

Foreign Affairs Committee Inquiry on the “Israeli-Palestinian conflict”

Call for Evidence from the Public: People for Palestine Nottingham submission

Written evidence submitted by People for Palestine Nottingham (IPC0070)

Summary

- 1. We are People for Palestine Nottingham - a peaceful community group organising to bring justice to the people of Palestine, and calling for an end to the Israeli occupation and apartheid regime. We also request the United Kingdom (UK) make an immediate intervention to stop the ongoing genocide against the Palestinians.
- 2. We are submitting evidence because: we are deeply concerned about the strengthening of partnerships with the State of Israel and complicit parties in the illegal occupation and war crimes against the Palestinians; it is our taxpayers' money that is being spent to uphold genocide; the UK's support for this genocide is wiping away credibility for the UK at home and abroad, and to highlight that the government's policies have been out of touch with the demands of the British public.
- 3. The ICJ has stated in its ruling that the Palestinians have a plausible right to be protected from genocide. In a Legal Advisory Opinion, the ICJ has described Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territories as illegal, and described Israel as guilty of apartheid. The UK must adhere to and uphold international law.

Reframing the Questions

- 4. The Inquiry's attribution of this genocide to the events of October 7, 2023 show its disregard for Palestinian life; history did not begin on that day to anyone who considers Palestinian life equal.
- 5. Britain has militarily, politically, economically, and diplomatically supported this genocide by Israel. It is an active belligerent. Therefore, to frame the UK as a peace broker is disingenuous.

Question 1- What can - and should - the UK do, in cooperation with regional and international partners, to help bring about a ceasefire?

- 6. The UK is legally bound to prevent a genocide. It can and should do so, and should also go beyond a ceasefire, by taking immediate legal, economic, political, and diplomatic action. It should not be complicit in one.
- 7. The UK should: designate denial of the current and 1948 genocides of the Palestinians as hate crimes; prosecute involved parties according to international law, and introduce an equivalent of the 'Leahy Laws' and the EU Corporate

Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) legislation. We request comprehensive Human Rights Due Diligence legislation for every private and public sector organisation as well as their employees.

- 8. The UK should apply comprehensive sanctions to Israel to pressure it to end its apartheid regime just as it has sanctioned Russia.
- 9. The UK should support the Palestinian right to resist occupation in the same way that it does for Ukraine against Russia.
- 10. The UK should diplomatically support and demand: free movement of people and aid in and out of the Rafah crossing; reparations for the Palestinians, and the right of return of the Palestinian refugees as indigenous people to their land. It should also apologise for the Balfour Declaration and recognise the role that the creation of Israel by the UN in 1948 had in the oppression and war crimes we see today.
- 11. The UK should end its complicity through legal and diplomatic measures, and through halting military support (a complete both ways embargo on Israel) and transparency on military involvement.

Question 2- What can be learned from the record of the UK Government policies to date?

- 12. The UK government should learn from its failures. It should support a one state solution with equality for all and right of return rather than the failed two-state vision. The Oslo Accords have been wilfully made ineffective and irrelevant by Israel. The proscribing of democratic resistance organisations representing the Palestinians should be reneged just as for HTS in Syria.

Question 3- How can the UK assure the resilience of efforts to bring about a lasting peace at a time of uncertainty caused by conflicts elsewhere and changes in leadership in the international community?

- 13. The UK should acknowledge and prevent Israel's ambitions of ethnic cleansing and expansionism and in so doing aim beyond a ceasefire for a sustainable solution of a single state.
- 14. The UK should uphold international law for itself and prevent Israel from perpetually violating international law. The UK should ensure that all UN resolutions passed against Israel be implemented. It should recognise the pager attack on Lebanon as a terrorist attack. The impunity for Israel must be no longer tolerated.

A - Context

15. We are People for Palestine Nottingham (PFPN); a peaceful, diverse community group organising to bring justice to the people of Palestine (@peopleforpalestine_notts on Instagram). We demand an immediate end to the illegal Israeli occupation and apartheid regime, and urgent intervention to stop the genocide against the Palestinians. Palestinians' lives matters the same as Israelis.

16. Over the past 15 months, we have watched Israel's genocidal war across Palestine and the wider region with horror. According to the *Lancet's* July 2024 article, Israel has murdered an estimated minimum of 186,000 Palestinians in Gaza alone. Evidence of Israeli genocide; Israeli war crimes; Israeli ethnic cleansing of Palestine; the hostage-taking of Palestinians under the label of detentions; apartheid; the rape of Palestinian men, women and children; murder of civilians for Israeli soldiers' amusement; and the systemic destruction of every aspect of civilian infrastructure from housing and hospitals, to schools and universities to render them uninhabitable; the wilful targeting of journalists, the deliberate starvation of the Palestinian people, and the criminal denial of the most basic human elements of life as water is a shame on the UK. This evidence has been available to the UK government for decades.

