



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

11 July 2014

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Our reference: MIN/68363/2014

Graham Brady MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Brady,

Thank you for your letter of 1 July on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It was kind of you to send on his views.

You will no doubt be aware that, since you sent your letter, the bodies of the three missing Israeli teenagers have been found. The Israeli search for the boys has therefore ended. A Palestinian teenager was also murdered on 2 July. Both the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have condemned these acts and stressed the importance of those responsible being brought to justice. We continue to encourage the Palestinian and Israeli security forces to work together to that end.

Your constituent raises concerns about collective punishment by the Israelis towards the Palestinian people. We have a regular dialogue with the Government of Israel about the implementation of its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as the occupying power. The Foreign Secretary made clear during the search for the Israeli teenagers that any use of force must be proportionate. We continue to urge all sides to show restraint and de-escalate tensions.

All my very best wishes,

THE RT HON HUGH ROBERTSON MP
Minister of State