

CALUM MILLER MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
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29 August 2025

Dear David,

Earlier this week, I wrote to you in the context of the ongoing devastation and humanitarian crisis in Gaza. In that letter, I wrote that we must redouble our efforts to empower the moderates in both Palestinian and Israeli society, while drawing power away from the extremes. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss these issues with you when Parliament returns next week.

This week, we have seen more marches in Israel - led by the families of the hostages, including those still held in Hamas' brutal captivity after almost 700 days - calling for an end to the war.

As ceasefire talks continue, I want to urge you to use all diplomatic levers at your disposal to exert genuine pressure on Hamas to release the remaining hostages. It is utterly despicable that this proscribed terrorist organisation – which has no place in the future of Gaza – continues to use the hostages as pawns in negotiations.

I know that the Government remains committed to securing the unconditional and immediate release of the hostages – but it must do more to apply the kind of pressure on Hamas which will force them to take this step.

Despite the atrocities they have directed and carried out, Hamas's political leadership have been able to maintain their headquarters in Qatar. It is simply unacceptable that these terrorists should be granted a veneer of legitimacy through this diplomatic base, even as they continue to hold and torture the hostages in Gaza.

In light of this, what discussions have you and other Ministers held with your counterparts in the Government of Qatar about the need to use Hamas's political base in their country as leverage to help secure the hostages' release?

Furthermore, what pressure is the Government willing to bring to bear on the Qatari Government? Will the Government demand that Qatar exile Hamas's political leadership unless they agree to the unconditional and immediate release of the hostages?

As we now move towards the formal recognition of the state of Palestine – a long overdue step – it is also vital that we work with the Palestinian Authority ('PA') to support its development.

The PA requires vital reform and must show its commitment to this process. What guarantees does the Government have that the PA are going to undertake those reforms to their governance and to the rule of law that are desperately needed, so that the people of Palestine can have a better future?

And, following the Prime Minister's meeting with Prime Minister Mustafa in April, what further steps has the Government taken to support and encourage in the West Bank the development and application of anti-corruption measures across the Palestinian civil service, as well as protections for freedom of expression?

Essential aspects of the work to realise the two-state solution must be to secure an end to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, secure the release of the hostages and ensure the recognition of the Palestinian State is supported by a sustainable programme of state building.

That's why Liberal Democrats have consistently called on the Government to do more across all these critical areas, including:

- Calling for more pressure to be applied on the Israeli Government to agree to a comprehensive reopening of aid routes into Gaza;
- Calling for the reversal of its decision to expand military operations to Gaza City; and
- Calling for efforts to stop illegal settlement expansion in the West Bank, not least the restarting of settlement building in the E1 area announced last week.

With a view to securing those vital goals and the calls we are making around Hamas, the PA and Qatar, I would welcome an update from you on the Government's position on implementing these proposals.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Calum Miller MP
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs

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