



Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel +442072192056
manuela.perteghella.mp@parliament.uk

The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Our Ref: MP03011

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Re: The Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing to you regarding the deteriorating situation in Gaza and the wider region, following the recent intensification of Israel's military activity.

Many of my constituents in Stratford-on-Avon have written to me to express their grave concerns after the decision of the Israeli Government to escalate operations across the entire Gaza Strip. This expansion has brought further devastation to communities already shattered by more than 16 months of war, and it seriously undermines the chances of returning to a ceasefire or securing the safe release of hostages.

The humanitarian crisis is now acute. As the UN's humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher warned, 14,000 babies could die in Gaza in the next 48 hours without greater aid access. The Government must take immediate and concrete action to pressure the Israeli authorities to lift the blockade and allow life-saving supplies to enter Gaza.

July will mark one year since the International Court of Justice declared that Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is unlawful. The UK Government has not yet provided an assessment of this advisory opinion. I urge you to commit to publishing such an assessment, or at the very least provide a clear timeline for doing so.

As you are aware, Baroness Northover's Bill calling for the recognition of the State of Palestine is currently progressing through Parliament. Recognition on 1967 borders is vital to affirming the Palestinian right to self-determination and to reinvigorate efforts toward a two-state solution. I ask that the Government support this Bill.

It is also essential that the UK ensures no arms it exports are used to perpetrate violations of international humanitarian law. The Government should suspend all arms exports to Israel with immediate effect, especially given the Israeli military's recent expansion of its operations.

The violence and dispossession in the West Bank, particularly by extremist settlers, is equally alarming. I urge you to expand sanctions against those responsible, including Ministers Ben-Gvir and Smotrich, who have openly advocated for the displacement of Palestinians.

Finally, I ask that the Government continues to support the families of hostages held by Hamas, and use all diplomatic means to press for their immediate and unconditional release.

I look forward to your response outlining the concrete actions the Government intends to take to address these urgent concerns.

Yours sincerely,
Manuela



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