



Foreign &  
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Caroline Lucas MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*Dear Caroline,*

Thank you for your email of 31 July about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against all travel to Gaza. Delivery of aid should be coordinated with the UN, and Israeli and Egyptian Governments. We expect Israel to show restraint and fully respect international law. If wrongdoing has taken place, we expect those responsible to be held to account. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv has provided consular assistance to a British national who was on board the Al-Awda.

We remain deeply concerned about restrictions on movement and access in Gaza, and the impact that this is having on the humanitarian situation. We have frequent discussions with the Government of Israel about the need to ease restrictions on Gaza. We call on Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Egypt to work together to ensure a durable solution for Gaza.

I recently visited Gaza and saw the dire situation that Gazans face on a daily basis. The UK remains deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The Government has recently announced a new £38 million programme to support economic development in Gaza and the West Bank. We will also be releasing £38.5 million for the UN Relief and Works Agency to help vulnerable Palestinian refugees, as well as £2 million to UNICEF, to help provide Gazans with access to clean water and sanitation.

*Yours ever  
Alistair*

**THE RT HON. ALISTAIR BURT MP**  
**Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa**



Department  
for International  
Development