



THE RT. HON. SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP

**House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA**

**Tel: 020 7219 4000
Fax: 020 7219 2949**

Labour Member of Parliament for East Ham

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

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Dear James,

I have been contacted by a number of my constituents about the escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine.

The Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians were appalling and unjustifiable. Hamas terrorists are not the same as the Palestinian people and do not represent their legitimate right to dignity, freedom, justice, and self-determination. Yet, the announcement that Israel would implement a “*complete siege*” on Gaza is troubling. Many innocent civilians living in the area will struggle to access food, water, electricity or healthcare.

There are worries about the proposed response by Israel. In responding, as it is entitled to, Israel *must* adhere to the constraints of international law. My constituents are also very concerned about the humanitarian situation on the ground. Given the evacuation has started, there should be safe corridors within Gaza, and access for humanitarian relief must have access to those in the area.

Have you raised these points with your Israeli counterparts? And what are the prospects for a ceasefire being called which would allow the release of hostages taken in the last week or so?

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,

SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP

Cc: Constituents