



The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP  
Prime Minister  
By email

13 March 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to ask you to strongly condemn the Israeli Government's recent decisions to halt the entry of all humanitarian aid and commercial supplies, including fuel and food to Gaza, and to cut off electricity to Gaza's main desalination plant.

These inhumane actions, apart from being cruel and callous, clearly violate International Humanitarian Law. As the occupying power, the Israeli Government has a clear obligation to ensure the basic needs of Gaza's civilian population are met. These actions – which will have devastating impact for Gaza's civilians who are already living in a catastrophic humanitarian situation as a result of the Israeli Defence Force's military actions over the last 17 months – represent collective punishment, which is a war crime.

The decision to cut off electricity to Gaza's main operational desalination plant will have devastating consequences for civilians in central and southern Gaza, reducing its capacity to produce drinking water by 85%. The Gaza Strip is already experiencing a water and sanitation catastrophe following overwhelming damage and destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure due to the Israeli Defence Force's military operations and the ongoing unlawful blockade. The complete blocking of fuel supplies also threatens to shut down other water facilities, including wells.

Water, fuel, food, shelter and other supplies critical to the survival of the civilian population are a matter of life and death, not a means to exert pressure in negotiations. These decisions provide further evidence that Israel is deliberately imposing on Palestinians in Gaza conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction – an act prohibited under the Genocide Convention.

Given the UK's obligations as a State Party to the Genocide Convention to prevent and punish genocide, we write to ask what actions you will take in response to these decisions. This is particularly pertinent following the finding, more than a year ago, of the International Court of Justice that there is plausible risk of genocide in Gaza. Furthermore, what actions will the UK Government take to hold the Israeli Government accountable for its flagrant breaches of international law, including withholding the basic needs of Gaza's civilian population as the occupying power?

We urge you to commit to a full arms embargo against Israel; and to lead efforts to enact comprehensive sanctions against Israel.



In writing this letter, we want to be clear that we firmly condemn the grave human rights violations for which Hamas are responsible.

We should be grateful for your response.

Ellie Chowns MP  
Kim Johnson MP  
Apsana Begum MP  
Liz Saville Roberts MP  
Ben Lake MP  
Ayoub Khan MP  
Jeremy Corbyn MP  
Baroness Blower  
Imran Hussain MP  
Shockat Adam MP  
Steve Witherden MP  
Adnan Hussain MP  
Sorcha Eastwood MP  
John McDonnell MP  
Colum Eastwood MP  
Ian Byrne MP  
Andy McDonald MP  
Richard Burgon MP  
Chris Law MP  
Carla Denyer MP  
Sian Berry MP  
Adrian Ramsay MP