropriate force. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have advocated swift, transparent investigations.

During my visit to Israel and the OPTs 10-13 January, I met with Israeli and Palestinian Ministers and made clear the UK's support for a two-state solution, the urgent need to reduce tensions and to avoid any unilateral actions that make peace more difficult.

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name "Wimbledon".

**LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON**

Minister of State

Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict