



WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Humanitarian and Development Projects for Palestinians

Welfare Association (UK), Tower House, 226 Cromwell Road, London SW5 0SW Tel: 020 7259 2454 Fax: 020 7244 0584 E mail: info@welfareassociation.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1020238

The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
The Rt Hon Lord Cameron, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Sent by email to:

Rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk

camerond@parliament.uk;

fcdo.corresponence@fcdo.gov.uk

17 January 2024

Dear Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary,

We write again to urge you to call for an immediate ceasefire.

We welcome the Foreign Secretary's statement (11 January, *The Guardian*; 16 January, *Hansard*) that sets out a far more proactive approach to facilitate humanitarian aid in collaboration with Jordan. We look forward to working with the government to deliver the necessary aid on the ground.

Yet we are equally aware that these efforts notwithstanding, Israel continues to impede humanitarian access (Jordanian Foreign Minister statement, 16 January).

Meanwhile civilians – the most vulnerable and notably children – are dying of dehydration, starvation, the cold, lack of medical assistance compounded by the incessant bombings by land, sea and air.

The reality is that the necessary humanitarian aid *cannot* be delivered without a ceasefire and, as the Government recognises, *cannot* be delivered until such time that Israel's armed forces are required to desist from impeding the passage of relief as required by Security Council resolution 2720 (2023), international law (Article II(c) Genocide Convention), international humanitarian law (ICRC customary international law rules 53, 54, 55, 56) and international human rights law (UN Special Rapporteurs [joint statement](#), 16 January 2024).

Legal obligations aside, the continued military operations (that rather than securing the safe release of hostages has put them at further risk) are leading to increased insecurity across the region. The UK has a window of opportunity to call for the immediate cessation of hostilities, an end to the armed violence in Gaza and across the occupied territories, and the de-escalation of armed violence throughout the region.

The dire situation that Palestinian civilians are confronting daily has materialised because of ongoing hostilities. The level of suffering is intolerable. It is within your power to change this.

The Government's decision not to call for an immediate ceasefire by all parties is a policy that is not delivering on multiple fronts. We urge you to reverse this policy. A ceasefire is the *precondition* for unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid; for the safe return of hostages; and for the negotiation of a lasting peace in the region.

Yours sincerely

Welfare Association (UK) and the Board of Trustees

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