

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

The killing of Palestinian protestors in Gaza

Thanks to everyone who has contacted me about the killing of Palestinian protestors in Gaza.

Like so many people I have been appalled by the recent killing and injuring of Palestinian protestors on the Israel-Gaza border. Since 30th March, more than 100 Palestinians have been killed and over 12,000 injured. The recent influx of casualties has put Gaza's health system, which the World Health Organisation had said was "on the brink of collapse" even before this current crisis, under even more pressure.

The government of Israel has sought to shift responsibility for the deaths of protestors onto Hamas. Hamas have indeed encouraged people to join the protests and there is also no doubt that they have talked up their own role to gain political advantage from the protests. The reality is, however, thousands of people do not put themselves in harm's way because of manipulation by Hamas or anyone else. They do so because they have been dispossessed for 70 years, under occupation for 50 years and under a blockade that has turned Gaza into a gigantic prison camp for eleven years.

An international, independent and transparent inquiry into the appalling events in Gaza is imperative to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and that where breaches of international law are identified for those responsible to be held to account – whoever they are. In Parliament I tabled an Early Day Motion which called on the UK Government to call for and support and independent investigation which you can find [here](#).

I regret that the UK Government abstained from voting on a UN Human Rights Council resolution to undertake an urgent investigation into "all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law". I raised this decision and the feeble response to events in Gaza with the Government in an Urgent Question where I pressed the importance of upholding in practice the principle of accountability for violations of international law. You can read the Hansard record of the Urgent Question [here](#).

Thanks again to all those who have contacted me about recent events in Gaza.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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