

Teach na hAbhainn
23-27 Sráid Anraí
Luimneach

Riverstone House
23-27 Henry Street
Limerick

2 June 2010

Mr. Naftali Balanson,
Managing Editor,
NGO Monitor,
1 Ben-Maimon Blvd,
Jerusalem,
Israel 92262.

Our Ref : MOS/PP/086/2010

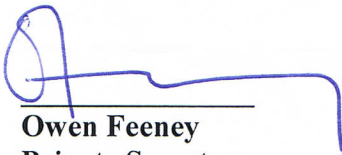
Dear Mr. Balanson,

The Minister of State for Overseas Development, Mr Peter Power T.D., has asked me to respond to your letter of 15 April in relation to a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Micheál Martin T.D., in the Jerusalem Post.

I can confirm that the Irish Government does not support proposals for trade sanctions or boycotts against Israel. This has been stated publicly by Government representatives on many occasions. I can further confirm that Irish Aid does not fund War on Want Northern Ireland or War on Want UK for work in the Palestinian Territories. Irish Aid continues to fund War on Want Northern Ireland and War on Want UK for work in other contexts.

Irish Aid funds Al Haq on the basis that it is a well-established and highly regarded human rights NGO, which plays an important role in documenting and seeking to bring an end to human rights violations in the Palestinian Territories, regardless of the identity of the perpetrators. Funding the work of Al Haq in promoting respect for human rights is fully consistent with Ireland's foreign policy objectives.

Yours sincerely,


Owen Feeney
Private Secretary