



**Our ref: TA/IC-FCDO051223**

**Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs**  
**The Rt Hon David Cameron**

Sent by email only to: [fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk)

5 December 2023

**URGENT**

Dear Foreign Secretary,

**RE: Urgent clarification of UK's position on British citizens fighting in Israel/Gaza**

On 3 November 2023, we wrote to the Foreign Office seeking urgent clarification of the UK's position on the legality of British citizens going to fight in Israel and/or the Occupied Palestinian Territory ("OPT") as part of the Israeli Defense Forces ("IDF"). On 22 November 2023, we wrote to you again reiterating our request for clarification. We have yet to receive a response to either letter.

We now bring to your attention media reports that a 19-year-old British citizen, Binyamin Needham, was killed in Gaza while serving in the IDF.<sup>1</sup> We understand that other British nationals fighting in the IDF during Israel's current military offensive in Gaza have also been killed, including 20-year-old Nathanel Young.<sup>2</sup>

It is deeply irresponsible that the Government is continuing to permit British citizens to fight for the IDF in Gaza, with no scrutiny or oversight, in circumstances under which they not only face the risk of becoming complicit in serious international crimes, but also face the risk of serious injury or loss of life.

Accordingly, we ask you - as a matter of the utmost urgency - to respond to the queries raised in our letters of 3 and 22 November, namely:

1. The UK's position on British citizens, including dual nationals, going to Israel and/or the OPT to fight in the ongoing conflict, including as reservists or in the Mahal Programme;
2. Whether it is a criminal offence in the UK for British citizens, including dual nationals, to travel to Israel and/or the OPT to fight in the ongoing conflict; and

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67621116>; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/04/british-national-19-killed-while-fighting-for-idf-in-gaza>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/08/briton-believed-to-be-missing-in-gaza-after-hamas-attacks>



3. Whether the UK government has communicated advisories to British citizens or dual nationals who are likely to be serving or volunteering in the IDF on the potential legal consequences and individual criminal liability that could arise from their conduct during such service or volunteering.

We look forward to hearing from you without further delay.

Yours sincerely,

International Centre of Justice for Palestinians