



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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Alex Chalk MP
House of Commons
London
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Our ref: MC2021/23835
Your ref:

30 September 2021

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your letter of 13 September about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).

We are aware of the case of Layan Nasir and are monitoring proceedings. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the use of administrative detention, and the treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons.

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.

According to international law, the use of administrative detention should be used only when security makes this absolutely necessary. Detainees should either be charged or released. In terms of prosecution, it is crucial that there is adequate legal due process to ensure that people's rights can be fairly heard. The UK continues to raise these points with the Israeli authorities and in addition we also fund projects providing legal aid to those, especially minors, detained and prosecuted in this manner, and for capacity building to local lawyers.

Israel and the OPTs remain a human rights priority for the FCDO, as documented in the most recent Human Rights and Democracy Report last year. The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and compliance with international law in Israel and the OPTs. We will continue to monitor these issues closely and raise them with the relevant authorities where effective.

Yours ever,

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

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