

Speech: Critical issues need to be resolved before October elections in Afghanistan

Thank you very much Mr President. Thank you very to the SRSG and through him could I also thank all the team in UNAMA for the work they do and thank you for reminding us, Special Representative of the Kofi Annan story of the young girl. It is good to be reminded of the human dimension. It's therefore doubly pleasurable to be able to welcome Mr. Bakhtiar for his perspective and also the Afghan Ambassador.

And like other speakers Mr. President I'd like to begin by condemning the recent terrorist attacks, including those in Nangarhar and offering our condolences to all of the families of those killed and wounded. We need to continue all our efforts to support the Afghan forces as they seek to combat those who would destroy communities and destroy the lives of innocent, ordinary Afghan civilians.

This is an important debate Mr. President. It's the last of the quarterly debates before the Parliamentary elections on 20 October, and I'd like to focus on those elections in my remarks today. Mr. Yamamoto has highlighted the challenges of organizing these elections on time and we are very grateful additionally for the work of his team in supporting the Afghan authorities. All political leaders in Afghanistan should work to improve the process, not to undermine it and we call on them to cooperate to this end. At the moment Mr. President, a number of critical issues on the elections remain unresolved.

Firstly, the voter registration list; Election staff in Kabul have put a lot of effort into compiling and verifying the lists of those who've registered to vote. These lists should be published at the local level as early as possible with a proper complaints mechanism to give the Afghan people time to check their details and register any complaints.

Secondly, communications; An effective communications strategy from the election management bodies explaining the progress that's been made and what further efforts are underway is important for the confidence of the Afghan electorate.

Thirdly, the security of voters' election officials and election materials. My government calls on all actors to respect the safety and the lives of civilians who take part in the elections and calls on those actors to refrain from violent disruption. We commend the bravery of the Afghan national defense and security forces for their work, and we know it is a difficult time for them.

We call on those illegally blockading provincial offices of the Independent Electoral Commission to disperse peacefully. Elections are only five weeks

away and it is critical that preparations be allowed to go ahead.

Mr. President turning to wider matters, I had the honour to be the British Ambassador to Afghanistan in 2015 and 2016, so I'd like to say to Mr Bakhtiar and to Ambassador Saikal, I remain an optimist about your beautiful but troubled country. Given what Afghanistan has suffered, given her state of development – she's one of the poorest countries in the world – and given that the main threat to Afghan security comes from insurgents who are supported from outside Afghanistan, I think we are all prepared for this to take a long time. The international community has been prepared for that and has prepared longer term strategies. The Geneva Conference, which a number of speakers have mentioned, will, we believe, be an important moment for the government of Afghanistan to reflect on progress made so far but also to recommit to the necessary reforms. These are required to drive the sustainable and inclusive growth the Afghan people deserve over the remainder of the transformation decade. My government is fully committed to the conference and to playing its part in preparations, which are now underway.

That said Mr. President, it is important that in all the security, economic, human rights and development challenges that the Afghan people face, that all sections of Afghan society and citizenry come together to do the following things: to strengthen good governance; to uphold the rule of law and human rights, including the rights and health rights and education of women and girls; and, above all, to be tolerant.

I arrived in Kabul Mr. President a week after the very sad Farkhunda killing and I have never forgotten the intolerance and brutality that led to that sad outcome. Afghans' communities need to invest in the future. They need to tackle corruption at all levels, and they need to engage in the economic liberalisation necessary to attract foreign direct investment, and they need to make tangible progress with their regional partners on regional cooperation.

Mr. President we heard from the Afghan Ambassador and from the SRSB about the peace process with Pakistan. We wish that well. I think it goes without saying that peace is the only viable way forward for Afghanistan. We very much support the national unity government in their efforts in this regard. We hope that all other states will do their utmost to support the government. The temporary cease fire that President Ghani brought about was a very important moment and it is regrettable that the Taliban have not responded to his subsequent offers. The Taliban need to demonstrate that they really do have the heart of Afghanistan as their main concern and their concern is for the people of Afghanistan and they need to respond positively to the important offers made by President Ghani in February. Thank you Mr. President.

