

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th May 2021

Jean Combréant,

RE: INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT INVESTIGATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES (OPTs).

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). I note your concern about this issue and thank you for bringing it to my attention.

The UK was a founding member of the ICC, which began operating in 2002 when the *Rome Statute* came into effect and it remains a strong supporter of the ICC, while respecting the independence of the court and its officials.

I know that whilst the UK Government does not consider that the ICC has jurisdiction in this particular instance, it respects completely the independence of the ICC and the right of its officials to carry out their work without hinderance. In return, of course, as with any such court, it expects due prosecutorial and judicial discipline.

Respect for human rights underpins the UK's foreign policy and ministers and officials regularly raise concerns with the Israeli Government, where they exist, for this reason. Indeed, Israel and the OPTs is a human rights priority for the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and I am assured that the UK will continue to support, and partake in, international scrutiny of Israel and the OPTs provided it is proportionate.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE