All-Party Britain-Israel Parliamentary Group

Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street, London
SW1A 2AH

1 June 2021

Dear Foreign Secretary,

We write to you following our letter dated 3rd May calling on the United Kingdom to commit to joining the People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund and supporting the United States in establishing an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Recent events in Israel and the Palestinian Territories have, in our view, amplified the importance of the UK giving urgent, meaningful support to peaceful coexistence projects and we are delighted that many new colleagues have joined us in this effort.

Paralleling the tragic conflict between Israel and Hamas, the horrific intercommunal violence between Jewish and Arab Israelis has shocked Israelis as well as the international community. Brutal killings, lynching, the wanton torching of at least 112 homes and the looting of nearly 400 others, the vandalism of places of worship and the outright ferocity of uncontrolled riots has resulted in the worst violence since the catastrophic Second Intifada.

For long-time advocates of peace and observers of the region, this rapid escalation of violence is indicative of a failure by the international community to properly invest in long-term, stable coexistence initiatives aimed at building meaningful relationships between Jews and Arabs within Israel, and Israelis and Palestinians, built on trust and shared values. Championed by the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) and inspired by Anglo-American support for coexistence in Northern Ireland, the International Fund for Middle East Peace has received support and investment by the US with a view to not only preventing such intercommunal division but fundamentally strengthening civil society and the cause for peace.

The United Kingdom is hosting the world’s major democratic powers this month in Cornwall to solidify the international community’s commitment to liberal institutions and a peaceful world order. However, for peace to last it must be built from the ground-up. The horrendous intercommunal violence of recent weeks must serve as impetus for renewed international cooperation to strengthen a shared society in Israel, as well as the need for coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians. The UK should substantiate its support for peaceful coexistence between Arab and Jewish communities by playing a decisive leadership role and commit to the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

We welcome your reply and commitment to supporting coexistence in the Middle East.

Best regards,

Bob Blackman MP, Chairman, All-Party Britain-Israel Parliamentary Group
Lord Tumberg, Co-Chair, All-Party Britain-Israel Parliamentary Group
Lord Alliance, Vice President, Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel
Lord Beith, Vice President, Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel
Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP, House of Commons Parliamentary Chairman, Conservative Friends of Israel
Baroness Ludford, Vice President, Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel
Steve McCabe MP, Chair, Labour Friends of Israel
Catherine McKinnell MP, Vice Chair, Labour Friends of Israel
Lord Palmer of Childs Hill OBE, President, Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel
Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles, House of Lords Parliamentary Chairman, Conservative Friends of Israel
Lord Polak CBE, Honorary President, Conservative Friends of Israel
Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, House of Lords Parliamentary Chair, Labour Friends of Israel
Lord Alderdice
Baroness Altmann CBE
Lord Anderson of Swansea
Caroline Ansell MP
Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top
Lord Austin of Dudley
Scott Benton MP
Rt. Hon. Lord Blencathra
Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley MP
Brendan Clarke-Smith MP
Daisy Cooper MP, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats
Lord Davies of Stamford
Baroness Deech
Jonathan Djanogly MP
Baroness Eaton
Tim Farron MP
Simon Fell MP
Baroness Foster of Oxton DBE
Lord Foulkes of Cumnock
Lord Gold
Baroness Goudie
Lord Grade
Chris Green MP
Andrew Gwynne MP
Wera Hobhouse MP
Margaret Hodge MP
John Howell OBE MP
Mark Jenkinson MP
Robert Largan MP
Lord Leigh of Hurley
Lord Mendelsohn
Lord McDonald of Salford, Crossbencher
Sheryll Murray MP
Baroness Noakes
Lord Oates
Dr Matthew Offord MP
Andrew Percy MP
Nicola Richards MP
Mary Robinson MP
Andrew Rosindell MP
Rt. Hon. Lord Selkirk of Douglas
Lord Sharpe of Epsom OBE
Lord Shinkwin
Greg Smith MP
Lord Stone of Blackheath
Lord Taylor of Holbeach
Craig Tracey MP
Lord Triesman
Lord Turnberg
Lord Walney
Christian Wakeford MP
Baroness Whitaker
Lord Winston