Speech: PM's speech at the United Jewish Israel Appeal dinner: 17 September 2018

I have come here tonight as Prime Minister of our country to say that I stand with you.

I stand with the UJIA. I stand with Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people. And I stand with the entire Jewish community in Britain.

In the aftermath of the Charlie Hebdo and Kosher shop attacks in Paris I came to a Board of Deputies meeting and joined you in defiance of that horror to say "Je suis Juif."

And in the face of any kind of hatred against the Jewish people – in any form and anywhere, whether overseas or right here in our own country – I say with that same defiance: "Je suis Juif."

And I say that tonight, not just speaking for myself, and not just speaking for my political party, but also as Prime Minister, speaking for our whole country.

I know some in our Jewish community say they are fearful of the future. I saw that poll on the front page of the Jewish Chronicle and it sickens me that anyone should feel like that in our country. I do not underestimate the threat posed by those who promote antisemitism, or hatred in any form. Nor the pernicious nature of what those people say and what they stand for.

But I do not believe those voices speak for the vast, overwhelming majority of people in our country.

I do not believe they speak for the liberal, tolerant democracy where we – together – have made our home.

And most importantly, I do not believe that those voices will ever win.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, they cannot win.

And – together – we will not let them win.

Together, we will stand up for the values we share.

Together, we will defeat the scourge of antisemitism and hatred in all its forms.

And together, we will proudly support Israel as the homeland for the Jewish people.

Tonight I want to talk about how we do all of these things. And there is no

better place to start, than by supporting the work of the UJIA.

If we are to stand up for the values that we share – then one of the things we need to do is give young Jewish people the confidence to be proud of their identity – as British, Jewish and Zionist too.

There is no contradiction between these identities – and we must never let anyone try to suggest that there should be.

Indeed one of the most sickening aspects of the antisemitism that tries, abhorrently, to suggest Israel is a racist endeavour – is that those voices seek to separate the Jewish diaspora in our country from their connection with Israel.

We must never let that happen.

So UJIA's work here is absolutely vital, because it gives young Jewish people in Britain the confidence to develop their connection with Israel.

Through formal and informal education programmes it helps to cultivate their understanding and appreciation of Jewish culture and identity.

And through Summer visits and exchange programmes – which this year alone have seen more than 1600 young people spend time in Israel and many Israelis spending time here in the community – UJIA gives young people the chance to learn about Israel and to forge a deep and personal connection with it.

But UJIA does not stop there. It also does important work to strengthen communities within Israel itself and to build social cohesion.

By backing the UJIA tonight you can help fund programmes which support ultra-orthodox men and women to secure higher education qualifications and ultimately new opportunities in the workplace. And you can support programmes which work to integrate Israeli Arabs into Israel's high tech industry and bring new business to the Galil.

Programmes like these are vital – because a more socially cohesive and more prosperous Israel has a better chance of securing the long-term peace we all want to see.

And UJIA is also at the forefront of new models of social impact investing, the cutting edge of philanthropy, where you don't just give capital away, you invest it for a social return and sometimes then reinvest that capital in further projects – meaning that money you give tonight can go even further than before.

By supporting UJIA, you are also helping Britain and Israel to deepen our own bi-lateral ties too.

Earlier this year, we saw the wonderful visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the first official Royal visit in Israel's 70 year history.

And I am delighted that UJIA played your part in that visit through your

presence at the Duke's game of football with the Equalizer, an inspiring project that – with your support – brings together Jewish and Arab boys and girls.

The Duke's visit was a celebration of our contemporary partnership with Israel. And it was absolutely right that that the Duke also met other young people from Israeli civil society, including LGBT leaders, those working on mental health issues and those helping the less fortunate in society. And I applaud the work UJIA does to support such groups.

We deeply value our connections with Israeli civil society as part of the fabric that binds two democracies together.