17. Yet, successive UK governments have dismissed the extensive evidence, reports and testimonies, which have been independent but also from Israeli soldiers, media and politicians themselves. Instead, the UK government has denied reality and justified genocide with lies. The UK government has never condemned Israeli actions in the last year. Instead, it has alarmingly blamed the victims - the Palestinian people - and framed the genocide as a humanitarian issue contrary to international law. Worse, the UK government has supported this genocide through the provision of arms, the use of British bases such as in Cyprus, and the provision of live streaming of military data to the Israeli forces. The UK government has never fully disclosed its relationship with Israel and its military and is required to do so.

18. This support of genocide outrages people of all backgrounds across the UK, as evidenced by the millions of people who have protested in what are the largest set of demonstrations in UK history. Such hypocrisy and double standards are recognised as a coloniser's position in the global south and are damaging to the UK's reputation internationally.

19. We are submitting evidence to this Committee for the following reasons:

20. 1- We are extremely concerned about the partnerships being strengthened with the State of Israel and its agents, supporters, and complicit parties in the UK, especially amidst this genocide. Such partnerships include local organisations like Nottingham Trent University and, even more significantly, the University of Nottingham in military technology development. In this regard, the Nottingham Camp for the Liberation of Palestine has detailed the latter's complicity in their November 2024 research report 'The University of Nottingham's Complicity In The Illegal Occupation and Genocide of The Palestinian People'.

21. 2- To highlight the misuse of UK taxpayer money, such as spending up to £19 million to attack Yemen, as estimated by Declassified UK. The UK's attacks on Yemen are aiding this

genocide and blocking the upholding of international law. Rather than using that money to help people, for instance to fund the NHS, the British government is spending it to kill other people's babies.

22. 3- To expose the disregard for public opinion by the UK governments under both Labour and the Conservatives: 69% of Britons support a ceasefire according to a YouGov poll on May 10, 2024, with most supporting an arms embargo on Israel.

23. 4- To stress that by supporting this genocide, the UK is wiping away any and all credibility it may have held internationally.

24. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in its January 26, 2024 ruling on South Africa vs. Israel, recognised a plausible right of Palestinians to protection from genocide. It has also been described as a genocide by the University Network for Human Rights (May 15, 2024), Amnesty International (December 5, 2024), the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor (December 17, 2024), Medecins Sans Frontieres (19 December 2024), and Human Rights Watch (19 December 2024). UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, has stated in her report 'Anatomy of a Genocide' (March 24, 2024) that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Israeli occupation had perpetrated acts of genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza. Most nation states consider the situation also to be a genocide.

25. Additionally, the ICJ's July 19, 2024 Legal Advisory Opinion concluded that Israel's 57-year occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is illegal, and that Israel is guilty of the crime of apartheid. This Advisory Opinion was initiated on December 30, 2022 before the supposed beginning of history on October 7, 2023. In its Advisory Opinion, the ICJ confirmed that Palestinians have a right to self-determination, and that Israel's policies and practices in the OPT are violating Palestinians' rights. If Britain wishes to adhere to international law the court has advised what actions must be taken towards that goal.

B - Reframing the Questions

26. This inquiry focus on a 'ceasefire' is wilfully inappropriate and a red herring. The inquiry should be aiming for a sustainable long-term settlement recognising that 'ceasefires' will not end the war crimes against the Palestinians by the Israelis and their Western supporters, including the UK. The inquiry has made no mention of how to enforce implementation of a ceasefire, or what should occur upon a 'ceasefire'. Such omissions undermine the integrity of the inquiry.

27. Further, this inquiry wilfully and wrongly frames October 7, 2023 as the beginnings of this 'conflict'. In this regard, even reports within Israeli society acknowledge the Hannibal Directive, the official policy under which the Israeli military caused the largest civilian and military deaths on October 7. The UK government and this inquiry have wilfully neglected these reports. This position requires to be changed.

28. Nevertheless, PFPN would be interested to know what The Committee means by 'terrorism'. Certainly, we consider anyone who murders civilians and babies in their incubators, and incinerates alive patients connected to their intravenous (IVF) drips to be terrorists. A recent UN report (October 1, 2024) has documented the deaths of at least 13,000 children including 700 babies in Gaza. Many of these children had been deliberately shot in the head and chest according to independent medical practitioners. We have watched with disgust as individuals engaging in such war crimes return and work, for example, as university chaplains in the UK, yet groups like Palestine Action trying to put an end to this genocide are repeatedly interrogated under the Terrorism Act. This hypocrisy raises further questions about how the UK government defines the term 'terrorism'.

