

Forensic Architecture

Goldsmiths, University of London
8 Lewisham Way
London SE14 6NW
United Kingdom

forensic-architecture.org

Written evidence submitted by Forensic Architecture (IPC0040)

To: Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Re: ‘Inquiry into Israeli-Palestinian conflict’ dated 25 November 2024

1. Since the start of Israel’s military campaign in Gaza in October 2023, Forensic Architecture has been collecting data related to attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure by the Israeli military. Our analysis of this conduct reveals the near-total destruction of civilian life in Gaza. The patterns we have observed concerning Israel’s military conduct in Gaza indicate a systematic and organised campaign to destroy life, conditions necessary for life, and life-sustaining infrastructure. It is our view that Israel’s military campaign in Gaza is genocidal in nature. To secure a lasting ceasefire as soon as possible, we support the calls of British and international organisations including [Oxfam](#), [Amnesty International](#), [Campaign Against Arms Trade](#), Al-Haq and the [Global Legal Action Network \(GLAN\)](#) for a total embargo on the sale of arms from the UK to Israel, including all UK-supplied parts for the F-35 jet program. It is our assessment that a total arms embargo on Israel is justified and necessary to halt the ongoing Israeli military campaign and to prevent war crimes committed with UK weapons. We believe it is the legal and moral responsibility of the UK to halt all arms exports to Israel and to demand of its allies to do the same. Ending arms sales to Israel is a crucial step towards securing a ceasefire.

Background and Introduction to Forensic Architecture

2. Forensic Architecture (FA) is a research agency based at Goldsmiths, University of London, that provides evidence and expert testimony for national and international courts based on analysis of evidence concerning potential human rights violations, war crimes, violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and other potential crimes. Our work has been admitted in legal processes in jurisdictions around the world, including in the US, UK, Germany, Guatemala, Namibia, Greece, Israel, and Colombia. Other investigations have been submitted to the International Criminal Court, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and the United Nations General Assembly. Our director, Professor Eyal Weizman, has been a member of the Technology Advisory Board of the International Criminal Court.

Written Evidence

3. Our position is informed by an extensive body of research and analysis of Israel's military conduct in Gaza since October 2023. Since that time, we have been monitoring and reporting upon Israeli military actions, including likely war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law, including civilian targeting, ecocide (the systematic destruction of ecology and the natural landscape), attacks on aid, and the abuse of supposed humanitarian measures such as 'evacuation orders' and 'humanitarian zones'.
4. Our recent publication 'A Cartography of Genocide' consists of an [interactive cartographic platform](#) as well as an [827-page text report](#). Towards this report, we documented over 2,000 incidents of Israeli attacks on civilian life and infrastructure, the movement and actions of the military, and the so called 'protective' measures of evacuation orders and 'humanitarian zones'. Mapping allowed us to cartographically analyse the patterns and logic of the Israeli military campaign.
5. The incidents we analysed between 7 October 2023 and 6 July 2024 – many of which were undertaken by the Israeli air force, potentially conducted using F-35 jets – include 110 attacks on medical facilities, 353 attacks on civilian shelters, and 564 attacks on educational facilities.
6. Our analysis includes a detailed daily record of airstrikes in the first three weeks of Israel's military campaign, between 7 and 28 October 2023. We recorded 998 airstrikes; one of our observations was that the timing of the Israeli military's airstrikes on civilian infrastructure correlates with the time at which a higher density of civilians would be expected to be present in those sites, maximising civilian deaths.¹
7. The patterns we have observed concerning Israel's military conduct in Gaza indicate a systematic and organised campaign to destroy life, conditions necessary for life, and life-sustaining infrastructure. In response to these patterns, we urge the UK government to put in place an embargo on the supply of UK arms to Israel, including all UK-supplied parts for the F-35 jet programme. This embargo is necessary to prevent UK-manufactured arms from being used in further human rights violations by Israel. It may also add the necessary diplomatic pressure to the UK government's ongoing calls for a ceasefire. Without such pressure and consequence, we believe a crucial ceasefire will be delayed indefinitely. As you are aware, we cannot wait another day for a ceasefire, and we call on the UK government to do everything it can to achieve it.

Sincerely,

Forensic Architecture

30th December 2024

¹ Forensic Architecture, 'A Spatial Analysis of the Israeli Military's Conduct in Gaza since October 2023' (2023) 417–424 <https://content.forensic-architecture.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/FA_A-Spatial-Analysis-of-the-Israeli-militarys-conduct-in-Gaza-since-October-2023.pdf> accessed 27 December 2024; Forensic Architecture 529–530.