

GAZA HUMANITARIAN PAUSE “A BAND-AID TO A BLEEDING WOUND”: OXFAM

Press Releases

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In response to the announcement of the release of hostages and prisoners, and of the four-day humanitarian pause to escalated hostilities in Gaza, agreed today between Hamas and the Government of Israel, Oxfam GB’s Head of Policy and Advocacy Katy Chakraborty said:

“We welcome that 50 Israeli and foreign national hostages will be released. This deal allows much-needed time for families on both sides to be reunited, celebrate the safe return of their loved ones, and mourn those they have lost. Every diplomatic effort must be made to ensure the release of all remaining hostages. It would be an optimism to see this as the beginnings of a road toward a permanent ceasefire – but that looks distant without concerted diplomatic pressure.

“This pause of the relentless bombing and destruction that is causing such suffering to more than two million Palestinians is a welcome respite for the delivery of some humanitarian aid – but no more than that. The next four days will be eaten up by a desperate emergency effort that can offer only very limited relief, not equal to the size of suffering and destruction and ultimately with no sustainability. This is a band-aid that will be ripped off a bleeding wound after four days.

“The UK government and the rest of international community must now use all diplomatic efforts to ensure that this truce evolves into a lasting ceasefire, ensuring unobstructed humanitarian aid through both Israel and Egypt, including vital fuel supplies. Now is the time to start the hard work towards peace for all Israelis and Palestinians, including tackling the

core of the conflict: ending Israel's prolonged military occupation of Palestinian territory and the blockade on Gaza while also securing the release of all hostages.”

Ends

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