



Right Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
City of Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2AH

**For the urgent attention of: Right Hon Alistair Burt MP**

23 October 2017

Dear Mr. Burt,

**Urgent: UK Government's response to ongoing electricity crisis in Gaza**

As lawyers committed to the protection and promotion of Palestinian human rights, we write to request that the UK Government makes urgent representations to the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority in specific regard to their respective breaches of international law obligations through their actions causing the ongoing crippling electricity crisis in Gaza.

The electricity reduction of 40 per cent implemented by Israel following its security cabinet decision of 11 June 2017 has serious human rights and humanitarian consequences for the entire population of Gaza. Without adequate electricity supply, it is impossible to provide adequate standards of health, education and welfare services. The electricity crisis is exacerbating a desperate situation for the people of Gaza who have lived under an illegal closure imposed and sustained by successive Israeli governments since June 2007.

We have assessed that the Government of Israel is in violation of its legal obligations, as an occupying power, under international humanitarian and human rights law in regard to its ongoing action causing the electricity crisis by implementing its security cabinet decision of 11 June to reduce electricity supply to Gaza by 40 per cent. We have also assessed that the Palestinian Authority is in serious breach of its international human rights law obligations in relation to its role causing the crisis through the appalling request it made to the Government of Israel to cut the amount of electricity supplied to Gaza by 40 per cent.

Our assessment is contained in an LPHR Legal Q&A enclosed with this letter and available on our website.

**Urgent intervention required by the British government**

In light of the ongoing grave electricity crisis in Gaza, we would ask that you consider taking the following steps if they have not already been taken up to now:



1. Urge Israel to act in accordance with its international humanitarian and human rights law obligations as an occupying power by immediately rescinding its security cabinet decision of 11 June 2017 to cut its electricity supply to Gaza by 40 per cent.
2. Urge the Palestinian Authority to act in accordance with its international human rights law obligations by immediately rescinding its request to Israel to reduce its electricity supply to Gaza by 40 per cent.
3. Criticise the decisions made by Israel and the Palestinian Authority directly causing the ongoing electricity crisis as being in breach of international law obligations owed to the people of Gaza with serious human rights and humanitarian consequences.

We would be grateful for your careful consideration of this urgent request and for your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Tareq Shrourou (Director) and Angelina Nicolaou  
**Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights**

**CC:**

Mr. Boris Johnson MP, UK Foreign Secretary