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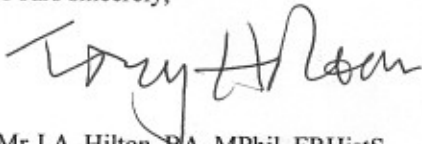
6 December 2009

*Dear Brotherly,*

I enclose a copy of the reply from the British Foreign Office to my letter requesting its intervention on behalf of Berlanty Azzam.

Meanwhile, I have written to the Israeli Ambassador to the UK requesting him to use his influence on her behalf.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J.A. Hilton, BA, MPhil, FRHistS



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02 December 2009

Our Reference: 58480-09

*Dear Mr J A Hilton*

Thank you very much for your letter dated 1 November to the Foreign Secretary about Berlanty Azzam. I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

I would like to reassure you that we are aware of Berlanty Azzam's case, a student from Bethlehem University. She was, as you are aware, arrested as she travelled within the West Bank, which has been her home since 2005. We monitor closely Israeli handling of Palestinian prisoners and believe all Palestinian prisoners should have access to a fair trial. We shall continue to follow the progress of Berlanty Azzam's case. We also call on Israel to ensure its actions are all in accordance with international law.

More broadly, the Government remains concerned about the difficulties faced by many ordinary Palestinians as they go about their daily lives. The restrictions on freedom of movement in the West Bank make it difficult for Palestinians to get to work and school. They require permits to enter East Jerusalem, which can take a long time to obtain and can be refused without explanation, and they must enter the city through a limited number of checkpoints, at which there are often lengthy queues. The UK Government continues to call on Israel to facilitate better freedom of movement in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Whilst we welcome the recent removal of some obstacles, we believe that Israel must do more to facilitate a better quality of life and improved economic development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We continue to make this clear to the Israeli Government.

I hope you find this a useful response. Finding a just and lasting peace in the Middle East remains a foreign policy priority for the UK Government. We are committed to bringing about a two-state solution, with a viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security. We continue to work closely with international partners to make this vision a reality.

Yours sincerely,

*Oliver Matthews*

Oliver Matthews  
Near East Group