



The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
By Email

14 March 2025

Dear David,

I am writing to you regarding the deeply disturbing findings of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, in its report published on 13 March 2025, which details Israeli authorities' systematic destruction of women's healthcare facilities in Gaza. These actions have been identified as genocidal acts under the Rome Statute and the Genocide Convention. The report also detailed the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war against Palestinians by Israeli authorities.

The chair of the commission, Navi Pillay, said, "There is no escape from the conclusion that Israel has employed sexual and gender-based violence against Palestinians to terrorise them and perpetuate a system of oppression that undermines their right to self-determination."

Given that the UK has permitted British citizens to serve in the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), I would like to clarify whether the government is aware if any British nationals may have been implicated in war crimes or other violations of International Humanitarian Law, as outlined in the UN report. Furthermore, I urge the government to set out what steps it is taking to ensure accountability for any British citizens involved in any violations of international law.

In light of the UK's legal obligations and commitments to upholding international justice, I ask that the government:

1. Assess whether any British nationals have been involved in violations of international law, including potential war crimes or crimes against humanity, as members of the Israeli military or settler groups.
2. Where sufficient evidence exists, ensure that competent authorities conduct criminal investigations and, where appropriate, prosecutions in civilian courts against all individuals within the UK's jurisdiction, including those with dual nationality. This should be based on the principles of universal jurisdiction.
3. Proactively collaborate with other states conducting national-level investigations and uphold the UK's commitments to international justice mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice; and ensure full compliance with arrest warrants issued by the ICC.



Ellie Chowns MP
Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The UK must not allow its citizens to participate in serious violations of international law with impunity. I urge you to clarify the government's position on this matter and outline the actions it intends to take in response to these grave allegations.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Chowns'.

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.