



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Middle East & North Africa Directorate
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Mr Tareq Shrourou
Director
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights

By email: lpwr@live.co.uk

Our reference: EMOP/595/2017

22 March 2017

Dear Mr Shrourou,

Thank you for your email of 20 October to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), enclosing a letter for the Foreign Secretary, about the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM). The Near East Department in the FCO has been asked to reply. I apologise for the delay in replying to your email, but your original email was never received in the FCO.

The UK supports the Material Monitoring Unit (MMU) which oversees and monitors the import, storage, supply and use of construction materials into Gaza under the auspices of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM). Over 1.9 million tonnes of construction material have entered Gaza under the GRM since September 2014 and over 2,100 fully destroyed homes have been rebuilt. We are also supporting the UN Access Coordination Unit to work with Israeli Government, Palestinian Authority and aid agencies to help facilitate humanitarian access in the OPTs. In close coordination with the Quartet and EU partners, we continue to lobby the appropriate Israeli and Egyptian authorities on the issue of improving movement and access into Gaza.

As part of our long-term assistance for Gaza, the UK supports partners like the UN Relief and Works Agency, who help deal with food shortages and provide basic services to those in need. There are limits to what donors can achieve without a political solution. An agreement should ensure that Hamas, and other terrorist groups, permanently end rocket fire and attacks against Israel; the Palestinian Authority resumes control of Gaza and restores effective and accountable governance; and that Israel lifts its restrictions in order to ease the suffering of ordinary Palestinians and allow the Gazan economy to grow.

On behalf of the
Near East Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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