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Prime Minister Ehud Olmert meeting with British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett in Jerusalem on Wednesday. (Tomer Appelbaum / BauBau)

Last update - 17:12 08/02/2007

PM to U.K.: Enact law prohibiting IDF officers' arrest in Britain

By [Aluf Benn](#), Haaretz Correspondent, and Haaretz Service

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert asked British Foreign Minister Margaret Beckett on Wednesday to enact a law preventing the arrest of Israel Defense Forces officers in British territory, during their meeting in Jerusalem.

According to a political source in Jerusalem, British authorities promised Israel roughly a year and a half ago that the country would enact a law similar to a Belgian law, passed in the wake of the Belgian warrant issued for the arrest of then-prime minister Ariel Sharon.

The Belgian law transferred the authority to issue arrest warrants for foreign citizens on accusations of war crimes from the courts to the government.

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Beckett promised the prime minister that she would take care of the issue. The spokeswoman for the British Embassy in Tel Aviv confirmed Thursday that the matter had been raised, but would not comment further, saying that the meeting had been a private one.

World History

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Beckett also praised Israel's restraint in the face of continuing Qassam rocket attacks and suicide bombings emanating from the Gaza Strip, saying it strengthens Israel's standing in Europe and helps the United Kingdom block anti-Israel initiatives proposed by other European Union member states.

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During her two-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, Beckett [told](#) Army Radio that even with Fatah as a partner, a new Palestinian government would have to subscribe to the demands of the so-called Quartet of international peacemakers - the United States, the United Nations, Russia and the European Union.


Beckett said that should the PA unity government fail to do so, London would continue to shun it. "We have said consistently from the beginning that we believe that any government should be based on the Quartet principles," she said. "If nothing new changes from the position there's been hitherto, I'm afraid [our] position will stay the same."

However, she expressed optimism that the progress could be made in the peace process, saying her conversations with Olmert and senior Palestinian officials "confirmed a feeling I had that we could potentially be at a turning point."

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Gate of the Jews
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1. Stand up to Israeli pressure	12:14 Josh Goldman	08/02/07
2. #1 no such luck peter RED KEN WAS PRODUCT OF THE RED	12:18 paul harris	08/02/07
3. Well that won't happen anytime soon	12:22 Chris Linthwaite	08/02/07
4. My my, the zionists are going to have	12:32 ballistic	08/02/07
5. Beckett to shun the PA...	13:53 tuairimiocht	08/02/07
6. Beckett to enact legislation	13:58 Mick Roberts	08/02/07
7. Beckett enacts legislation	14:05 Mick Roberts	08/02/07
8. Fat chance guys	14:06 SD	08/02/07
9. another point	14:08 SD	08/02/07
10. Thatcher probably said the same thing to Pinochet	14:14 SD	08/02/07
11. #7 Mick Roberts	14:19 Chris Linthwaite	08/02/07
12. IDF soldiers are war criminals	14:41 Steve	08/02/07
13. Graft, corruption and more of the usual zionist blackmail	14:56 Hannah	08/02/07
14. Steve	15:02 Jay	08/02/07
15. The UK shouldn't become a hiding ground for war criminals	15:07 Ristan Swanger	08/02/07
16. Ristan Swanger #15	15:44 Physicist	08/02/07
17. @12, houdy steve	16:01 vladimir	08/02/07
18. TO BE CRIMINAL YOU HAVE TO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED	16:08 paul harris	08/02/07
19. Olmert's spinning	16:43 Boycott	08/02/07
20. How about a law preventing	16:44 Mark Lincoln	08/02/07
21. Hannah, watch out, there is a Zionist, a Jew, sitting under your	16:49 Nadav	08/02/07
22. THE SISTERS OF INUENDO HANNAH MARYLIN AND BALLISTIC	17:05 paul harris	08/02/07
23. Go whistle Dixie, you whining creep	17:13 Clickfool	08/02/07

18:31 Four Qassams strike western Negev, no damage reported

18:37 Hundreds attend reinterment of murdered French Jewish man

08:28 Aquifer that provides 20% of water could become unusable


19:16 Russia jails five teenagers for killing Jewish man

18:24 Lebanese minister: Seized Hezbollah arms will be used by army

18:30 Some 2,000 Haredi women meet in N.Y. for Chabad emissary conference

10:32 ANALYSIS: New PA government creates a real problem for Israel

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24. #18 To be convicted	17:16 Chris Linthwaite	08/02/07
25. For Mick Roberts in Warrington # 6	17:17 Clickfool	08/02/07
26. Enact law to prohibit IDF officers arrest	17:30 MickRoberts	08/02/07
27. Enact law to sto IDF officers from arrest	17:34 Mick Roberts	08/02/07
28. #23 IN ANY CASE CLIKKY BRITISH JAILS ARE SO FULL	17:52 paul harris	08/02/07
29. Olmert on a mission to protect war criminals	17:53 Stephen Murray	08/02/07
30. IDF OFFICERS ARREST	17:55 Roberto	08/02/07
31. #20 ACCORDING TO THESE COLUMNS THERE ARENT ANY MARK!!	17:55 paul harris	08/02/07
32. Enact law to prohibit IDF officers arrest	17:58 Mick Roberts	08/02/07
33. Beckett enacts legislation	18:05 Mick Roberts	08/02/07
34. Beckett to enact legislation	18:10 Mick Roberts	08/02/07
35. Israeli war criminals want to be above the law	18:19 peacelover	08/02/07
36. #21, Nadav	18:26 Hannah	08/02/07
37. #29 PLEASE NAME THE CONVICTED MURRAY ??	18:42 paul harris	08/02/07
38. Stephen Murray, a criminal "assume" such a status after a trial,	18:56 Nadav	08/02/07
39. Beckett enacts legislation	19:18 Mick Roberts	08/02/07
40. a strange request, isn't it ?	19:19 whoopwhoop	08/02/07
41. Beckett enacts legislation	19:41 Mick Roberts	08/02/07
42. not a strange request...	20:41 Ryan	08/02/07
43. #36, Hannah	23:55 Cipora Julianna Kohn	08/02/07
44. #18	01:10 montag	09/02/07
45. How is this good for Britian?	09:47 Phred	09/02/07
46. Israeli Officers	12:20 David	09/02/07
47. LOL.....Israel has always	16:19 T A Sheppard	09/02/07
48. To David #46	16:21 Jeff	09/02/07
49. They let Pinochet go...	16:53 John	09/02/07
50. Why immunity?	18:02 JJ	09/02/07

