



International Development Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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Dear Kay Wilson,

Thank you very much for your letter which I received on Tuesday of last week. Thank you for contacting me and for raising awareness about the unforgiveable brutality you suffered at the hands of these two men and the issues surrounding their treatment subsequent to being convicted and imprisoned. If I may, I think you have shown extraordinary bravery in speaking so openly about your experiences and, in particular, sharing the images of your injuries which tell their own sad tale. What happened to you and Kristine Luken was clearly horrific and tragic. The whole Committee joins me in expressing every sympathy with you, your family and with Kristine's family.

I would like to add my apologies to those from the Clerk for the administrative error that prevented you from receiving an immediate acknowledgement of your letter.

In your letter you raise a number of concerns about the allocation of UK aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA). These include your suspicions that: this aid facilitates payments to convicted terrorists (including your attackers); that the Government has not been clear or consistent about how the aid payments are made; that UK aid should not be provided to a body that declines to condemn terrorism and violence; and that this Committee has not examined the matter.

On your last point, it may be helpful to know that a predecessor Committee examined the UK's Development Work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in the 2010-15 Parliament (Third Report of Session 2014-15, HC 565); the Government reply was published as that Committee's 4th Special Report of Session 2014-15, HC 756.

Be assured that the current Committee, which was established in September 2017, takes its ongoing scrutiny role seriously and that we will raise the contents of your letter with Ministers and seek their response.

I propose to share this letter with other correspondents on this subject, as appropriate. I trust you are content with this approach.

With every good wish,

Stephen Twigg MP
Chair of the Committee