

The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
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16 October 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

URGENT CALL FOR CEASEFIRE – Open letter

Firefly International is a small, Edinburgh-based charity helping war-affected children. Firefly supports its partner organisation in Gaza, in providing counselling for children suffering from the effects of trauma. Following the horrendous attacks conducted by Hamas extremists in southern Israel ten days ago, our clinic has had to close because of Israeli bombardments of Gaza. We receive sporadic updates on the situation in Gaza from project staff. The situation on the ground is absolutely brutal – carnage – and supplies essential for life are about to run out.

From our What's App message received from our project manager two days ago:

'I fled to different areas for fear of bombardment, and I was given voicemails to evacuate my house by the army. I tried to go south but it was hard. They killed 70 people going south of Gaza...returned to northern Gaza. I suffer from no drinking water, electricity, internet, fuel, vegetables, we live on food canned and some bread. Every day I think we will go to the sky...massacres, massacres, shelling and shrapnel arriving in our house.'

While we understand the Government of Israel's goal of destroying Hamas, once and for all, we abhor a strategy to achieve that goal, which entails the continuation of the slaughter now being perpetrated and the siege which cuts off supplies of the essentials needed to sustain life.

Your statement to the House of Commons yesterday was clear in its three objectives: stepping up humanitarian support, working to protect civilians from harm and straining every sinew to keep peace and stability alive. With regard to the second objective, please will you call for an immediate ceasefire? Without one, thousands more innocent civilians will die, half of them children.

With my thanks to you for reading this letter and my best wishes,



Sebastian Chambers
Chair, Firefly International

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