



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE

2 Port Royal Street, Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

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Jamaica Recognizes Palestine as a State

The Government of Jamaica has taken the decision to recognize the State of Palestine. The decision was confirmed by Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, following deliberations of the Cabinet on Monday (April 22).

Minister Johnson Smith advised that, **“Jamaica continues to advocate for a two-state solution as the only viable option to resolve the longstanding conflict, guarantee the security of Israel and uphold the dignity and rights of Palestinians. By recognizing the State of Palestine, Jamaica strengthens its advocacy towards a peaceful solution.”**

In commenting on the decision, she said, **“The decision is aligned with Jamaica’s strong commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which seek to engender mutual respect and peaceful co-existence among states, as well as the recognition of the right of peoples to self-determination.”**

Minister Johnson Smith provided further context for the decision by reiterating Jamaica’s concerns regarding the war in Gaza and the ever-deepening humanitarian crisis, together with the Government’s advocacy for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through diplomatic dialogue rather than military actions. The Foreign Minister reaffirmed Jamaica’s support for an immediate ceasefire, the release of hostages and increased access to humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza, especially the many women and children who are suffering daily. She stated:

“Jamaica continues to support all efforts for de-escalation and the establishment of lasting peace in the region, imploring all parties to consider the dire consequences of further conflict and commit to diplomatic solutions ensuring the safety and sovereignty of all.”

Jamaica now joins 140 Member States of the United Nations (UN) who have recognised the State of Palestine.

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