



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2018.

Dear Constituent,

A Response to the Violence in Gaza Campaign

Like you I am deeply distressed by the deaths and injuries in Gaza, the violence is shocking and tragic. There are a number of important facts which need to be established urgently, including why live fire was used. Israel has a legitimate right to defend itself, however the number of those killed and injured demonstrates that we desperately need Israel to show greater restraint.

I believe the Palestinian right to protest is important, however these protests must remain peaceful. I am extremely concerned that extremist elements may have used the protests to further their own violent and deplorable aims against the State of Israel. This is another reason why I believe there is an urgent need to establish the facts. Above all, it is important that this violence is not repeated and that all those involved commit to peaceful protest, restraint and observe international law.

There is a pressing need for all parties to reach a wider agreement that addresses the underlying causes of conflict in Gaza and to take the necessary steps to ensure Gaza's reconstruction and economic recovery. Any agreement should ensure that Hamas and other militant groups permanently end rocket and other attacks against Israel, that the Palestinian Authority resumes control of Gaza and restores effective governance, and that Israel lifts its restrictions to ease the suffering of ordinary Palestinians.

I firmly believe that the international community must redouble its efforts to support a comprehensive peace agreement that delivers a safe and secure Israel alongside an independent Palestine. A two-state solution brought about through agreement is the most effective way for Palestinian aspirations of statehood to be met.

The UK regularly makes representations to the Israeli authorities on the issue of children in Israeli military detention. This particular issue is a human rights priority for the UK. I understand that a senior official from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office raised this issue with the Israeli Ambassador to the UK on 11 May. I am pleased that recent Israeli policy amendments have made progress on this issue and the UK stands ready to work alongside Israel to secure further improvements in practices surrounding children in detention.


I can assure you that the Government is deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The UK is providing humanitarian support through a number of programmes including

Please respond to:

Constituency office: 20 Academy Street, Dumfries, DG1 1BY
Phone: 01387 216109 Westminister: 020 7219 2994
Email: alister.jack.mp@parliament.uk www.alisterjack.co.uk

those of UNICEF. Of this support, £2 million is helping to support up to a million people in Gaza by providing access to clean water and sanitation facilities in order to prevent the spread of disease. I also welcome the recent announcement of a new £38.5 million programme to support economic development in Gaza and the West Bank.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alister Jack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Alister Jack DL MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency.