Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

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Matt Western MP
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Our ref: MC2025/37845

13 November 2025

Dear Matt,

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 October about the Gaza Sumud Flotilla.

We closely monitored events surrounding the interception of the Gaza Sumud Flotilla and the arrest of its passengers by Israeli Naval Forces on 1 October 2025. We pressed the Israeli authorities in advance of the flotilla's arrival to protect the safety of all those on board, and to respect both international law, and the rights of the passengers. We subsequently supported a number of British nationals who were subject to detention and deportation by Israel, and – where we were able to do so – kept their families informed throughout the process.

In recent weeks, we have seen the hugely welcome agreement of President Trump's peace plan, and – alongside our international partners – the UK is now working tirelessly to support the implementation of that plan.

The immediate priority is to maintain the ceasefire, secure safe and unrestricted access to Gaza for the UN relief teams and other humanitarian organisations, and get aid flooding into Gaza at the pace and volume that is required to match the scale of the current crisis. As the Prime Minister announced on 13 October, the UK will provide £20 million of humanitarian support to provide water and sanitation to those in need, taking the total this year to £100 million.

Over the course of the last two years, almost every person in Gaza has been displaced and lost family members. The scale of loss is staggering, with over 67,000 killed, tragically including over 20,000 children. But we have a duty to the two million people still in Gaza to get them urgent supplies of food, clean water and shelter, to rebuild their homes, and support their long-term recovery.

Since coming to office, this Government has worked to support all those goals. We restored funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and have provided

nearly £250 million in development assistance over the past two years. We signed a landmark agreement with the Palestinian Authority and have committed to support their ambitious reform agenda. We imposed three rounds of sanctions on violent Israeli settlers and members of the Israeli cabinet in their personal capacity, suspended arms exports that could be used in Gaza, and – as the conflict continued – suspended negotiations with Israel on a new Free Trade Agreement. More recently, we have begun evacuating groups of sick and injured children to the UK. We have also coordinated a series of joint statements with over 30 international partners pushing for urgent action to address the humanitarian crisis.

We will continue to do all that we can to seize this chance for a better future and to secure lasting peace and security in the region, both for the people of Israel and the people of Palestine.

Yours ever,



HAMISH FALCONER MP
Minister for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan