

Written evidence on Israel-Palestine conflict submitted by Dr  
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1 I am a semi-retired Clinical Psychologist and a member of the union Unite. I have been concerned about the Israel-Palestine situation for some time and my concern has increased each time the situation escalated.

2 I have researched the historical background in an effort to understand the long-term causes of the conflict.

3 In my opinion Rashid Khalidi's book "The Hundred Years' war on Palestine" is a fair and balanced presentation of the Palestinian perspective.

4 Clearly there are no easy answers, but a starting point is the comment on the book by Rob Malley, International Crisis Group CEO and White House Coordinator for the Middle East under President Barack Obama. Malley refers to Khalidi's tenacious conviction that "there are now two peoples in Palestine, irrespective of how they came into being, and the conflict between them cannot be resolved as long as the national existence of each is denied by the other".

"It takes two to tango." If Israel genuinely wanted peace, as the more powerful nation they could easily initiate this. Instead they rely on what they call the Iron Cage, repressing the Palestinians in ways that continually breed resentment. It suits the unwritten agenda of the Israeli state (which increasingly talks of Greater Israel) to have an enemy opposed to them which they can label as Terrorists and which enables them to bomb Gaza into ruins and kill tens of thousands of Palestinians on the spurious grounds that they are protecting

terrorists. Hamas will be unlikely to agree to a ceasefire whilst the Israeli forces remain in the Occupied Territories.

5 In my opinion the current situation in Gaza amounts to genocide and to talk of a conflict now minimises the catastrophe. To allow Israel to proceed with its current course of blatant aggression on the spurious ground of self defence is to collude with war crimes, endanger world peace and greatly increase the risk of antisemitism becoming more widespread globally as the scale of the devastation carried out by Israel becomes more widely known.

6 Medecin Sans Frontieres, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have documented the case that genocide is being committed in Gaza. Babies are now freezing and the last hospital in Gaza has been destroyed.

7 The result of the recent Oxford Union debate on the topic demonstrates how public opinion in this country has changed.

8 The genocide is simply the endpoint of the ethnic cleansing which was carried out in 1948 expelling Palestinians forcibly from large sections of territory.

9 the USA has sought to broker peace while continuing to arm Israel.

## Conclusion

1 There can be no peaceful future in the Middle East unless the social, civil and political rights of Palestinians are

recognised by a government which is bound by its constitution to enforce equality. This cannot happen unless the State of Israel changes its policies and in all probability, its constitution.

2 The British State has a responsibility to alert Jewish people in the diaspora to the fact that Israel needs to change its policies in order to survive, and to inform the British military that collaboration with Israel at the present time may not be in the best interests of our country or the world. After all the British State, when in its role as a great World Empire victorious in a World War, laid the foundations for the present “Jewish homeland” by issuing the Balfour Declaration. The British State (or United Kingdom) should now take responsibility for the consequences of its past actions.

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