



**PALESTINE
SOLIDARITY
CAMPAIGN**

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Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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Dear Secretary of State,

I'm writing with deep concern about the statement you put out yesterday welcoming the agreement between Israel and the UAE.

Far from being a positive step towards peace, it is in fact a continuing implementation of President Trump's disastrous Middle East plan. If it were a contribution to peace, the Palestinians would have been consulted about it and then welcomed it when it was announced. The reality is that the first they knew of it was when Trump announced it at the White House and have subsequently condemned it.

Israel is being rewarded for delaying official annexation of Palestinian territory. Netanyahu has already released a statement making it clear that formal annexation remains very much on the table.

"There is no change to my plan to extend sovereignty, our sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, in full coordination with the United States." – Benjamin Netanyahu

Regardless of whether Israel goes ahead with a de jure annexation, the facts on the ground are that Israel has already extended its sovereignty illegally over the occupied Palestinian territory. Annexation and apartheid is already the lived reality of Palestinians.

This agreement does nothing to bring the realisation of the core collective rights of the Palestinian people closer. Instead, it gives formal UAE approval to Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people. It will not end the demolition of Palestinian homes, the arbitrary arrest and harassment of human rights defenders and children, or the expansion of illegal settlements.

The collective rights of the Palestinian people are not divisible. They cannot be sold, exchanged or traded by third parties. As Palestinian civil society has repeatedly called for, states must use all their diplomatic means to put pressure on Israel to comply fully with international law, and recognise and implement the full rights of the Palestinian people.

Far from welcoming this deal and rewarding Israel for its continued violations of international law, the UK must find meaningful ways to hold Israel accountable. This means banning trade with illegal settlements; ending the UK-Israel arms exchange; and not providing diplomatic cover for Israel's ongoing abuse of Palestinians.

Yours sincerely,

Kamel Hawwash
Chair of Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC)