

CAROLYN THOMAS

MS FOR NORTH WALES / AS DROS GOGLEDD CYMRU

Lord David Cameron of Chipping Norton
Foreign Secretary
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Tuesday 6th February 2024

Dear Lord Cameron,

Re: Suspension of UK Funding to UNRWA

I write in relation to the UK Government's morally vacuous decision to suspend funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) based on allegations against a small number of UNRWA staff.

After four months of relentless bombardment, more than 27,000 Palestinians have been killed, including more than 11,500 children. At least half of all buildings across Gaza have been destroyed and more than 75% of the Gazan population has been forcibly displaced. As a result of this brutality, the United Nations is warning that famine in Gaza is imminent, infectious diseases are spreading, and the lack of healthcare available is now critical.

Given this context, it is beyond comprehension that the UK Government would choose to suspend funding to the most critical aid agency working to contain the humanitarian suffering in Gaza based on allegations against a tiny proportion of its 13,000 staff.

When, for example, a small number of healthcare professionals are alleged to, or found to have committed offences, it would clearly be absurd to use this as a pretext to defund the health service. Yet this is the baseless logic which the UK Government is choosing to apply to UNRWA and, by extension, the Palestinian people who will suffer and be collectively punished as a result of this decision.

It also raises serious questions about the UK Government's role in the wider conflict. Given that Israeli forces are alleged to have used chemical weapons during their bombardment of Gaza, and have been found by the International Court of Justice to plausibly be committing acts banned under the 1948 Genocide Convention, it

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would seem that if the logic of the Government were to be applied consistently, arms sales, and financial support to Israel would have been suspended many months ago.

The UK, unfortunately, has a long and deeply unpleasant record in the Middle East and the actions of the Government of which you are a part show that you have sadly failed to learn the lessons from those mistakes, which have had far-reaching consequences both at home and abroad.

It is absolutely clear from both opinion polls, and from the millions of people who have taken to the streets of cities and towns across the country over the course of the last four months, that the British public is appalled by the suffering brought about by this conflict and wholeheartedly support an immediate ceasefire.

It is deeply regrettable that instead of doing the job it is elected to do in representing the people of this country in opposing further violence, the UK Government is making decisions which actively reduce the likelihood of peace, whilst increasing the likelihood of yet more suffering.

I implore you to immediately reverse the decision to suspend funding to UNRWA, and to begin to use the significant platform which you hold to be an advocate for an immediate ceasefire.

Yours Sincerely,



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