

19 September 2024

HAMAS-ISRAEL CONFLICT

ISSUES

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

KEY MESSAGES

Australia's position on the Hamas-Israel conflict and Gaza crisis

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Expect all parties to the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian law

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared By:

Name: Israel-Gaza Taskforce
Branch: Middle East Branch | MAD
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

Name: Gemma Huggins
Position: Assistant Secretary
Branch/Division: ISG | MAD | MEB
Phone: +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

19 September 2024

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**If raised: Allegations of ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}
mistreatment of Palestinians in detention**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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19 September 2024

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- We continue to press Israel to
 - grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to detention facilities
 - protect Palestinian detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment
 - and investigate distressing allegations in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report of mistreatment and deaths of Palestinian detainees.
 - allegations of torture and other forms of degrading treatment within the OHCHR report are shocking
 - urgently call upon Israel to ensure detainees are protected and perpetrators of violence held to account.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:

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Position: Assistant Secretary
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Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Allegations of s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

mistreatment of Palestinians in detention

On 31 July, UN OHCHR published a thematic report detailing allegations of torture and mistreatment, including sexual abuse, of Palestinian detainees in Israeli detention. The Israeli Military Advocate General's Office is also reportedly investigating 35 incidents in which Palestinian detainees have died in Israeli custody, although it is unclear where exactly those incidents occurred. Many of the allegations of abuse centre around the Sde Teiman detention facility, located in the Negev Desert, west of Beersheba.

The IDF's Military Advocate General announced on 27 May that it had opened investigations into allegations of criminal violations (including allegations of torture and abuse of detainees) during the course of the war.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Position: Assistant Secretary
Branch/Division: ISG | MAD | MEB
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2024 5:21 PM
To: ; Bronte Moules; Gemma Huggins; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Angela Robinson; Marc Innes-Brown; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Juliette Brassington; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: GWO Monitoring: Hamas-Israel Conflict - 0545 Thursday 1 August 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Colleagues,

Please see below TPs cleared by AS MEB regarding the OHCHR thematic report on the abuse of Palestinian detainees in Israeli detention. Drafted in consultation with MPD.

Happy to discuss.

Best,
 s 22(1)(a)

Policy Officer | Israel-Gaza Task Force
 Middle East Branch | Middle East and Africa Division

P +s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Allegations of torture against Palestinian detainees in Israeli detention

- Disturbed by report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
 - allegations of torture and other forms degrading treatment are shocking
 - urgently call upon Israel to investigate all allegations, ensure detainees are protected and perpetrators of violence held to account.
- Israel must protect detainees in its custody from violence and ill-treatment.
- Australia continues to press Israel to grant access to detention facilities, including Sde Teiman [*Seh-Dee Tey-man*]
 - we are continuing to press Israel to work transparently with the International Committee of the Red Cross
 - it must be allowed to resume independent prison monitoring.
 - I (FM Wong) reiterated our support for ICRC's work directly to its Head of Office in Jerusalem in January this year.
- Australia has long voiced concerns to Israel on practices like administrative detention and detention of minors.
- All countries, including Israel, must respect international humanitarian law, including in relation to the treatment of detainees.

Background

On 31 July, UN OHCHR published a thematic report detailing allegations of torture and mistreatment, including sexual abuse, of Palestinian detainees in Israeli detention. It noted claims there have been at least 53 deaths in custody. The Israeli Military Advocate General's Office (MAG) is reportedly investigating 35

Palestinian detainee deaths in custody. Many allegations centre on the Sde Teiman detention facility, a facility originally intended as a holding centre for terrorists after 7 October incursions. Due to overcrowding in prisons, terror suspects remain held at Sde Teiman for extended periods. Israel ended ICRC prison monitoring visits after 7 October, s 33(a)(iii). Foreign Minister Wong met ICRC's Head of Delegation to Israel and the OPTs, Alessandra Megenon, in Jerusalem on 18 January 2024.

