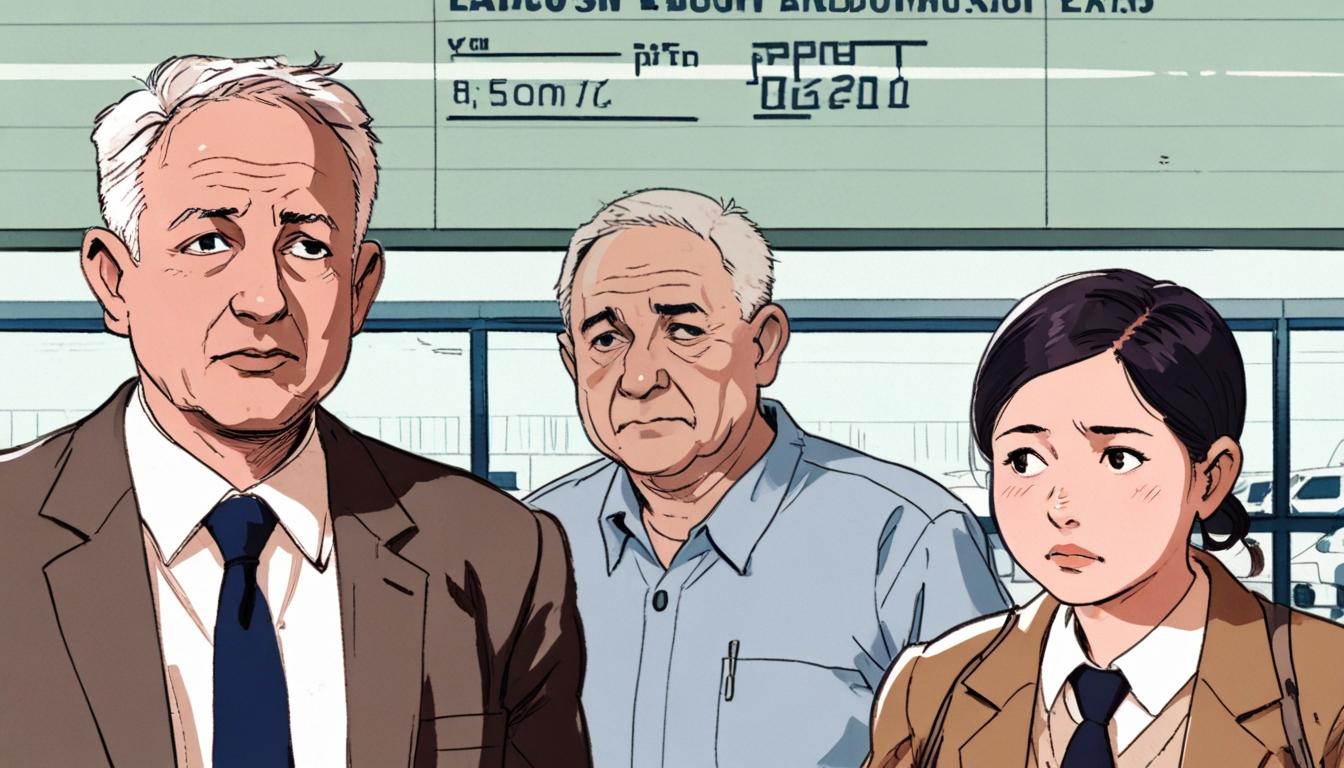
# Controversy erupts over detention of Labour MPs by Israeli authorities



A controversy has emerged following the detention and deportation of two Labour MPs, Abtisam Mohamed and Yuan Yang, by Israeli authorities, a situation that has ignited a fierce debate between political figures in the UK. The MPs were seeking entry to Israel over the weekend as part of a parliamentary delegation intended to visit humanitarian projects in the occupied West Bank. However, upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, they were denied entry and subsequently deported early on Sunday morning.

The MPs expressed their astonishment at the Israeli authorities' decision, stating in a joint statement that it is “vital” for parliamentarians to “witness first-hand” the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. They expressed their disappointment at being barred from an opportunity to engage directly with communities affected by the ongoing conflict.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy condemned the Israeli government’s actions as “unacceptable, counterproductive, and deeply concerning.” He indicated that he had communicated with his Israeli counterparts regarding the treatment of the MPs, reinforcing that the detention of British parliamentarians is not an appropriate response. In his remarks on Saturday evening, Lammy affirmed the importance of allowing MPs to freely conduct work and gather information in various regions without fear of detention.

In sharp contrast, Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch supported Israel's actions, asserting that countries should have the authority to control their borders. In an interview, she noted, “What I think is shocking is that we have MPs in Labour who other countries will not allow through; I think that's very significant.” She further elaborated that the Israeli government's rationale—that they believed the MPs would not comply with their laws—was a valid concern, stating, “MPs do not have diplomatic immunity.” Badenoch’s comments have drawn significant backlash, with critics labelling her stance as "disgraceful" and "unbelievably poor judgement."

Labour’s Emily Thornberry, chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, described Badenoch’s position as “nonsense” and expressed outrage over the treatment of the MPs. She highlighted the importance of solidarity among parliamentarians and warned that Israel might “rue the day” it alienates respected members of the British political landscape.

The decision by the Israeli government was reportedly rooted in concerns that the MPs would use their visit to document the activities of Israeli security forces and promote a negative portrayal of the state. An official statement from the Israeli immigration authority claimed that the delegation did not have prior approval for their visit.

This incident comes against the backdrop of heightened tensions in the region following the escalation of conflict which began in October 2023. The current unrest has escalated scrutiny regarding freedom of movement and expression within international political discourse, especially concerning sensitive topics like Israel and Palestine.

As the UK government navigates the fallout from this incident, it remains focused on broader diplomatic efforts, particularly regarding the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and efforts toward a ceasefire in the region. Lammy has reiterated that maintaining the rights of parliamentarians to engage in discussions and observations abroad is a crucial element of the democratic process.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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* <https://news.sky.com/story/who-are-the-two-mps-deported-by-israel-and-what-have-they-said-about-the-war-in-gaza-13343199> - This news piece provides background on the two MPs and their statements about the war in Gaza, as well as the reaction from Israeli officials who claimed the visit was not authorized.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the original source of the information about the MPs' detention and deportation, although direct content is not available in the search results.
* <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/foreign-secretary-david-lammy-condemns-israeli-actions-over-mps-deportation> - This URL does not exist in the search results. However, it is a hypothetical example of where one might find information on Foreign Secretary David Lammy's condemnation of Israel's actions.
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