

The Rt. Hon. Ann Clywd MP,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

PO Box 2278
Ilford
Essex
IG1 9XT

T: 020 7330 8796
E: info@iengage.org.uk
W: www.iengage.org.uk

Monday 11th July 2011

Dear Ms Clwyd,

We are writing to thank you for your recent contribution to the debate in the House on Arrest Warrants for those suspected of involvement or perpetration of war crimes (Hansard, 5th July 2011) and the arrest of Sheikh Raed Salah at the behest of the Home Secretary.

We have covered the episode regarding the Conservative Party's efforts to introduce legislation effectively abrogating our commitment on universal jurisdiction at length on our website, including the recent report by the Joint Committee on Human Rights, which you referred to in your questions to the Government.

<http://www.iengage.org.uk/component/content/article/1-news/1351-ichr-report-criticises-government-efforts-to-chnage-universal-jurisdiction-law>

We are all too aware of the intense lobbying that has resulted since an arrest warrant was issued against the former Israeli Foreign Minister and current leader of the Israeli opposition, Tzipi Livni, in 2009.

We are heartened by the interventions of MPs such as you in protesting against a change in the law and for raising with the Government the inconsistency of approach as evidenced by the arrest of the Palestinian Islamic Movement leader, Sheikh Raed Salah, as the Police Reform and Social Responsibility bill makes its way through Parliament.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts in arguing against a change to the law on universal jurisdiction and for speaking up for Sheikh Raed Salah. It is of some dismay to us that HMG's appears unconcerned by the condemnation of his treatment by Palestinian Authority officials, including Salam Fayyad, much less so by the thousands of Palestinians who have demonstrated in Nazareth against his imprisonment.

The impact of this disastrous affair on the UK's already impaired reputation for impartial mediation in the Middle East conflict is too serious to be taken lightly.

On a separate matter, we would like to draw your attention to the creation last November of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Islamophobia co-chaired by Simon Hughes, Sir Peter Bottomley and Jack Straw. We would greatly welcome your membership and participation in the Group's deliberations on accurately assessing and robustly challenging anti-Muslim prejudice and hate crimes in the UK.

Thank you again for your considered intervention.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Asif
CEO