



**Stephen
Morgan MP**
House of Commons

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
King Charles St,
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26 October 2023

Dear Foreign Secretary

I wanted to follow up concerns raised with your Ministerial team following my parliamentary intervention during departmental oral questions in the House on Tuesday 24 October 2023.

I am sure you will understand the concern over the escalating loss of civilian lives in Gaza since the terrorist attack by Hamas on communities across southern Israel; a barbaric killing of innocent civilians and taking of hostages, including children and babies, which has been rightly condemned around the world. It is vital humanitarian aid achieves its full impact.

The heart-breaking images from southern Israel have now been joined by heart-breaking images from Gaza with thousands - including many children - killed and injured by Israeli air attacks, many of which have been in southern Gaza where people were told to go to be safe. Families have been forced to flee their homes, clean water is running out and hospitals are barely able to function. This is an urgent situation and civilians in Gaza need to know the world is not simply watching, but acting to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe.

I therefore urge you to continue to press Israel to act in accordance with international law and hope too that you will be clear in your condemnation of all war crimes, whoever is responsible. We must show that we are unequivocal in our belief that all lives matter equally.

The immediate priority is obviously for the unconditional return of hostages to their families and an end to the further loss of innocent civilian lives, both Palestinian and Israeli. That clearly requires action to tackle the humanitarian crisis, with an end to the siege and a massive increase in aid reaching those who need it so desperately. I welcome the increased UK aid to the Palestinians, but Israel must allow humanitarian supplies into Gaza and Hamas must allow refugees out.

There is an urgent need too for a cessation of military activity by all parties, in line with the call by the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken for a humanitarian pause, and we hope you will work with the international community to achieve this objective. This will save Palestinian and Israeli lives, and will avoid the danger of escalation into a regional and wider conflict.

We must also recommit to working internationally for the political solution that alone can bring long-term peace - with a sovereign state of Palestine free of occupation, alongside a safe and secure state of Israel.

Yours sincerely,

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