



27 March 2018

Gerard Horton
Military Court Watch
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Dear Mr Horton

Thank you for your letter dated 2 December 2015 regarding the forcible transfer of protected persons from the West Bank. We regret that your original letter was not received in the Department in Canberra. It was forwarded to us on 23 March 2018 from the office of Senator Patrick after the matter was raised in Senate Estimates earlier in the month.

The Australian Government takes a proactive approach to the issue of Palestinians in detention. Australia regularly makes representations to the Israeli Government affirming our interest in, and concern about, security and judicial practices specifically towards Palestinian minors in detention, including the use of administrative detention.

As part of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of Israel on 23 January 2018, Australia formally recommended to Israel that it continue efforts to reform security and judicial practices with regard to Palestinians.

Australia's most recent direct representations on Palestinian minors in detention took place in February 2018 when the Australian Embassy in Israel raised the issue with the Israeli Ministry of Justice. In January 2018, Australia's Ambassador to Israel also made representations to Israel's Ministry of Defence. Separately, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra made our concerns known to the Israeli Embassy in Australia. These representations are consistent with our policy of making regular representations on the issue across the Israeli Government system.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Neuhaus
Special Adviser
Middle East and Africa Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade