

29th June 2021

Dear [Member of Parliament]

We write to you as British Palestinians ahead of the **National Summer Lobby for Palestine on the 8th of July 2021**. We urge you to attend the Lobby Day in order to hear from the many constituents who care deeply about the plight of the Palestinians and want the British government to take a stand in support of Palestinian rights.

As we write, the situation for Palestinians is dire. In Gaza, 113,000 people were forced to seek shelter at the height of Israeli airstrikes last month; around 8,500 women, men, and children are still displaced following the destruction of their homes. Some have lost their entire families, including their young children. In occupied East Jerusalem, families resist expulsion and ethnic cleansing by Israeli settlers assisted by state forces. Meanwhile Palestinian citizens of Israel fear that extremist mobs will attack their homes and businesses with the complicity of Israeli authorities meant to protect Israel's citizens equally but who protect Israel's Jewish citizens even as they commit acts of violence against Palestinians.

These events cannot be viewed in isolation, for they are symptomatic of an Israeli policy of confiscating Palestinian land for Israeli settlements, ethnically cleansing Palestinians, and ensuring a system of racial domination in which only Israeli Jews are accorded full rights in the country they share with indigenous Palestinians. The shocking result is that, today, Israeli Jews enjoy the full protection of civilian law wherever they reside in historic Palestine, whilst the majority of Palestinians have endured military rule with few recognisable rights afforded to them since Israel's establishment in 1948. For this reason, both [Human Rights Watch](#) and Israel's most important human rights organization, [B'Tselem](#), have recently concluded that Israel is responsible for committing the crime of apartheid.

There is a moral imperative on the international community, as there was with apartheid South Africa, to help bring an end to this deplorable system of racial discrimination. Yet Israel faces no consequences for its practices. To the contrary, it enjoys the support of Western governments and near-total impunity for its human rights violations, which only encourages it to continue to commit them.

Until the root causes of this injustice are addressed, we will continue to see regular escalations in violence that will take both Palestinian and Israeli lives, and there will be no achievement of a real and lasting peace. Change will only occur when Israel faces pressure to reverse its violations and is held accountable for its actions in the same way as any state that breaches international law.

As British-Palestinians, we urge you to comprehend the gravity of the Palestinian plight, and to press our government to take action that puts it on the right side of history in the fight against apartheid. In particular this means the government should:

- Make public statements condemning Israel's apartheid practices;
- End its encouragement of Israeli crimes through its sale of arms to Israel and its trade with illegal settlements;
- Support the International Criminal Court in its investigation of all war crimes committed in the region;
- Work with international partners to establish a UN commission of inquiry to investigate Israeli apartheid and recommend measures to take in response.

Please raise these matters in the House of Commons in order to press the government to take action that will end Israeli apartheid, resulting in freedom, justice, and equality for all.

Please register here to attend Lobby Day and hear from the many constituents concerned about the situation for Palestinians.

Yours sincerely,

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