

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 0AA

13 November 2023

Email: rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Prime Minister,

The following correspondence is issued by the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians (ICJP) on behalf of members of the Palestinian community in the UK with families and loved ones living in Gaza.

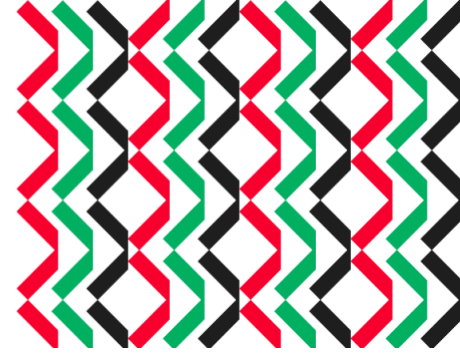
As you will be keenly aware, our community is in state of deep shock and mourning following the terrible events since 7th October 2023. All of us are grieving for our lost family members and friends who are victims in the ongoing Israeli operation in Gaza. Our loved ones are still in grave danger under the indiscriminate bombardment and the dire humanitarian situation, with no access to water, electricity or food, and communications channels also restricted and cut.

According to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other humanitarian agencies working in Gaza, the Israeli army has dropped thousands of bombs on Gaza. Gaza is one of the most densely populated places on the planet, it is home to 2.1 million Palestinians, approximately half of whom are children. The majority of those in Gaza were already refugees from villages and towns now situated within Israel.

From 7 October 2023 to 10 November 2023, 11,078 Palestinians were killed in Gaza, including 4,506 children, and more than 27,490 injured – thousands critically – according to figures reported by the OCHA. Women and children make up 68 percent of those killed.

Some 1.5 million people in Gaza have been displaced, with nearly 760,000 sheltering in at least 149 UNRWA facilities. The worsening sanitary conditions, along with the lack of privacy and space, generate health and safety hazards. These sites are so overcrowded that many people are sleeping on the street.





Clean drinking water is scarce, and the risks of fatal dehydration and the outbreak of waterborne diseases, including cholera, are acute, with the restricted amount of aid permitted into Gaza.

According to Oxfam, The Red Cross, and Amnesty International, humanitarian law is not being upheld by Israel, as it is clearly violating the “Principle of Distinction”, the “Principle of Precaution” and the “Principle of Proportionality”. These violations put our loved ones in Gaza under severe danger and it has resulted in us losing family members.

Israel has indiscriminately destroyed Gazan residential buildings, universities, hospitals, and civilian infrastructure. This cannot be justified and it constitutes collective punishment. We have no evidence that these structures are used as militant bases, especially when the Israel Defence Forces warn residents to evacuate beforehand.

We have been actively engaging in all possible democratic tools to ask the UK Government to call for an immediate ceasefire, which has been repeatedly refused. Instead, the government has called for “humanitarian pauses”, which are inadequate in protecting our family and loved ones in Gaza. We believe the UK Government’s position is putting our loved ones in danger and is contributing to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. It also ignores our voices as British citizens with friends and family under attack in Gaza.

We call upon the UK Government to urgently exert its influence to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and to ensure the urgent and adequate provision of food, fuel, medicine and other humanitarian assistance to Gaza. We also call for the unconditional restoration of water and electricity; the protection of medical facilities; the facilitation of safe passage for the critically ill and those requiring treatment abroad, including in the UK; and allowing our families in Gaza to immediately apply for the UK Resettlement Scheme.

As British Palestinians with families in Gaza we request an urgent meeting with you to express our concerns, similar to the meetings you have had with other British communities who have families in the region who have experienced distress similar to ours as a result of the conflict between the Israeli Government and Hamas.

Thank you,



Tayab Ali
Director of the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians
On behalf of members of the Palestinian community in the UK.

