

HURNDALLS

83 Warnford Court, Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AT. Tel: +44
(0)20 7920 0015 Fax: +44 (0)20 7920 0012

17 September 2005

Sir Ian Blair
Metropolitan Police Commissioner
New Scotland Yard
London SW1

Dear Sir Ian

Doron Almog

As you will know, your officers are assisting the Coroner in connection with investigations into the shooting of my son. An important witness and suspect in connection with this shooting and other war crimes, Doron Almog, was the subject of an arrest warrant issued at Bow Street on Saturday last. I understand your officers attended Heathrow airport to effect his arrest. He was in the jurisdiction, in a known and specific location at Heathrow, but was allowed to leave the country without arrest. I would appreciate your explanation.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Hurndall

**83 Warnford Court
Throgmorton Street
London EC2N 2AT**

Tel 0207 920 0015

Fax 0207 920 0012

19 September 2005

The Right Hon Jack Straw MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1

Dear Mr Straw

Thomas Hurndall

Since we met in July 2003 your ministers have given us invaluable support in securing the prosecution of the immediate soldier responsible for the shooting of our son and I hope they will continue to do so in securing that those responsible will be held to account. As you know, we approached the issue with an entirely open mind, and it took me three months of investigation before I came to the conclusions I did. However, it struck me forcibly that what had led to the shooting was what appeared to be the war crimes that were clearly taking place in Rafah. I found myself profoundly shocked by the policy and practices of the Israeli army in the area.

Last week Doron Almog visited this country and should have been held for questioning in connection with documented war crimes. He was the officer in command on the day Tom was shot. For some reason he was not arrested and I am enquiring of Sir Ian Blair why his officers failed to make the arrest. This is not though the reason why I am now writing to you.

It is of great concern to me that pressure may be brought on the government by Israel to deprive individuals of their statutory right in this country to call for suspected war criminals to be held for questioning. There is a clear and necessary obligation on the government to search for and prosecute war criminals. This obligation arises out of the principle of universal jurisdiction and the universal responsibility of every government to prevent war crimes taking place. It is an express obligation of this country under Article 146 of the 4th Geneva Convention.

The right to invoke the Geneva Convention and secure the arrest of war criminals is also a fundamental right of any individual or group affected by war crimes. This right of the individual is particularly important, because domestic police services do not always have the motivation, energy, information or resources to pursue all possible suspects that come to this country or to do so expeditiously. This is amply evidenced by the present case of Doron Almog. There are also natural dangers, that political expediency can intervene to impede or delay the pursuit of justice and the

prevention of war crimes, when it is left to a government to handle allegations against soldiers of its allies or trading partners. While these would not, I am sure, affect the present government, the danger will be there for every subsequent government.

I imagine you would prefer to avoid being embroiled in such issues and to leave them to the courts. We as a family need, though, to know that, should Almog or anyone else who may be found to be directly implicated in this or any other possible war crime, visit this country, we will not find this government has been prevailed on to take away our right to have him held for investigation.

I would therefore appreciate your assurance that there will be no change in the law or procedures, which would in any way weaken or alter the right and ability of individuals to apply directly to the courts for the arrest of anyone suspected of war crimes, or to have such a person arrested and prosecuted.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

DA Hurndall