



4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

***Following the Government's decision to suspend some arms licences to Israel, 18 UK charities and organisations have issued the following statement:***

**The Government's recognition of the clear risk that Israel is using UK arms in serious violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a welcome step forward. Given that recognition, and the [clear and compelling evidence](#) that the Israeli military is violating IHL, it is insufficient that the Government has failed to end ALL arms transfers to Israel.**

In January, the International Court of Justice warned there is a risk that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, and has ordered that Israel cease actions that might be part of a genocide. This should leave no doubt that there can be no more business as usual. The failure of the UK government to suspend all arms transfers to Israel, leaving a significant loophole for parts used in F-35 fighter jets which have been used in [attacks on so-called "safe zones."](#) means that it remains complicit in the death and destruction that Israel's assault and siege have wrought on Palestinians in Gaza.

For eleven months, humanitarian organisations have raised the alarm about Israel's potential violations of international law, including the use of starvation and denial of water as weapons of war, attacks on civilian and so-called "safe" areas, and targeting of aid operations. These actions are strangling the humanitarian response and denying Palestinians the basic necessities needed to sustain life. The inevitable consequence of these policies has resulted in more than 40,000 people killed, including more than 14,000 children, 90% of Palestinians in Gaza displaced, and the resurgence of polio in Gaza after 25 years with no cases, putting 640,000 children at risk.

Meanwhile, Israel's denial of access for UN mechanisms, human rights experts and journalists, and its [rampant disinformation](#) against UN agencies, has dramatically undermined efforts to document its violations. In that vein, we are deeply concerned that, in the two months since the

new UK Government was elected, it has failed to engage with UK-based humanitarian organisations working in Gaza at a Ministerial level to seek their input on these issues.

In this context, it is beyond time for the UK to recognise the Government of Israel's disregard for international humanitarian law and active frustration of humanitarian operations, and to act accordingly. As a collective group of humanitarian, development, human rights and faith charities working for Palestinian human rights, wellbeing and dignity, we reiterate our collective call on the Government to immediately end ALL arms transfers to Israel to prevent their use in violations of international law.

**Signatories:**

1. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)
2. Oxfam GB
3. Welfare Association
4. Save the Children UK
5. Caabu (Council for Arab British Understanding)
6. Amnesty International UK
7. Islamic Relief UK
8. Action For Humanity
9. War on Want
10. Quakers in Britain
11. Interpal
12. Christian Aid
13. Amos Trust
14. Humanity & Inclusion UK
15. CARE International
16. ActionAid UK
17. Embrace the Middle East
18. CAFOD