



06 June 2016

Tobias Ellwood MP
Parliamentary under-Secretary of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Our Ref: AG/GUES01001/01160351

Your Ref:

Dear Tobias

We are writing to you regarding the forcible transfer of Palestinian detainees from the West Bank to facilities inside Israel, a practice in violation of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

As you are no doubt aware, figures from the Israeli Prison Service indicate that on average 88 per cent of Palestinian detainees from the West Bank continue to be transferred to prisons located inside Israel. This practice affects 7,000 to 8,000 individuals annually, who are classified as protected persons under the Convention.

The unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of protected persons is classified as a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We understand that Israeli military authorities have indicated that they have no intention of changing this policy.

We are concerned by the continuation of this practice, despite the clear violation of international law and the potential impact of a violation of this magnitude and duration on the credibility of the international legal order and its institutions.

Sarah Champion

Member of Parliament for Rotherham

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As you know, these issues have been raised in in the Commons on several occasions, both in FCO Questions and in debate. Your responses have left us in no doubt that the UK disapproves of these actions by the Government of Israel. However, we wish to ask what specific steps the British Government will take to ensure that the forcible transfer of protected persons from the West Bank ceases in accordance with the legal obligations of signatories of the Convention.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S' followed by a flourish.

Sarah Champion MP
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Burden'.

Richard Burden MP
Member of Parliament for Birmingham Northfield