



**Stephen
Morgan MP**
House of Commons

The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP
Minister of State
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AN

15 February 2024

Dear Minister Mitchell,

Israel's ongoing military operation in Gaza

I am writing to raise the grave concerns I share with my constituents regarding reports that Israel is planning a ground offensive into Rafah, where an estimated 1.4 million Palestinians are taking refuge.

Any military offensive in Rafah risks catastrophic consequences for the civilian population and fatal disruption to the already tenuous humanitarian operation. Those sheltering simply have no alternative safe location to go, having evacuated to Rafah following Israeli military orders, from homes that have been largely destroyed.

There is a growing international consensus that this ever-greater humanitarian catastrophe must be averted. The UK must make representations to Israel that an offensive military operation is unacceptable. Israel must comply with the provisional measures set out in the ICJ's ruling in January in full.

I continue to urge you to use all the diplomatic tools available to secure an immediate end to the fighting to create the conditions for a permanent and sustained ceasefire.

I look forward to hearing what urgent action you will be taking to achieve these goals.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Morgan MP

Member of Parliament for Portsmouth South | Shadow Minister of State for Rail

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