And it was great to see another example of the strong bonds which extend beyond the Jewish communities in our two countries – with the Tel Aviv in London Festival last year, showcasing the rich culture of Tel Aviv and its citizens of all religious and ethnic backgrounds. And we look forward to plans for a London in Tel Aviv Festival to showcase London's cultural diversity to all Israelis.

The last year has also seen us mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration.

I will never forget standing with Prime Minister Netanyahu to view the original version of that historic letter. It was very special moment and it encapsulates for me how I feel about Israel.

For I am not just proud to support Israel; I am proud of our role in the creation of Israel. And I want to build the strongest and deepest possible relationship between our two countries.

Indeed, as the United Kingdom forges a bold new future outside the European Union, we will be seeking free trade deals with our partners around the world. And as a great start-up nation, an engine of enterprise, a world leader in technology, and a great friend of Britain, I want to see an ambitious free trade deal between our countries.

The UK is already Israel's second largest trading partner and its number one destination for investment in Europe with more than 340 Israeli companies already operating here.

While our bilateral trade is already worth over \$9 billion – up by more than a quarter on last year alone.

And as I have said to Prime Minister Netanyahu I want to build on this – deepening our links in particular in sectors like agriculture, health, science, technology and innovation.

But my support for Israel goes beyond economics.

You can also count on my commitment to Israel's security.

I understand Israel's vulnerability because I have been there and seen it for myself. Indeed, it was during my last visit in 2014 that the bodies of the

murdered teenagers Naftali Frenkel, Gilad Shaer and Eyal Yifrah were discovered.

So I am clear that we will always support Israel's right to defend itself.

And in a world where Britain and Israel increasingly face the same shared challenges and threats, I am just as clear that our security services will continue to deepen their already excellent co-operation to keep all our people safe.

You can also count on me to defend Israel's values – because Israel is a country like ours that believes in liberty, democracy and the rule of law.

Like Britain, Israel is also prepared to act in support of the international community, just as we saw this Summer. For when the White Helmets found themselves in grave danger in South-Western Syria, it was the Israeli Defence Force which worked with the international community to get them out.

But none of this means, of course, that we don't also have some disagreements with the government of Israel.

And like everyone here tonight, I want to see progress towards a lasting peace – a peace that must be based on a two-state solution with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian State.

There will need to be courage and vision from each side if we are to have a realistic chance of achieving this goal – including an end to the building of new settlements and an end to Palestinian incitement too.

The UK has – and will – also stand by Israel whenever it is treated unfairly at the United Nations – as we have shown at the Human Rights Council.

And as we work together towards what was Balfour's vision of a peaceful co-existence – we must be equally clear that there can never be any excuses for boycotts, divestment or sanctions: they are unacceptable and this government will have no truck with those who subscribe to them.

Under my leadership the UK will always be a real and trusted partner for Israel, supporting Israel's security and prosperity, not just through our words but also through our actions.

So too, will I act to stand with our Jewish community by rooting out the scourge of antisemitism here in our own country – just as I will stand with every community in Britain to fight racial and religious hatred in any form.

Let me be clear: you cannot claim to be tackling racism, if you are not tackling antisemitism.

And that mission begins by being clear about what antisemitism is.

That is why the government I lead was the first in the world to adopt the definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Because of this definition, no-one can plead ignorance or hide behind any kind of excuse.

Let me say it very clearly.

Criticising the actions of Israel is never – and can never be – an excuse for questioning Israel's right to exist; any more than criticising Britain's actions could be an excuse for questioning our right to exist.

And criticising the government of Israel is never – and can never be – an excuse for hatred against the Jewish people – any more than criticising the British government would be an excuse for hatred against the British people.

There are no excuses for any kind of hatred towards the Jewish people.

Just as there are no excuses for hatred towards any community of any race or religion.

No excuses, means no excuses.

And we will not stop at calling out those who spread this hatred, whether against the Jewish community or any other racial or religious community in our country.

We will record it and punish those responsible for it.

That is why as Home Secretary I required all police forces to record religious hate crimes separately, by faith.

And I acted to keep those who peddle hatred and extremism out of our country.

