



**Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office**

The Rt Hon. David Lammy MP
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Lord de Mauley
Chair, International Relations and
Defence Committee
House of Lords
London
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29 April 2025

Dear Lord de Mauley,

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 April to myself and the Prime Minister about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs).

From our first day in office, this Government has pressed for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, to free the hostages and to bring relief, hope and recovery to civilians who have suffered so much. I have visited Israel and the OPTs three times since taking office, meeting Israeli and Palestinian leaders, as well as families of hostages, victims of violence and members of the humanitarian community.

The UK strongly condemns the resumption of fighting in Gaza and urges all parties to resume dialogue and ensure the January ceasefire agreement is fully implemented and made permanent. This is a critical time for the region to establish a pathway to lasting peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians alike, as well as to ensure the return of the remaining hostages. A negotiated solution is the only way to ensure long term security for both Israelis and Palestinians and we urge all parties to return to negotiations.

We are outraged by the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza following the resumption of hostilities. The Government has been clear that the UK opposes Israel's more than 50-day blockade on aid and electricity entering Gaza. The halt of aid into Gaza risks undoing the vital progress made during the ceasefire. The Israeli decision to block aid, supplies and power in this way is intolerable and risks breaching International Humanitarian Law. Humanitarian aid should never be used as a political tool. We urge Israel to immediately re-start a rapid and unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza in order to meet the needs of all civilians, including one million children who face an acute risk of starvation, epidemic disease and death. I issued joint statements with my French and German counterparts on 5 March, 21 March and 22 April calling on the government of Israel to abide by its international obligations to ensure full, rapid, safe and unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance to the population in Gaza. I spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Sa'ar on 15 April and urged his government to restart the flow of aid.

We have also been clear about our concerns at the UN Security Council. At a Security Council session on 3 April, we drew attention to the impact of the aid block and called on Israel to reinstate the flow of humanitarian aid immediately. We said the deaths of aid workers were an outrage and called for a full and transparent investigation and for those responsible to be held to account. In partnership with France, we also called a session of the Security Council on 28 March focusing on the protection of aid workers in Gaza. We have expressed the UK's outrage at the killing of humanitarian workers, urged Israel to conduct thorough and transparent investigations into all incidents involving aid workers and medical personnel and ensure accountability for those responsible. And we have urged Israel to cooperate fully with the UN fact-finding mission into the hit on a UN compound on 19 March.

We are also doing all we can to get more aid into Gaza as quickly as possible. Last financial year, we allocated £129 million funding for the OPTs, including £41 million for UNRWA, providing vital services to civilians in Gaza and the West Bank and to Palestinian refugees across the region, delivered through partner agencies.

UK support has meant over 430,000 people have received essential healthcare, 647,000 have received food, and 378,000 people have improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene services and over 390,000 patient consultations have taken place through our support to UK-Med. We are committed to continuing this support.

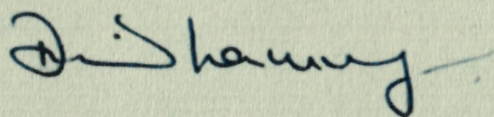
The Government's position remains that there is a clear risk that specific arms exports to Israel will be used in breach of international humanitarian law in Gaza, and these export licences have been suspended. We continue to call on the Government of Israel to abide by its international obligations when it comes to humanitarian assistance to the population in Gaza.

We continue to make representations to the Government of Israel, including my call to Foreign Affairs Minister Sa'ar on 21 March, about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank, including the need to return urgently to a ceasefire and to restore the flow of aid in Gaza, and to ensure civilians are protected across the OPTs.

We must not lose focus on how we can secure a more sustainable future for the Israeli and Palestinian people – grounded in a two-state solution that will guarantee security and stability for Israel, alongside a sovereign and stable Palestinian state. We are clear that any plan must have no role for Hamas, must ensure Israeli security, must not displace Palestinians from Gaza and should support the unity of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem under the Palestinian Authority's mandate.

The situation in the region continues to evolve rapidly. But please rest assured that my entire Ministerial team and I will continue to do everything we can to push for peace.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Lammy', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

THE RT HON. DAVID LAMMY MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs