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Rt. Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
10 Downing Street
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Dear Prime Minister,

Four months ago I wrote to you about the terrible violence which is currently engulfing Israel.

As you will be aware, the wave of terror has continued to grow. Thirty people have been murdered and there have been 174 stabbing attacks, 70 shootings and 38 vehicle rammings.

Sadly, many of the perpetrators of these attacks are either schoolchildren or barely out of school. Indeed, in recent weeks, attacks have been committed by two 13-year-old girls and a 14-year-old boy.

At the same time, senior figures in the Palestinian Authority (PA) and its state-controlled media continue to engage in acts of incitement, much of it deeply anti-Semitic. Earlier this month, President Abbas met with the families of those who had committed some of the most appalling recent terrorist acts, including that of Baha Alian, who killed three Israelis on a Jerusalem bus in October, and relatives of Alaa Abu Jamal, who the same month drove his car into Israeli pedestrians and then proceeded to stab the victims. The meeting, which was broadcast by the official Palestinian news agency, occurred just hours after terrorists murdered an Israeli border guard outside the Old City. The president's message to the families – "Your sons are martyrs" – sadly encapsulates the PA's unrelenting role in the incitement of violence against Israelis.

I am particularly disturbed by the manner in which the language of incitement seems to be directed at children and young people. The PA continues its apparent policy of glorifying terrorists who have murdered Israelis and presenting them as role models for children. It has named at least 25 schools, as well as dozens of sporting events and summer camps after terrorists. Jibril Rajoub, Deputy Secretary of the Fatah Central Committee and Head of the Supreme Council for Sport and Youth Affairs, recently suggested that PA schools teach one terrorist's "will", which was published on his Facebook page before he launched a murderous attack in which three Israelis were killed. In October, the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education planted olive trees and placed "signs with the names of the Martyrs," honouring the "Martyrs" of what they call "the ongoing popular uprising."



The ministry stated that its tree-planting ceremony was a symbol of its dedication to the "Martyrs," and mentioned that some of them were school pupils. This refers to, among others, Hassan Manasrah who stabbed two people, leaving a 13-year-old boy fighting for his life with multiple stab wounds.

There are also countless examples of children's television programmes on official PA TV promoting anti-Semitism. In November, for instance, a young girl recited a poem on Official PA TV that included the words "Our enemy, Zion, is Satan with a tail." On at least three occasions over the past two years, Official PA TV has broadcast children reciting a poem which refers to Jews as "barbaric monkeys," "the most evil among creations," and those "who murdered Allah's pious prophets." Magazines aimed at young people, and funded by it, propagate the PA's myths that Israel threatens the status of the Temple Mount. As I suggested when I wrote in October, I do not believe we can discount the impact of this kind of discourse on impressionable young minds.

Both Labour and Conservative governments have, rightly, recognised the importance of a well-functioning Palestinian Authority in order that a two-state solution may be reached. I support, therefore, the use of British aid to enable the PA to develop strong institutions and deliver essential public services. I believe, too, that Britain's work to alleviate poverty and enable wealth-creation in the Palestinian Territories is vital to the creation of a viable Palestinian state.

However, I do not believe that, for so long as it incites violence against Israel's citizens, the PA is helping to further Britain's policy of a two-state solution. Indeed, its actions are making such an outcome far less likely.

I urge you, therefore, to explicitly link funding which goes to the PA to the immediate cessation of incitement.

Furthermore, I believe that the time has come for a wider debate about how British aid best supports the goal of a two-state solution. Given that there is a long-standing consensus across both government and opposition in favour of such a policy, this should be an issue that we examine on a cross-party basis. I am requesting that you establish an independent review into the question of how UK government spending in Israel and Palestine best supports the cause of peace and combats violence and extremism. It should examine in particular the case for increasing substantially our support through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund for co-existence projects which bring Israelis and Palestinians together.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP

Chair, Labour Friends of Israel