

Letter to MP re Gaza, May 2025

Dear [Name of MP]

I'm writing to ask you to congratulate the government on its recent actions to help the persecuted people of Gaza- And on resisting the pressure it has since been experiencing from the Israeli government to be complicit in their crimes. It does not matter if we call these crimes genocide or ethnic cleansing; such blatant and public, widespread and deliberate slaughter of non-combatants – and destruction of homes, hospitals, schools – is clearly in serious breach of international law.

I hope the government's actions will have the effect of saving many people (including the remaining Israeli hostages) from starvation and desperate health care needs.

But Israel must observe a complete ceasefire – rather than just allow a trickle of aid into Gaza while they corral the residents of the territory into smaller and smaller areas.

Israel merely ceasing its violent destruction will not be enough, but it is an essential first step. The people living in the area of the former British Palestine mandate will never live in full peace and security until there is a political solution that provides full enjoyment of all human rights and self-determination for all the people living there. If Israel fails to take adequate measures, we urge you to coordinate immediate action on the Gaza and the wider Palestine crisis. Such action from the UK government would be in line with its wider responsibilities, in particular with those stemming from last year's ICJ ruling on the Occupation of Palestine.

Israel's avowed aim of destroying Hamas is only going to radicalise more people. The Israeli government needs to learn the hard lesson that the British government was taught when, for decades, it refused to negotiate with the IRA, which only led to a worsening situation until, eventually, negotiations took place and the bombing stopped.

As UN Secretary-General Guterres reminded us, the attacks on Israel by the military wing of Hamas and others on 7th October 2023 were appalling, but they did not happen in a vacuum. "The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating repression and occupation. They have seen their land steadily devoured by settlements and plagued by violence; their economy stifled; their people displaced and their homes demolished. Their hopes for a political solution to their plight have been vanishing." And yet the Israeli government never mentions this. They speak as if the violence started on 7th October 2023 and everyone had been happy before that. Furthermore, they seem to be making no efforts to look for a long-term solution.

The UK – with allies including France and Canada – must not now succumb to Prime Minister Netanyahu's threats and intimidation but must persist with the pressure on his government, such as applying sanctions, ending arms supplies and focusing on supporting human rights and regional diplomacy, involving the Palestinian people, perhaps including the Palestinian leader who seems to enjoy the strongest support from across Palestinian factions, Marwan Barghouti. The Israeli government's attacks on the UK position must not be allowed to distract from the conversation with our partners in the coming weeks about recognising a Palestinian state. The most impactful timing for that decision is now, at this time of great peril, rather than when the storm is past.

Yours sincerely

[Your Name and full Postal Address]