



Foreign, Commonwealth
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Rt. Hon. Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
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Our ref: MC2022/16805

12 July 2022

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 June 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.

The UK is aware of the 4 May decision by the Israeli Supreme Court on the Masafer Yatta eviction case in the OPTs. We are monitoring this issue closely given the increased risk of the forced transfer of over 1000 Palestinians and the demolition of their homes.

We are clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and forced evictions are contrary to international humanitarian law. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to Palestinians and is harmful to efforts to promote peace.

The UK regularly raises our opposition to settlements, demolitions and evictions in the OPTs with the Government of Israel. We have called on Israel to end this practice.

I met with Palestinian families affected by the ongoing demolition and eviction orders at Masafer Yatta during my recent visit to the OPTs, and raised our concerns on the impact with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll on 22 June.

The situation on the ground in Israel and the OPTs demonstrates the urgent need to make progress towards peace. The UK remains committed to the two-state solution as the best way to bring peace and stability to the region. I emphasised this point in my visit to the Israel and the OPTs in June 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Amanda Milling MP
Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East