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His Excellency Mr Daniel Taub  
Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom  
Embassy of Israel  
2 Palace Green  
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*Dear Mr Ambassador*

Last week I visited Israel and Palestine with a delegation of 16 Labour Party councillors, members and supporters. I had a friendly and productive meeting with officials at the Prime Minister's office to discuss the cooperation and work on digital government – part of my portfolio as a shadow Cabinet Office Minister. There were also interesting meetings with officials at the United Nations and British diplomats at the consulate for the occupied territories. I also met Israeli and Palestinian Authority politicians in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron and Bethlehem.

As you may be aware, during the visit one of my constituents – Newcastle City Councillor Dipu Ahad – was arrested by the Israeli Defence Forces, whilst observing a peaceful protest in Bel'in. I would like to raise with you a number of concerns over Councillor Ahad's arrest and treatment whilst in detention and ask why he was arrested at all. During the protest, another constituent of mine, Councillor David Stockdale was also hit by a rubber bullet. Councillor Ahad and Councillor Stockdale were observing a peaceful protest, there were no signs that this was a security area or that they would be arrested or shot at for being there.

After being arrested, Councillor Ahad was held for a total of 10 hours in various locations. During his detention he was blindfolded, hit with what he believed to be a rifle, mocked and refused any food, water or medical treatment for his ankle, which he had twisted whilst at the protest. Soldiers kicked his ankle and forced him to sign a waiver saying that he was treated well and offered medical attention before release. He was also transferred from the occupied territories to Israel, which I understand to be a breach of the Geneva Convention.