

27 August 2015

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Lord Judd
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

*For Baron to
General Horton*

Dear Lord Judd,

Thank you for your email of 11 August to Baroness Anelay on behalf of Mr Gerard Horton of Military Court Watch, about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). I am replying as Minister responsible for our relations with the Middle East.

I share Mr Horton's concerns about the treatment of Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons, concerns which we have repeatedly expressed to the Israeli authorities. The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and compliance with international law in the OPTs. As Mr Horton is aware we funded and facilitated the independent report on Children in Military Custody by leading British lawyers. Ministers, and the British Ambassador in Tel Aviv, have spoken and written to both the Israeli Justice Minister and the Israeli Attorney General to urge Israel to take action on the report.

Baroness Anelay met with the Israeli Military Advocate General and the Israeli Ambassador to London on 2 June where the issue of child detention was discussed. Baroness Anelay was given an update on the efforts made by Israel on the issue of Palestinian child detainees. She made it clear that whilst we welcome improvements, such as changes to standard operating procedures on methods of restraint and the pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests, we continue to push for the full implementation of measures such as the mandatory use of audio-visual recording of interrogations. We will continue to press the Israeli authorities to make further progress on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State