Matt Western MP
Warwick & Leamington

Rt Hon. Hamish Falconer MP
Minister of State for the Middle East
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Sent via email.

31st October 2025

Dear Minister,

Re: Interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla

Firstly, may I commend the efforts of you and your department in helping to secure a peace deal between Israel and Hamas. I know from our many engagements in Parliament, and by letter, that you have been working tirelessly to help secure peace and stability in the Middle East.

You will be aware that hundreds of activists were detained by the IDF earlier this month, as they attempted to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza by boat. I understand that a number of British Citizens and British-flagged ships were among those detained by Israeli forces.

This situation raises concerns about the protection of British citizens and British-flagged vessels operating lawfully in international waters. Therefore, can you confirm whether the Government considered deploying Royal Navy assets to protect or escort these vessels, and what specific assistance is being offered to those British nationals who were detained?

As the Chair of the Joint Committee for National Security Strategy, I am acutely aware of the integral role that the Royal Navy plays in acting decisively to uphold our sovereignty and protect our interests against Russian transgressions.

In this light, and given the UK's recent recognition of a Palestinian State, what support will the UK Government provide to British citizens and British vessels engaged in lawful humanitarian missions? In particular, how will the Government ensure protection for any future operations whereby support and aid for a Palestinian state may be delivered by boat through international waters and the Levantine Sea?

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Matt Western
MP for Warwick and Leamington

Town Hall, Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4AT
Tel: 01926 882006