



Alyn Smith MP
Member of Parliament for Stirling

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

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

Friday 13th October 2023

Dear James,

Situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

From our various discussions over the years, you know I grew up partly in Saudi Arabia and that the Middle East is close to my heart, as I'm well aware it is to yours. The long running tragedy in Palestine and Israel remains a shameful failure on the part of the international community to broker a just peace long before the recent tragic escalation.

The actions of Hamas are despicable, utterly unjustified, and will make peace harder to achieve. My fear is that those who will suffer most in the coming days and months will be those least able to cope or escape. My colleagues and I condemn Hamas' brutal terror attacks of murder, hostage-taking and rape in the strongest possible terms.

I am deeply concerned about ongoing conflict and the fate of civilians. The focus for the international community should be preventing the further loss of civilian life and I offer you support to those ends. I would therefore like to know:

1. What further steps is the UK Government taking to try and de-escalate the violence on all sides and protect civilians?
2. What assessment has your Department made of the merits of establishing a humanitarian corridor to allow civilians to escape from the Gaza Strip and what likely safe destinations can they be evacuated to?

Alyn Smith MP
Office 35, Stirling Business Centre, Wellgreen Place, Stirling, FK8 2DZ
01786 471899
alyn.smith.mp@parliament.uk



Alyn Smith MP
Member of Parliament for Stirling

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

3. What assessment has been made of the likelihood of violence across the wider areas of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?
4. What recent discussions has your Department had with the United Nations, other relevant international organisations, neighbouring states of Israel and Palestine, and with UK allies to try and resolve the conflict in a peaceful way and ensure that civilians are protected?
5. What discussions has your Department had with Israeli counterparts to ensure that should there be any further response, that it is proportionate, within international law, and protects civilians?
6. What steps will your Department take to bring a peaceful resolution to the ongoing tragedy in Palestine and Israel, in line with international law and with the support of the international community?

In war, it is always the innocent which suffer most. If the worst comes to it, I would be grateful if you could provide assurances that the UK will take the appropriate steps to protect civilians caught up in this escalating tragedy.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Alyn Smith
MP for Stirling
SNP Europe and EU Accession Spokesperson