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SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence Newsletter

SNP Push for Peaceful Resolution on Israel

Palestine Tensions exploded between Israel and Palestine in the worst violence since 2014. The 11-day conflict led to the deaths of more than 250 people and hundreds more being injured. Alyn Smith MP raised the subject in the Chamber and called on the UK Government to formally recognise the state of Palestine and boycott Israeli settler goods. He also spoke with the Israeli Embassy to express his concerns about the violence.

Watch it here

Belarus: There must be consequences

In an urgent debate, Alyn Smith MP called on the UK Government to provide practical aid to human rights and democratic dissidents in Belarus and invetstigate to what extent Russia was involved in the interception of a cilivilan aircraft over Belarus. In a blatant disregard for international law, Belarusian authorities ordered the grounding of a Ryanair flight between Athens and Vilnius. Upon landing at Minsk airport, journalist Roman Protasevich and his partner Sofia Sapega were immediately detained and arrested.

Watch it here.

SNP Tackling Disinformation

Stewart McDonald MP has published a ground-breaking report entitled 'Disinformation in Scottish Public Life'. The report, the first of its kind in Scotland, is Stewart's assessment of disinformation activity in Scotland over recent years, including with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic and political campaigns. The report also outlines 9 recommendations that will make Scotland more resilient and able to resist hostile disinformation campaigns and conspiracy theories.

Watch it here

SNP Criticise Hong Kong Crackdown

On the 32nd anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre Chinese authorities continue to crack down on human rights and democracy in Hong Kong. Alyn Smith MP spoke at a parliamentary debate on this issue, raising awarness how human rights are being trampled on and democracy curtailed under a new National Security Law. Alyn urged the UK Government to demonstrate global leadership in coordinating international action to support democracy and human rights in Hong Kong

Watch it here

SNP Diplomacy in action

Alyn Smith MP had productive meetings with several European Ambassadors and Deputy Ambassadors over the past month including representatives from countries such as Denmark, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. Alyn spoke with them on a range of issues including the impact of Brexit on EU citizens, the recent Scottish parliamentary elections, and the upcoming COP26 conference in Glasgow this November.

Defence roundtable resounding success

Stewart McDonald MP organised a successful roundtable on 'Defence, Security and Scottish Independence' on the 7th June. The panellists included Dame Mariot Leslie, former UK Permanent Representative to NATO, Professor Caron Gentry, Head of the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews and Professor Beatrice Heuser from the University of Glasgow. Journalist Laura Waddellchaired the event.

SNP Condemn Cruel Aid Cuts

The SNP have frequently condemned the callous and cruel aid cuts announced by the FCDO. The UK to its shame is the only member of the G7 to cut foreign aid during the

pandemic. Alyn Smith MP argued that the cuts will hurt the world's most vulnerable communities as well as damage the UK's reputation abroad.

Read it here

'Project No Surprises': SNP engaging internationally

In the aftermath of the dismal Integrated Review, Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP and Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP have cowritten an article demonstrating how an independent Scotland would bring no surprisesto allies. The article demonstrates the intention of the SNP to engage much more constructively with the international community ahead of the next independence referendum campaign.

Read it here

Turing Scheme inadequate: Bring Back Erasmus!

The MP for Stirling Alyn Smith demanded an apology from the Prime Minister on how the Turing Scheme – the UK government's replacement programme for ERASMUS – haslet down young people. Citing the case of a student from Stirling University, Alyn highlighted how the UK Government is limiting the future prospects of young people. He urged the UK government to either rejoining Erasmus or replace it with a like-for-like replacement.

Watch it here

Alyn Smith MP
SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson
@AlynSmith
www.alynsmith.scot

Stewart McDonald MP
SNP Defence Spokesperson
@StewartMcDonald
www.stewartmcdonald.scot