Following media reports in May (based on testimony of three Israeli whistleblowers who had been at Sde Teiman, as well as former prisoners) of widespread abuse of detainees, the IDF's MAG announced on 27 May that it had opened investigations into allegations of criminal violations during the course of the war. Following preliminary investigations, IDF Military Police officers arrived at Sde Teiman on 29 June to detain nine soldiers for alleged violent sexual abuse of a detainee in late May. The arrests prompted a riot in which dozens of right-wing and ultranationalist protesters broke into Sde Teiman and the Beit Lid military facility to halt legal proceedings against the arrested.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Bronte Moules <Bronte.Moules@dfat.gov.au>; Gemma Huggins <Gemma.Huggins@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Cc: Angela Robinson <Angela.Robinson@dfat.gov.au>; Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Juliette Brassington <Juliette.Brassington@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au
Subject: RE: GWO Monitoring: Hamas-Israel Conflict - 0545 Thursday 1 August 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL: Sensitive]

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

I've just had a chat to Bronte re the background to the report: OHCHR periodically issues thematic reports, such as this one, on human rights issues of concern – i.e. the report was not commissioned via a Human Rights Council resolution.

We'll work with HRB to pull some points together.

Cheers,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director
Israel-Gaza Taskforce
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:01 AM
To: Bronte Moules <Bronte.Moules@dfat.gov.au>; Gemma Huggins <Gemma.Huggins@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Angela Robinson <Angela.Robinson@dfat.gov.au>; Marc Innes-Brown <marc.innes@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>; Juliette Brassington <Juliette.Brassington@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: GWO Monitoring: Hamas-Israel Conflict - 0545 Thursday 1 August 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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Hi Bronte and Gemma

Drawing your attention to the report released overnight by OHCHR on Palestinian detainees held arbitrarily and secretly, subjected to torture and mistreatment. Do you have any additional context beyond what's in the report? We anticipate this could be raised at the FM's press conference on Friday and so will need some if-raised TPs please.

Many thanks

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Adviser to Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Labor Senator for South Australia
s 22(1)(a) <@dfat.gov.au> | M: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: Global Watch Office s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 5:47 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) <@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: GWO Monitoring: Hamas-Israel Conflict - 0545 Thursday 1 August 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Click here to [subscribe/unsubscribe](#) to updates for the Hamas-Israel conflict.

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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

GLOBAL WATCH OFFICE

0545 HRS THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2024

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- [OHCHR](#): UN report: Palestinian detainees held arbitrarily and secretly, subjected to torture and mistreatment

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Government Global Watch Office
Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division
T s 22(1)(a)(ii) | M s 22(1)(a)(ii) (Signal & WhatsApp)

Click here to [subscribe/unsubscribe](#) to updates for the Hamas-Israel conflict.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 16 August 2024 9:34 AM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Gemma Huggins; Marc Innes-Brown; Israel-Gaza
Subject: Taskforce - IGTF
 RE: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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Further to s 22(1)(a)(ii) email below, s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b) s 22(1)(a)(ii)).

The below FAS-cleared points will be dropped into our whole of government TPs and the updated QTB for Monday.

Happy to discuss.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Director | Israel-Gaza Taskforce
 Middle East Branch | Middle East and Africa Division
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
 Phone s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Allegations of s 22(1)(a)(ii) mistreatment of Palestinians in detention
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- We continue to press Israel to
 - grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to detention facilities
 - protect Palestinian detainees under its custody from violence and ill-treatment
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BACKGROUND

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On 31 July, UN OHCHR published a thematic report detailing allegations of torture and mistreatment, including sexual abuse, of Palestinian detainees in Israeli detention. The Israeli Military Advocate General’s

Office is also reportedly investigating 35 incidents in which Palestinian detainees have died in Israeli custody, although it is unclear where exactly those incidents occurred. Many of the allegations of abuse centre around the Sde Teiman detention facility, located in the Negev Desert, west of Beersheba.

Following media reports in May (based on testimony of three Israeli whistleblowers who had been at Sde Teiman, as well as former prisoners) of widespread abuse of detainees, and a petition filed to the High Court of Justice demanding the closure of Sde Teiman, the IDF's Military Advocate General announced on 27 May that it had opened investigations into allegations of criminal violations during the course of the war, including allegations surrounding abuse and torture at Sde Teiman. On 29 June, IDF Military Police attempted to detain nine soldiers for the alleged violent sexual abuse of a detainee at Sde Teiman in late May. The arrests prompted a riot in which dozens of right-wing and ultranationalist protesters, including members of the Knesset and government ministers broke into Sde Teiman and the Beit Lid military facility in an effort to halt the legal proceedings against them.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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