



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

12 September 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as a cross-party group of British parliamentarians outraged at Prime Minister Netanyahu's announcement that he intends, if elected, to annex the Jordan Valley as well as Israeli settlements that have themselves been built in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The announcement shows contempt for Palestinian rights and international law. It is morally and politically indefensible.

As Foreign Secretary, and as a friend of Israel, you warned the Israeli Government in 2017 that "you have to have a two-state solution or else you have a kind of apartheid system" [Jerusalem Post, March 2017]. Tragically, Prime Minister Netanyahu has chosen the latter, whereby in one territory one people enjoy full rights, and the other does not. This is an existential threat to the solution of two-states with equal rights for both peoples which Britain, under your leadership, must continue to champion. Annexation will lead to more intense conflict.

Any annexation would also undermine the long-standing principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory through war. This was why Britain objected to the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014, and why the EU imposed sanctions on Russia.

The British government and its partners in Europe should respond robustly to annexation of territory by Israel. That response must be more than just words of disapproval. It must demonstrate that flouting international law, as Netanyahu is threatening, will have serious consequences for Israel's relationship with Britain and other powers. The response of the international community must act as a deterrent to actions which would smash the two-state solution – the internationally agreed parameter for resolving this conflict. In view of the imminence of the Israeli election, the UK must make this strong position public without delay.

We urge you to demonstrate that Britain is willing to stand up for the rules-based international order. Rightly, the international community has long insisted that Israelis should be able to live in peace and security with recognition of its independent statehood as a guarantee of those rights. Palestinians are entitled to the same rights, but they are denied their realisation. In addition to protecting the people of Palestine from illegal annexation of territory and theft of natural resources such as water, therefore, the UK government must also finally recognise the state of Palestine on the 1967 lines with Jerusalem as a shared capital for two peoples.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burden MP

Chair, Britain-Palestine All-Party Parliamentary Group

Debbie Abrahams MP	Ronnie Cowan MP
Rushanara Ali MP	Alex Cunningham MP
Michael Ancram, Marquess of Lothian	Martyn Day MP
Tonia Antoniazzi MP	Wayne David MP
Hannah Bardell MP	Martin Docherty-Hughes MP
Roberta Blackman-Woods MP	Tan Dhesi MP
Baroness Tessa Blackstone	Anneliese Dodds MP
Paul Blomfield MP	Jack Dromey MP
Crispin Blunt MP	Sir Alan Duncan MP
Tracy Brabin MP	Clive Efford MP
Ben Bradshaw MP	Julie Elliott MP
Tom Brake MP	Chris Elmore MP
Alan Brown MP	Bill Esterson MP
Lyn Brown MP	Preet Gill MP
Richard Burgon MP	Roger Godsiff MP
Liam Byrne MP	Patrick Grady MP
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Lord Menzies Campbell of Pittenweem	Peter Grant MP
Alistair Carmichael MP	Neil Gray MP
Sarah Champion MP	Kate Green MP
Douglas Chapman MP	Lilian Greenwood MP
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Joanna Cherry QC MP	Andrew Gwynne MP
Lord John Cope of Berkeley	Louise Haigh MP
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Drew Hendry MP
Mike Hill MP
Kate Hollern MP
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Diana Johnson MP
David Jones MP
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