



Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Tel: 0207 219 2442

Email: joan.ryan.mp@parliament.uk

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Rt. Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for International Development
Department for International Development
22 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

Our Ref: JR7447

Dear Priti,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2017 and for your invitation to provide evidence regarding allegations of incitement by the Palestinian Authority.

Please find attached a short statement that has been prepared by Labour Friends of Israel in cooperation with Palestinian Media Watch.

Further to Rory Stewart's parliamentary answer of 23 February 2017, we are aware that the UK is currently undertaking its assessment of the PA's commitment to the Partnership Principles. We would appreciate it if this statement could form a part of that assessment.

Following your announcement of 16 December 2016 that UK aid will now focus solely on vital health and education services and will contribute towards the salaries of teachers, doctors, nurses, midwives and other health and education public servants, we have decided to focus our evidence on education and young people.

We are deeply concerned that the PA is engaged in systematic and ongoing incitement to violence and that much of this is directed towards children and young people. We are particularly disturbed at the fact that schools, youth camps and sports tournaments are named after terrorists – including some of those who have committed attacks in the 'Knife Intifada' which began in September 2015 – and at the anti-Semitic character of programmes screened on children's television. Glorifying terrorists as Martyrs and teaching children to hate Jews does nothing to aid the cause of peace, reconciliation and coexistence; in fact, quite the opposite.

Such incitement appears a direct breach of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by your department and the Palestinian Authority. As you know, clause 2.1 states:

Our statebuilding and development partnership with the PNA is based on adherence to a Palestinian political programme which:

- i. Upholds the principle of non-violence and seeks a negotiated two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.*



We believe that the evidence detailed in this statement indicates that the PA is pursuing a policy which encourages violence; violence which can only harm the chances of achieving a two-state solution.

We would like to understand better the way in which incitement cases are raised by the Department for International Development. It would be useful if you could provide us with:

- (i) the details of the criteria applied by the department when it raises individual instances of incitement with the PA;
- (ii) the number and nature of the incidents which have been raised with the PA by your department during the past 12 months;
- (iii) the response provided by the PA to these interventions;
- (iv) your current assessment of the levels of officially sanctioned incitement by the PA and how that compares with 12 months ago;
- (v) what concrete actions your department intends to take over the next 12 months to help curb incitement by the PA.

We were concerned that Rory Stewart's response to PQ 66573 answered on 9 March 2017 indicated either a lack of knowledge on the department's part that the schools listed were named after terrorists and Nazi collaborators or a lack of interest in the fact that this is the case. Either way, we do not believe that it is acceptable that any British aid money should go towards paying the salaries of those who teach in, or oversee, schools named after those who are guilty of such heinous acts. We ask that you urgently investigate this matter and provide us with reassurance both that no DfID aid is being used in this way and that officials from your department will relay to the PA Ministry of Education in the strongest possible terms that the practice of naming schools after terrorists and Nazi collaborators will not be tolerated by international donors.

Given the concerns over this matter, the steps that you have taken already to refocus British aid and the establishment of the new 'Support to Palestinian Authority to Deliver Basic Services, Build Stability and Promote Reform' programme, we would also ask that you revisit your decision last year not to publish DfID's assessment of the PA's compliance with the Partnership Principles. Such a step might help to begin the process of restoring confidence in British aid to the Palestinian Authority. We support such aid but believe that it must reinforce the British government's policy of support for a two-state solution. Only by a determined effort on the part of donors to end the PA's policy of incitement can we ensure that this happens.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP
Chair, Labour Friends of Israel

Ian Austin MP
Parliamentary supporter, Labour Friends of Israel