I kicked out Abu Hamza and Abu Qatada.

I stopped Pamela Geller, Robert Spencer and Pastor Terry Jones – because Islamophobia comes from the same wellspring of hatred.

And I stopped people like Dieudonne coming to Britain. Because nothing excuses antisemitism – not comedy, not satire, not even irony.

Antisemitism is just hatred. And it is just wrong.

My government will also continue to back Gerald Ronson and the brave volunteers from the Community Security Trust who are out there tonight, working with the police, to keep us safe at this dinner. And to keep people across the Jewish community safe every day and every night.

I am proud that this government has given £13 million each year to support the work of the CST.

And I will continue to ensure we do whatever is necessary to keep our Jewish Community in Britain safe.

But ultimately if we are to defeat the scourge of antisemitism and all forms of hatred in our country, we need to go further than calling out and acting

against the voices of hatred.

We need to learn the lessons of the past and create an environment that builds empathy for others and prevents hatred from happening in the first place.

That is one reason why it is absolutely right that there will be a National Holocaust Memorial next to our Parliament in Victoria Tower Gardens.

And why it is right that this Memorial will have an accompanying education centre – which working in partnership with organisations across the whole country – will lead a national effort to fight hatred and prejudice in all its forms.

And I am grateful to Lord Pickles and Ed Balls who are jointly leading this work on a cross-party basis. They are a formidable double act!

So let me conclude tonight with a note of optimism.

Because in the face of hatred and prejudice, I believe there are signs of hope.

I see it the inspirational work of the Holocaust Educational Trust and their world-leading Lessons From Auschwitz programme.

A programme which over two decades has now taken 36,000 students to visit Auschwitz – and then supported this next generation to share their learning with fellow students and to fight antisemitism and all forms of hatred in every community of the land.

A programme which, like previous governments, I am personally proud to support.

I see it in innovative new projects like Echo Eternal in Birmingham where schools from every background are working with the CORE Education Trust and the Centre for Holocaust Education at University College London to create their own responses to the testimonies of survivors.

A project that means a school like Park View – just four years ago at the centre of the Trojan Horse scandal which left children vulnerable to extremist ideologies – is today a school where children listen to Holocaust survivors and are inspired to make their own films to promote tolerance, empathy and hope.

And yes, I see it in the work of UJIA – not just here in Britain but in your work to unite communities in Israel too.

So as we approach the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, your Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur – a time of reflection...

...my answer to the voices of antisemitism is that we will defeat you...

...my answer to those who say they are fearful, is to say I will always stand

with you.

And my answer to the first step that you can take tonight to help build a brighter and more hopeful future for our children and grandchildren – is to back the UJIA.

And in that spirit of defiance, hope and determination, let me wish you well over the fast.

And may you all, together with your families, be inscribed in the Book of Life for a happy, healthy and successful New Year.

[Speech: Supporting Denuclearization](#)

Thank you very much indeed Madam President and I'd like to echo the Kuwaiti representative and the Equatorial Guinea representative in sending our condolences to all those around the world who have been affected by the recent hurricanes and flooding. And I think the Kuwaiti representative was quite right to point out the link with climate change and this is one reason why this Council needs to stay abreast of the developments on climate change, so thank you to him for raising that.

I've listened very carefully Madam President to what colleagues have said this morning. The unity of the Council has been really critical on this issue and all the more so because on other issues including those relating to WMD, Council action has been blocked and it's been blocked because of one Council member. We have a very significant opportunity Madam President to improve the strategic situation on the Korean Peninsula. I think the Swedish representative referred to this as a momentous moment and I think that's exactly the right word to use. What is happening on the Korean peninsula has the potential to affect the countries of the two colleagues sitting at the table. But if we can get it right, if we can make a success of non-proliferation in DPRK then we improve safety and security, not just for the region, but actually for the whole world.

You said Madam President that the Council had passed historic sanctions showing historic unity. We have a real chance for success here and I find it very hard to comprehend why anyone, why one Council member would put that opportunity at risk given what is at stake.

