



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

18 June 2025

Dear David,

I am writing to you on behalf of many of my constituents who have expressed their support for a full and comprehensive ban on UK arms sales to Israel.

As you know, the situation in Gaza now has escalated and worsened beyond belief. The months-long aid blockade imposed by Israel has had devastating effects on the civilian population, leaving the majority facing starvation. We cannot and must not stand by as thousands face this horrific possibility.

The little aid that has been provided by the US and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation has been wholly inadequate. The Israeli government's limited measures placed on aid distribution are inhumane and have continued to endanger civilians. Desperate civilians who seek to feed their families after months of no humanitarian aid, are met with death at aid distribution centres.

At the time of writing, a further 51 Palestinians have been killed and 200 left injured while waiting for aid in Khan Younis. Yesterday, 80 Palestinians were killed in Rafah and Khan Younis. It is horrific that hundreds of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers at aid centres. Aid must be delivered by trusted UN and other international non-governmental organisations, who are experienced in delivering aid, to ensure that aid reaches people safely wherever they are in Gaza.

Outside of aid distribution centres, the daily bombings in Gaza by Israel continue to rain down killing civilians, targeting journalists, destroying schools, hospitals and residential areas.

I welcome recent actions taken by the Government to suspend trade negotiations with Israel and to sanction Israeli ministers Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, for the abhorrent language used to promote the forced displacement of Palestinians and the starvation of the Gazan civilian population.

I also welcomed last year, the suspension of 30 arms export licences to Israel for use in military operations in Gaza as there was found to be a clear risk that certain military exports could be in breach of international law. This included equipment that has been deemed in use in the current conflict in Gaza such as important components which go into military aircraft, including fighter aircraft, helicopters and drones, as well as items which facilitate ground targeting.

However, this decision did not include key components of the F-35, which continues to be supplied to Israel through the global distribution programme led by the US government. F-35s continue to remain central to Israel's military operations in Gaza and are regularly used to bomb civilians and crucial civilian infrastructure, decimating cities, the schools and healthcare system and refugee camps.

The scale of suffering conducted by Israel; with fatalities now over 56,000 Palestinians, including 19,000 children; under the pretext of killing Hamas commanders is not acceptable. The UK is continuing to enable Israel's atrocities by continuing to approve the supply of key components of F-35 fighter jets.

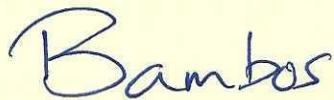
Therefore, I urgently call on the Government for further actions including:

- A full and comprehensive ban on UK arms exports to Israel
- Greater work with our allies, particularly the US, to place pressure on Israel to release aid and allow the work of UNRWA and other international organisations
- The UK to immediately recognise the state of Palestine

We have a legal obligation to uphold international humanitarian law and ensure that all actions we take are in accordance with the rule of law. We also have a moral duty to ensure that we do not stand by as thousands of innocent civilians are killed daily and instead work with partners to halt the atrocities committed.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bambos". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'B' being particularly large and stylized.

Bambos Charalambous MP