# Political storm erupts over Conservative leader's defence of Israel's deportation of Labour MPs



A political storm has erupted in the UK following Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch’s defense of Israel’s decision to deny entry and deport two Labour MPs, Yuan Yang and Abtisam Mohamed. This occurred as the MPs sought to visit humanitarian aid projects in the West Bank as part of a delegation organized by the Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu) and Medical Aid for Palestinians, which has facilitated such trips for over a decade.

Badenoch ignited controversy on Sky News’s Sunday Morning with Trevor Phillips, asserting, “I think that every country should be able to control its borders, and that’s what Israel is doing, as far as I understand.” Her comments suggested that the MPs were pursuing activities they had no right to undertake, aligning with Israel’s position on border control. Such remarks raise serious concerns about the government's commitment to promoting open dialogue and international collaboration, especially as the new Labour government appears to be sidestepping its role in safeguarding democracy and human rights.

Labour’s foreign secretary David Lammy took to social media, condemning Badenoch’s stance, claiming it was “disgraceful” to support the detainment of British MPs and affirming the government's duty to protect MPs' rights to freely express their views. This incident reveals a worrying pattern in Labour’s attitude towards the international community that may compromise Britain’s standing on the world stage.

Emily Thornberry, chair of the Commons foreign affairs committee, shared her disbelief at Badenoch’s comments, labeling them “nonsense.” She urged for solidarity with fellow parliamentarians aiming to shed light on the complicated situation in the region. This was echoed by Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey, who criticized Badenoch's actions as an indication of “unbelievably poor judgment,” reflecting not only the ineffectiveness of the current administration but its failure to engage meaningfully with global partners.

Badenoch, in a bid to defend her position, contrasted Israel with China on X, arguing that “Unlike China, Israel is our ally and a democracy.” This perspective exposes a dangerous inclination within the ruling party to prioritize certain foreign relationships at the expense of broader ethical considerations, undermining the very principles that should guide British diplomacy. MPs, particularly from the newly empowered right-wing opposition, know that the current Labour government risks alienating allies while compromising the national interest.

Not all Conservative MPs shared Badenoch’s views. Richard Fuller, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, argued that parliamentarians should be welcome in foreign nations, emphasizing the need for independent information to be shared back in Parliament. Such a view aligns more closely with a robust commitment to international cooperation and transparency, contrasting sharply with the narrow-minded approach that appears to characterize the current Labour leadership’s stance.

Thornberry noted the gravity of this being the first instance of Israel refusing entry to British MPs. Amidst ongoing violence in Gaza, which has led to horrific casualties and displacement, the deportation underscores the complexities of international relations and the necessity of parliamentary diplomacy. As the Labour government grapples with its foreign policy strategies, the opposition remains poised to engage the public about these critical issues, advocating for a more principled approach that aligns with a broader vision of Britain’s role in the world. The political tension surrounding the deportation of Yang and Mohamed reveals deep cracks in the current government's foreign policy, one that appears to prioritize optics over substantive engagement at a time when genuine bipartisan support for human rights and diplomacy is urgently needed.

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

## References

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofryhKBN1KQ> - This YouTube video provides a transcript where Kemi Badenoch defends Israel's decision to deny entry and deport two Labour MPs, aligning her stance with Israel's position on border control. It also includes criticism from Labour MPs regarding her comments.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/news/politics/kemi-badenoch-israel-deportation-labour-mps> - This article details the conflict between Labour and the Tories after Badenoch defended Israel’s actions against Labour MPs, highlighting cross-party criticism and reactions from various political figures.
* <https://www.thejc.com/news/politics/israel-blocks-two-labour-mps-from-entry-and-deports-them-v45hfgi2> - This article covers the Israeli government's decision to block two Labour MPs from entering Israel and their deportation. It includes reactions from Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch and Foreign Secretary David Lammy.
* <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/uk-labour-mps-astounded-be-detained-and-deported-israel> - This article provides details about Labour MPs Abtisam Mohamed and Yuan Yang being denied entry and deported from Israel. It includes statements from the MPs expressing astonishment and concern over the situation.
* <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/4/6/israel-deports-two-uk-labour-mps-after-blocking-entry> - This article from Al Jazeera reports on the deportation of Labour MPs by Israel and includes international reactions to the event, highlighting tensions in international relations.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65431541> - This BBC News article covers the political fallout in the UK following the deportation of Labour MPs from Israel. It includes reactions from key British politicians and offers context on the diplomatic implications.