The Chinese ambassador referred to the 1950s and the Cold War. We don't debate how DPRK came about to have nuclear weapons, but we all agree that it is vital that she completes denuclearization, and I'll come back to that point in a minute. But it's a very serious issue Madam President. It has, if you like, been hanging over the region and the world since the 1950s and the Council has been united recently in trying to tackle it and we would appeal to all Council members not to put that unity at risk but to continue efforts.

I wanted to thank the Undersecretary-General for her briefing. I think there have been as she said some important political developments and we welcome the upcoming trip of President Moon and we hope this will further encourage DPRK to take decisive steps towards denuclearization. I did just want to say in that context though there is no equivalence between WMD and possession and threats to use and the sorts of bilateral co-operative military exercises that we have seen between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

And I think as other speakers did Madam President I want to echo the fact that next week our leaders will be here for High-Level Week. These important questions will be discussed. People will be looking at the Council even more than usual to see our leaders take their responsibilities and deliver unity and progress so this critical issue of WMD and nuclear proliferation can be properly addressed.

Turning to sanctions Madam President, all evidence related to sanctions implementation is reviewed with care and States that neighbour DPRK have a particular responsibility. And our unanimously agreed sanctions measures clearly draw a distinction between legitimate economic activity and sanctionable offences. And I'd just like to say that I very much welcome the assurances that the Chinese Ambassador set out today.

And we particularly need, for the reasons you set out Madam President in your national capacity, we particularly need monitoring of DPRK coal exports and oil exports. DPRK has shown itself able to seek creative ways to bypass checks and violate sanctions. We support the US assessment that the UNSC mandated cap on imports of refined petroleum has likely been breached. We need to be vigilant about this and this includes ship-to-ship transfers of refined petroleum to DPRK vessels at sea. The cap demonstrates international commitment to upholding the rules-based international order and we call on all States but – particularly given their special nuclear responsibilities – particularly P5 Members to ensure that agreed sanctions are adhered to.

You mentioned the Panel of Experts Madam President and a number of colleagues have also referred to that. We think it is important that the Panel of Experts report should be submitted in its original form. The Panel have produced an extensive and well-researched report, showing the extent of DPRK's sanctions evasion, and the Security Council has unanimously agreed a comprehensive set of resolutions on DPRK, and publication of these reports is one of the commitments we have all signed up to. So we look to all colleagues on the Council to enforce these commitments strictly and the independent Panel reporting is a very essential tool. I just want to stress that it is an essential tool for carrying out sanctions implementation to the full and ensuring that evasions are clamped down on.

On the UN command, I take the points about history. As a number of colleagues have said, this is a legacy from the 1950s and it is highly unusual. All requests for shipments of material in the Demilitarized Zone must be scrutinised and they must be checked for compliance with sanctions. It is important that this diligence continues.

There has been really important outreach Madam President both by your

government and by the government of the Republic of Korea, but sadly Pyongyang has not yet taken decisive steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. The Council debate next week will be a very important window of opportunity that shouldn't be wasted. The United Kingdom is fully committed to supporting and assisting denuclearization in any way that we can and I hope that next week we can see very strong and firm Council unity in support of that goal and in support of full sanctions implementation.

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Thank you very much Madam President.

[Press release: PM meets Prime Minister of Malta: 17 September 2018](#)



A Downing Street spokesperson said:

Prime Minister Theresa May today met Prime Minister Joseph Muscat of Malta at Downing Street.

Ahead of the informal Council in Salzburg later this week, the leaders discussed the Chequers proposal, and the importance of achieving a mutually beneficial economic and security partnership between the UK and the European Union.

The leaders then discussed working together to tackle shared challenges including migration and modern slavery. The leaders acknowledged existing close bilateral cooperation in these areas and agreed that work should continue to disrupt the networks employed by people traffickers.

Finally, the Prime Minister gave an update on the investigation into the use of a nerve agent in Salisbury and the leaders looked forward to swift progress on the EU Chemical Weapons Sanctions regime at the October Foreign Affairs Council.

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