

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

*Jean Gauthier*

**RE: PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (HRDs)**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding Palestinian human rights defenders (HRDs). I have read your comments on this issue with interest.

I appreciate the concerns you have regarding the Government of Israel's recent decision to proscribe six civil society organisations as terrorist groups.

The UK Government has a close relationship with the Government of Israel, the strength of which allows sensitive issues such as this to be raised. Minister Cleverly assured the House of Commons on the 26<sup>th</sup> October that he and his colleagues at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) will be speaking to their Israeli counterparts to understand why they felt they needed to take this action. I will ensure that the FCDO is aware of your strength of feeling on this issue.

The UK is a proud champion of human rights and a strong supporter of those around the world who dedicate their lives to defending them. Support is provided to HRDs through bilateral contributions around the world, and through core contributions to multilateral organisations.

The FCDO also monitors treatment of HRDs in its annual 'Human Rights and Democracy Reports', the most recent of which was published on the 8<sup>th</sup> July. That report paid tribute to the courageous work of HRDs and listed support for them as a UK foreign policy priority.

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*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**