Right Hon Philip Hammond MP Foreign Secretary Foreign and Commonwealth Office King Charles Street City of Westminster London SW1A 2AH

Email: fcocorrespondence@fco.gov.uk

For the urgent attention of: Right Hon Philip Hammond MP

23 May 2016

Dear Mr. Hammond,

Re: Urging the end of Israel's deliberate and/or reckless military airstrikes against family homes in Gaza following the killing of two children in their beds (second letter)

We write further to the response to our letter of 12 April 2016, received by email from the Near East Department on 10 May 2016.

While we are grateful to the department for considering and replying to our letter, the content of the response is a matter of concern. In particular, we note that the Government has not raised the issue of the military airstrike which killed two children with the Israeli Government, nor does the response address the overarching issue of the repeated use of deliberate and/or reckless airstrikes against family homes in Gaza. We consider the omission of these specific issues in your response to be worrying given their gravity.

Therefore, despite the value and importance of other measures mentioned in your response to our original letter, we respectfully once again urge the UK Government to:

- Publicly assert the vital need for a credible, impartial, independent and transparent investigation to be carried out into the killing of Yasin and Israa so that legal accountability is secured for any military and political official who is criminally liable for their deaths.
- Urge that Israel ends its apparently unlawful use of military airstrikes in Gaza on the basis that it a) demonstrates disregard for civilians and civilian objects in breach of international human rights law, and b) appears to be carried out in violation of relevant international humanitarian law principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution.

Publicly assert the ongoing vital need for fully credible and independent criminal
investigations, accountability and state responsibility and reparations for all alleged
serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, in relation to
the widespread and systematic targeting of family homes that caused massive civilian
loss of life during Israel's military offensive on Gaza in 2014.

We should be grateful for your careful consideration of this urgent matter and for your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Tareq Shrourou (Director) and Natalie Sedacca Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights