



All-Party Britain-Israel
Parliamentary Group

Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street, London
SW1A 2AH

28 May 2021

Dear Foreign Secretary,

We write to you following our letter dated 3rd May calling on the United Kingdom to commit to joining the People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund and supporting the United States in establishing an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Recent events in Israel and the Palestinian Territories have, in our view, amplified the importance of the UK giving urgent, meaningful support to peaceful coexistence projects and we are delighted that many new colleagues have joined us in this effort.

Paralleling the tragic conflict between Israel and Hamas, the horrific intercommunal violence between Jewish and Arab Israelis has shocked Israelis as well as the international community. Brutal killings, lynching, the wanton torching of at least 112 homes and the looting of nearly 400 others, the vandalism of places of worship and the outright ferocity of uncontrolled riots has resulted in the worst violence since the catastrophic Second Intifada.

For long-time advocates of peace and observers of the region, this rapid escalation of violence is indicative of a failure by the international community to properly invest in long-term, stable coexistence initiatives aimed at building meaningful relationships between Jews and Arabs within Israel, and Israelis and Palestinians, built on trust and shared values. Championed by the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) and inspired by Anglo-American support for coexistence in Northern Ireland, the International Fund for Middle East Peace has received support and investment by the US with a view to not only preventing such intercommunal division but fundamentally strengthening civil society and the cause for peace.

The United Kingdom is hosting the world's major democratic powers this June in Cornwall to solidify the international community's commitment to liberal institutions and a peaceful world order. However, for peace to last it must be built from the ground-up. The horrendous intercommunal violence of recent weeks must serve as impetus for renewed international cooperation to strengthen a shared society in Israel, as well as the need for coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. The UK should substantiate its support for peaceful coexistence between Arab and Jewish communities by playing a decisive leadership role and commit to the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

We welcome your reply and commitment to supporting coexistence in the Middle East.

Best regards,

Bob Blackman MP, Chairman, All-Party Britain-Israel Parliamentary Group
Lord Turnberg, Co-Chair, All-Party Britain-Israel Parliamentary Group
Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP, House of Commons Parliamentary Chairman, Conservative Friends of Israel
Baroness Ludford, Vice President, Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel
Steve McCabe MP, Chair, Labour Friends of Israel
Lord Palmer of Childs Hill OBE, President, Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel
Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles, House of Lords Parliamentary Chairman, Conservative Friends of Israel

Lord Polak CBE, Honorary President, Conservative Friends of Israel
Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, House of Lords Parliamentary Chair, Labour Friends of Israel
Catherine McKinnell MP, Vice Chair, Labour Friends of Israel
Lord Alliance, Vice President, Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel
Wera Hobhouse MP
Daisy Cooper MP, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats
Baroness Altmann CBE
Caroline Ansell MP
Scott Benton MP
Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley MP
Brendan Clarke-Smith MP
Chris Green MP
Sheryll Murray MP
Andrew Percy MP
Nicola Richards MP
Mary Robinson MP
Lord Shinkwin
Greg Smith MP
Craig Tracey MP
Christian Wakeford MP
Rt. Hon. Lord Blencathra
Jonathan Djanogly MP
Simon Fell MP
John Howell OBE MP
Mark Jenkinson MP
Robert Langan MP
Margaret Hodge MP
Andrew Gwynne MP
Lord Foulkes of Cumnock
Baroness Whitaker
Lord Winston
Lord Triesman
Rt. Hon. Lord Selkirk of Douglas
Lord Sharpe of Epsom OBE
Lord Austin of Dudley
Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top
Lord Davies of Stamford
Baroness Deech
Baroness Eaton
Baroness Foster of Oxton DBE
Lord Gold
Baroness Goudie
Lord Grade
Lord Leigh of Hurley
Lord Mendelsohn
Baroness Noakes
Lord Stone of Blackheath
Lord Taylor of Holbeach
Lord Turnberg
Lord Walney
Lord McDonald of Salford, Crossbencher
Andrew Rosindell MP
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Lord Alderdice

Lord Anderson of Swansea