



Green Party of England & Wales
PO Box 78066, London SE16 9GQ
leader@greenparty.org.uk

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Foreign
Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
LONDON SW1A 2AH

Wednesday 1st November 2023

Dear Foreign Secretary,

We are writing to demand that the British government call for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel/Gaza conflict. Over 700 civilians are being killed every day; one child every ten minutes (according to Save The Children). This is unacceptable and must end. The humanitarian situation is clearly intolerable. International calls for aid to be delivered are not working: only a small fraction of what is needed is getting through. There is mass civilian suffering. The only way to protect civilians is for the fighting to stop.

War crimes are being committed by both sides. Hamas's horrific attacks of 7 October, which the Green Party has condemned, are clearly a war crime, as is the taking of hostages, who must be released unconditionally. Israel's actions in Gaza are also in breach of international humanitarian law. It is collective punishment to deny the population sufficient food, water and fuel. The forced displacement of a million people from northern Gaza is a clear breach of the laws of war. And the killing of civilians is evidently disproportionate – over 9000 civilians are already dead. Hamas's attacks require a response, but Israel's right of self-defence does not afford it the right to punish and kill civilians. This cannot go on.

The people of Israel, like the Palestinian people, have the right to safety and security. But there is no military route to this goal. The only solution is political, a settlement based on the requirements of international law, in particular UN resolutions 242 and 338. We would like your reassurance that these requirements still form the basis of government policy, or has the UK abandoned international law in this instance?

The UK must join an immediate resumption of efforts to find a long-term solution to the Israel/Palestine issue. It's obvious that the parties cannot themselves reach such a settlement without a major and unprecedented international effort. We must avoid a return to a never-ending peace process that never brings peace and that can be disrupted by

extremists on either side (we remember the terrorist attacks designed to disrupt the Oslo Process, and the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in 1995).

Instead, there needs to be an internationally arbitrated once-and-for-all settlement that fully ends the occupation of Palestinian territories (including East Jerusalem). Whether this involves a so-called one state or two state solution, the goal must be for Israeli and Palestinian citizens to live in safety and security with their rights, at last, fully protected, and for the full return of Palestinian refugees. The British government once supported such a settlement. Can you reassure us that it still does so? Given the Prime Minister's recent statements on the need for a political solution, what is the UK doing to this end?

The UN General Assembly has just agreed a resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire. The UK failed to support this resolution, and has not supported such calls in the UN Security Council. Will the UK call for a ceasefire in future? The UK's failure to back this resolution and call for a permanent ceasefire amounts to complicity in the ongoing deaths of thousands of innocent civilians.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Ramsay
Green Party
Co-leader

Carla Denyer
Green Party
Co-leader

Zack Polanski
Green Party
Deputy Leader

Carne Ross
Green Party
Global Solidarity Spokesperson