



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Alex Rowley MSP**  
**Member for Mid Scotland and Fife**

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Rt. Hon James Cleverly MP  
Foreign Secretary  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*3 November 2023*

Dear Foreign Secretary,

### **URGENT CALL FOR CEASEFIRE**

I am writing to urge you to utilise the UK Government's influence in international politics to advocate for humanity, for peace and for the preservation of human life in Israel and Palestine by calling for an immediate ceasefire so that humanitarian aid can reach those in desperate need before time runs out.

What is clear in the increasingly complex situation is that neither Israeli nor Palestinian civilians have asked for this war and the bloodshed we have all witnessed is shocking.

What is also clear to me is that peace cannot come from more bloodshed. We must urge for an immediate ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid into Palestine before a desperate situation for civilians there becomes any worse.

The cost of this war cannot be paid in the lives of innocent civilians, and it is the responsibility of the international community to advocate for humanity, for the equal value of the lives of Israeli and Palestinian citizens and for an end to the extreme bloodshed we have seen.

This is why I am writing to you to echo the calls of Oxfam in urging the UK Government to:

- Work to ensure an **immediate de-escalation and cessation of hostilities**. The international community, including the UK, must use all diplomatic tools at its disposal to secure an immediate ceasefire.
- Press Israel to **immediately recall the evacuation order**, in line with International Humanitarian Law.
- Press Israel to **end to the total siege of Gaza**, ensuring unfettered humanitarian access, including delivery of medical supplies, food, fuel and water. Press Israel to **allow sufficient emergency aid to be delivered in Gaza** through all routes.
- Press all parties to prioritise the **protection of all civilians** from military action, and work within the constraints of Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, to respect International Humanitarian Law and to work to ensure all States and other armed actors do so. Including the immediate **unconditional release of all hostages** held captive by armed groups in Gaza.



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Foreign Secretary, I urge you – please do not turn your back on the UK’s obligations to the international community.

Kind regards,

Alex Rowley MSP



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