

## Evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee

### The Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Written evidence submitted by Colin Watson (IPC0028)

1.

i). My name is Colin Watson a citizen of the UK, 75 years of age.

ii) My response, see below, is motivated solely by a desire to see justice served in Palestine and Israel.

iii). Beyond that I am most concerned for the integrity of humanity world-wide if it is unable to stop such horrors as we see today being committed.

We all have a duty to do all we can to stop this assault on humanity.

2.

i). UK governments, both Conservative and Labour have laid claim to being a friend of Israel.

Despite that, neither have been a friend to the people of Israel, or the indigenous people of Palestine.

A friend to the political ideology of Zionism for sure, but not to the people who have suffered for over 76 years now from the domination of that racist ideology.

ii) UK policy is disingenuous and cowardly, and has become complicit in a great crime against humanity.

There is much to be undone, and it is too late for many, especially Palestinians in Gaza.

iii). However the guidelines for future policy exist, as they have always existed:-

- \* International humanitarian law
- \* Geneva conventions
- \* The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- \* Seemingly innumerable United Nations resolutions and declarations demanding Israel's compliance with international law

The UK should insist on the application of those laws by Israel, in the same way that it has demanded others, including the Palestinians, should follow those rules. Where there is non-compliance, sanctions should be applied.

If the whole international community had done this, since for example the massacre at Deir Yassin in 1948, through to the illegal occupation of the West bank in 1967.

On to the blockade of Gaza starting in 2005 and the subsequent disproportionate bombing of civilians every year since then.

iv). If the whole international community had applied those laws, applied sanctions as a consequence of illegal acts, then we might not be where we are today, witnessing for nearly 15 months the destruction of a people, ethnic cleansing, a Genocide.

3.

i) It is clear that US policy on Israel, protection for Zionism, leads the way. The UK must for the sake of our own humanity, break with this policy. Condemn the Zionism of Netanyahu and his Likud party, condemn and proscribe the settler movement and their IDF supporters, condemn and apply UK anti-terrorism law to any groups in the UK that support them.

ii) Recognise Palestine as a state and define its boundaries, at the very least the 1967 borders, though even this allows for the stealing of much Palestinian land given under the 1948 partition.

iii) Push for, offer logistical support to and then recognise the outcome of elections for a Palestinian Authority (PA). This authority to then represent the Palestinians in a process aimed at establishing sustainable peace and reconciliation.

iv) Stolen land in the West Bank must be returned to the PA

v) Any Palestinians wishing to return to homes in Israel should be free to do so,

vi) This should be a first step. The future of Israel-Palestine should then be in the hands of the people living there in a democratic environment.

Be that future a continuation of two states living under the obligations of international law, or as a people in one state living under the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it would be for those people to choose.

vii) It should not be in the hands of other actors, primarily the US, to decide.

4.

i) There can be no justice for any people living under occupation.

5. Conclusion

**Surely justice as an outcome should be the objective of all UK foreign policy?**

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