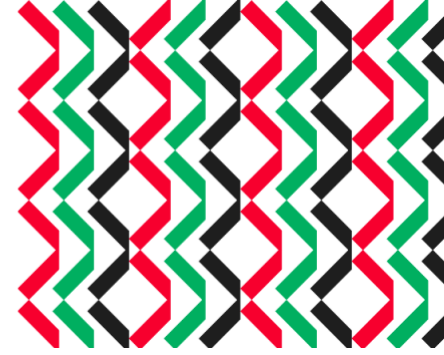




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The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 0AA

30 January 2024

Email: rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk

RE: British Palestinian families call for urgent and immediate intervention in Gaza to avoid imminent famine.

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.

The British Palestinian community is reeling from the devastating impact of the ongoing war in Gaza.

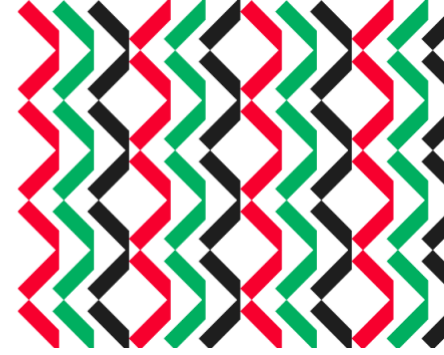
Our loved ones are trapped by a relentless onslaught. As of the 30th of January, our community and families have endured 115 days of unimaginable suffering, which we have been forced to witness powerlessly from afar, whilst 25,700+ have been killed, including over 10,000 children.¹ During these 115 days we have seen a humanitarian crisis unfold and an insurmountable amount of never-ending grief. The suffering has only been compounded further by the paltry humanitarian aid that has been allowed into Gaza.

This UN has confirmed that the crisis in Gaza has reached unprecedented levels. Every individual in Gaza is going hungry, barely surviving day-to-day on almost no food, routinely going without meals. The Israeli government is preventing food aid from entering occupied Gaza and the very little that does enter is wholly inadequate for the 2.2 million population, of which 570,000+ face 'famine levels' of 'catastrophic hunger' according to multiple UN institutions.² Meanwhile, the UN's World Food Programme said it has been difficult to get food into northern Gaza, which has been cut off from external aid.

¹ [UN OCHA \(2024\) Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #101. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.](#)

² [UN World Food Programme \(2023\) Gaza grapples with catastrophic hunger as new report predicts famine if conflict continues. UNWFP.](#)





Food insecurity has been worsened by the destruction of bakeries and the restriction of external aid. Human Rights Watch has released a report finding that starvation is deliberately being used as a weapon of war in Gaza.³ The desperate search for food has left the entire civilian population hungry, including children, babies, pregnant women and the elderly. The extreme lack of food means nursing mothers are unable to produce enough milk to feed their babies, leaving them chronically and dangerously malnourished. The whole population is facing starvation.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a tool devised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) to analyse food insecurity. The IPC now indicates that from December 8th- February 1.75 million people in Gaza are in the two highest phases of food insecurity, Phase 4 (Humanitarian Emergency) and Phase 5 (Famine/Humanitarian Catastrophe).⁴ Three weeks ago, the IPC warned that if the situation did not change imminently, Gaza would have the highest share of people in the world facing acute food insecurity. **Now, their prediction has become reality.**⁵

The stories we hear from our families confirm these reports. There is limited availability of key food supplies, as aid trucks trickle into Gaza through the bottleneck of inspection and cynical delays by Israel. The little food that enters is sold at highly inflated prices due to its scarcity, meaning many families cannot afford it. Media reports suggest that many are now resorting to eating animal feed to stave off hunger.⁶

In light of their obligations under international and domestic law, we call upon the UK Government to urgently step-in to save the people of Gaza from starvation and famine. We ask the UK government to deploy the Royal Air Force (RAF) - already operating in the region - to arrange aerial food drops in coordination with the Israeli military, as Jordan and France have done so with medical and humanitarian aid.⁷ This action will help to prevent famine and humanitarian disaster in Gaza, while bypassing many of the logistical challenges that have hindered land convoys. In October, the RAF has already provided humanitarian aid via airdrop to Egypt,⁸ but this has been subject to the same hindrance of border crossings. The RAF famously delivered 541,937 tons of fuel and food to West Berlin during the Berlin

³ [Human Rights Watch. \(2023\) Israel: Starvation Used as Weapon of War in Gaza. Humna Rights Watch.](#)

⁴ [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. \(2023\) Gaza Strip: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for 24 November - 7 December 2023 and Projection for 8 December 2023 - 7 February 2024](#)

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ [Mary Kekatos \(23 January 2024\) More than 500,000 people in Gaza face 'catastrophic hunger': UNRWA. ABC News.](#)

⁷ [Reuters. \(5th January 2024\) French, Jordanian airforces drop medical aid to Gaza – Elysee. Reuters.](#)

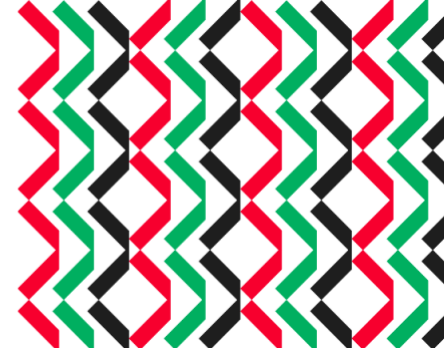
⁸ [RAF. \(2023\) Royal Air Force flies humanitarian aid for Gaza. Ministry of Defence. Royal Air Force.](#)





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Airlift, earning them the nickname *Rosinenbomber* or 'Raisin bombers.' Once again, the duty calls to use our air force to save a besieged people from starvation by blockade.

As British Palestinians with families in Gaza, we call upon the British Government to intervene to save our loved ones and comply with international law. The British people want an end to the massacre and have marched relentlessly calling for a ceasefire and for food and aid to reach the people of Gaza, non-stop for several months. Rather than becoming fatigued from their protests, the will of the British people has only grown stronger as the horrific situation in Gaza continues to spiral and the urgency in helping the Palestinian civilians continues to increase.

The populations of Europe and the globe are not prepared to allow their governments to stand aside and watch 2.2 million people starve to death, in the twenty-first century. We expect 'never again' to truly mean never again.

We also call on the British government to act on the principles of basic decency and morality. The question to ask yourselves is simple: How would you feel if you had to watch your children and your families die by starvation caused by an intentional and cruel man-made famine? Would it be in any circumstance, justifiable for your innocent, civilian family, to be starved to death?

We request that our government does the right and moral thing by preventing starvation and famine in Gaza. We look forward to your swift response and request a formal response to this request, informing us of your decision regarding announcing the implementation of these measures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tayab Ali', written in a cursive style.

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

