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The Rt Hon David Lammy MP  
Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
House of Commons  
London  
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Wednesday 1st November 2023

Dear David Lammy,

We are writing to ask that the Labour Party call for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel/Gaza conflict. Given its commitment to ethics, human rights and international law in foreign policy, it is disappointing that the Labour Party has not yet done so. Over 700 civilians are being killed every day; one child every ten minutes (according to Save The Children). This is unacceptable and must end. The humanitarian situation is clearly intolerable. International calls for aid to be delivered are not working: only a small fraction of what is needed is getting through. There is mass civilian suffering. The only way to protect civilians is for the fighting to stop.

The killing is evidently disproportionate. The denial of food, fuel and water to the civilian population clearly amounts to collective punishment. The removal of perhaps 1 million people from northern Gaza is coerced – this is forcible displacement. Why does the Labour party not call out these actions as clear breaches of international humanitarian law? The Green Party unreservedly condemns the horrendous Hamas attacks of 7 October and the taking of hostages. Such attacks demand a response and the hostages must be released unconditionally, but these criminal acts by Hamas cannot justify military actions which breach the laws of war.

Calls for a resumption of the ‘peace process’ are also inadequate in the current context. Previous efforts failed. A never-ending process was vulnerable to disruption by extremists from both sides. Given that the parties are incapable of finding such a settlement themselves, what is needed is an internationally arbitrated once-and-for-all settlement that fully ends the occupation of Palestinian territories (including East Jerusalem), in accordance with the requirements of international law, in particular UN resolutions 242 and 338. This used to be the position of the Labour party. Can you reassure us that it still is?

In the current context of the continual bombardment of Gaza, *sotto voce* calls for 'restraint' or for respect for international law are clearly inadequate and are being ignored. It is surely time for Labour to do the right thing, for the sake of the innocent men, women and children of Gaza, who are being killed in their thousands.

Yours sincerely,

*Adrian Ramsay. Carla Denyer Zack Polanski Carne Ross*

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