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The Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP,  
Secretary of State for Home Affairs,  
Home Office,  
2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dear Home Secretary,

We are writing in consideration of the recent ruling of the Upper Immigration Tribunal in the case of the Palestinian leader Raed Salah concerning the extraordinary measures taken by the Home Office to detain and deport him citing his presence as 'not conducive to the public good.'

The ruling of Justice Ockleton in the case found the measures taken by the Home Office to have been "entirely unnecessary" and prompted by the Home Office being "misled" and put under a "misapprehension as to the facts".

Home Secretary, this case has renewed questions over our policy on exclusion orders, which in this case appears to have been too hastily, and erroneously, applied. But more significantly, the ruling and the evidence made public during the proceedings, raises important questions on the role played by third party organisations on whose advice, it appears, the Home Office was persuaded to act.

In particular, emails that were produced in evidence during the course of the trial point to the rather curious role played by the Jewish body, the Community Security Trust (CST), in this entire affair. As witness testimony to the Tribunal made clear, no British Muslim or Palestinian organisation appears to have been approached by the Home Office to confirm or contest the evidence provided by the CST and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. We find this omission to be quite perplexing.

Home Secretary, you will no doubt be aware of the highly inflammatory media smear campaign endured by Sheikh Raed Salah including the widespread repetition of allegations made against him in the dossier prepared by the CST. While Sheikh Salah may perhaps avail himself of the courts to challenge the defamation and libel he has been subjected to in large parts of the UK media on account of this messy affair, consequences for British Muslims as a result of their Islamophobic coverage will continue to be felt for a long time afterwards.

Home Secretary, we hope you will move to restore confidence in the competence of the Home Office, which has been badly damaged as a consequence of this affair. A situation in which a too-cosy relationship exists between the Government and partisan third party organisations, whose information is not challenged or inspected, is not just bad practice, it is undemocratic practice. British citizens and those made subject to our laws, like Sheikh Raed Salah, surely deserve better.

Yours sincerely,

Shenaz Bunglawala