



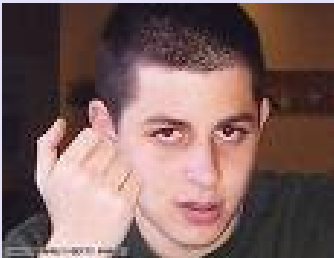
The Board of Deputies

Community Briefing

June 2010 - Tammuz 5770

The Board Urges Action on Gilad Shalit...

The 25th June marks four years since Gilad Shalit was taken into captivity, where he has remained ever since. On this tragic Anniversary, Gilad and his family are in our thoughts and prayers, and the Board, on behalf of the Jewish community, has repeated the call for his release. We have written to William Hague, Foreign Secretary, urging the British government, and indeed governments around the world, to put pressure on Hamas to return Gilad to his family.



As well as pressing the government, we have urged the International Committee of the Red Cross to demand contact with Gilad, as provided by international law, and to use their position to raise the profile of this issue. With increased external pressure, we hope to soon see the day when Gilad is freed and returned to his family.

We would ask that all concerned members of the community write to their MP to make them aware of the issue. If you would like any assistance in raising the matter with your MP please don't hesitate to contact the Board for guidance.

First Meeting With New Minister for the Middle East...

Representatives of the Board of Deputies and other organisations have had their first meeting with the newly appointed Minister for the Middle East, Alistair Burt (pictured).



The Jewish community was fortunate to have had such a good working relationship with Ivan Lewis, his predecessor, but the early indications are that we will enjoy a relationship at least as strong with Mr. Burt.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss a number of pressing current issues following the Gaza flotilla incident.

The Israeli Government has now announced an inquiry into the events that took place on the Mavi Marmara with Lord David Trimble, the former First Minister of Northern Ireland, acting as one of the two international observers.

If you have not already seen Board President Vivian Wineman's statement on the flotilla episode, it is [available on our website](#).

250th Celebrations Get Underway...

On Sunday, 20th June 2010, the Board of Deputies officially launched its year-long milestone 250th anniversary celebrations. Four hundred past and current Deputies, the President and Honorary Officers convened together with the leaders of all cross-communal Synagogal bodies at Bevis Marks Synagogue, itself the birthplace of the Board, to applaud 250 years of promoting and protecting the religious and civil liberties of Jewish people in the UK.

In what was an exceptional Board meeting and celebration, representatives from virtually every Jewish community around the country not only saluted 250 years of the Boards' achievements but also those of the Jewish community at large.



Other highlights of the Board's 250th programme of events include a conference open to the entire community exploring British Jewry and the role of the Board led by an impressive array of international scholars; a gala dinner, a nationwide Board Shabbaton; a Sixth Form Debating competition; various cross-communal and interfaith events and a fantastic travelling photographic exhibition depicting some of the Board's work.

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