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2 February 2009

Dear Sirs,

I am writing concerning a demonstration that was held in London on January 11th in support of Israel and which received the express backing and official endorsement of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. (See the following story on the website of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in which the Board's President, Henry Grunwald, is quoted as saying: "Israel needs and deserves your support now. Please be there on Sunday." ([http://www.boardofdeputies.org.uk/page.php/COMMUNITY\\_TO\\_SHOW\\_SUPPORT\\_FOR\\_ISRAEL\\_AT\\_TRAFALGAR\\_SQUARE\\_RALLY/255/103/3](http://www.boardofdeputies.org.uk/page.php/COMMUNITY_TO_SHOW_SUPPORT_FOR_ISRAEL_AT_TRAFALGAR_SQUARE_RALLY/255/103/3)).

I would like to enquire of the breach of the Charity Commission's regulations governing registered charities in the UK, of which the BDBJ is one, by actions that are overtly political and which are conducted in support of foreign governments.

As you may well be aware, there is growing pressure for tribunals to be established to investigate Israel's breach of international humanitarian law and its use of white phosphorus, a banned weapon when used against civilians, during its recent assault on Gaza.

I would be very interested to hear from the Charity Commission how it views the Board of Deputies of British Jews' endorsement and support of the rally for Israel. Has the Board been approached to answer allegations of its contravening the Charity Commission's SORP by its actions? And what steps will the Charity Commission be taking to ensure that any such breach is fully investigated and complaints of misconduct upheld?

I look forward to hearing you.

Yours sincerely,

Inayat Bunglawala  
Advisor on Research and Policy  
ENGAGE