29. The Inquiry's framing of October 7, 2023 as the supposed beginning of history in the region also betrays its racist disregard for Palestinian life. There was not a ceasefire before October 7 to anyone who considers Palestinian lives equal. Indeed, 2022 had been called the deadliest year for Palestinian children in the West Bank (where Hamas are largely not present) in over 15 years by Save the Children. Events like the "carpet bombing" of Gaza in 2021 were triggered by the forcible displacement of Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah (also in the West Bank), and by attacks on peaceful worshippers in the Al-Aqsa mosque.

30. Moreover, the Inquiry's characterisation of the situation as a 'conflict' shows its disregard for the dynamic of occupation. Further, this disregard is clear as occupation is not referred to once in the call for written evidence. Additionally, the Inquiry does not acknowledge the reality and the consequences of apartheid against the Palestinians. Moreover, there is no mention of the thousands of **Palestinian hostages** held without charge in Israeli custody, a form of detention which has been used as far back as 1967. The right of return of the Palestinian refugees is also ignored. This human right amongst all other rights of the Palestinians as indigenous people to their land is central to their plight.

31. What is happening in Palestine is not a conflict. It is on the one hand occupation and oppression, and, on the other hand, resistance to the occupation and oppression. If the Foreign Affairs Committee is serious about a lasting peace for everyone in the region then it cannot continue to leave these central issues unacknowledged.

32. The British government's response to this genocide has been abhorrent. The UK government has denied the existence of genocide, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and even the occupation and the war crimes against the Palestinians by the Israelis. Such government responses have ranged from political justifications, to invoking the memory of the Holocaust to justify *another* genocide, to lack of support for a ceasefire nationally and repeatedly at the UN Security Council (in so doing practically and wilfully blocking a ceasefire for many months), and to military complicity. As such, the assumption that Britain can help bring about a lasting peace for everyone in the region is delusional without asking what actions Britain should take to end its complicity.

33. As long as Prime Minister Keir Starmer declares that the UK "stands with Israel" as recently as this October 2024, and as long as the Inquiry focuses on working with partners who bomb hospitals and schools and whose snipers target children, an inquiry will lead to the same results we have been witnessing for over a year, and for 76 years. Keir Starmer recognised the actions of Serbia against Croatia as a genocide while representing Croatia. He needs to do this immediately for the Palestinians rather than advocate for a blockade of food and water for the Palestinians.

C.1. - What can - and should - the UK do, in cooperation with regional and international partners, to help bring about a ceasefire?

34. As a signatory to the Genocide Conventions and Geneva Conventions, the UK is legally bound to actively prevent a genocide. A 'ceasefire' is only the first step and should not be the ultimate objective. A ceasefire alone will only bring about a normalisation of the oppression of the Palestinians. Long-term proper peace requires justice for the Palestinians. The aforementioned internationally respected organisations have confirmed Israel's actions as genocide. Additionally, the UK should comply with international law as confirmed in the ICJ's Advisory Opinion on July 19, 2024 which confirmed UN member states' obligations, including:

35. 1- Ensuring an end to Israel's illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT);

36. 2- Abstaining from treaty relations with Israel relating to the OPT;

37. 3- Abstaining from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the OPT;

38. 4- Abstaining from recognising Israel's illegal presence in the OPT in its establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel, and

39. 5- Taking steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of Israel's illegal occupation of the OPT, including at the UN Security Council.

40. The government should support the ICJ Advisory Legal Opinion of July 19, 2024 if it wishes to adhere to international law. This ICJ Opinion is binding for those states that wish to adhere to international law.

41. It is not our task to interpret these ICJ obligations resulting from the South Africa vs Israel case or the Advisory Legal Opinion for the UK government. However, we can make the following recommendations that would respond to the ICJ ruling and opinion in the most basic way:

42. Legal Measures

- 43. The UK must fully comply and uphold the ruling of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice concerning Palestine;
- 44. Supporting South Africa, Nicaragua, Columbia, Libya, Mexico, Palestine, Belgium, Turkey, Egypt, Maldives, Ireland, Chile, and Spain in the ICJ case against Israel;
- 45. Recognising the denial of the Palestinian Nakba and current genocide as hate crimes in UK law;
- 46. Creating a UK task force so that UK legislation is implemented to ensure UK authorities, businesses and individuals are held to account in court for complicity in Israeli war crimes. UK citizens (as well as those of other nationalities) involved in any capacity in Israeli war crimes as well as genocide must be prosecuted if in the UK according to international law, irrespective of their status;
- 47. Launch a Public Enquiry into the UK's involvement and support for Israeli actions. This includes but is not limited to those after October 7, 2023. Its scope should be broader than that for the Chilcott Enquiry for the illegal Iraq War;
- 48. Implement without delay a UK equivalent of a 'Leahy Law' and the EU's CSRD legislation as an imperative and a moral obligation for both public and private sector organisations as well as for individuals working for them. Such Human Rights Due Diligence law should not be selectively applied and should have coherent effective implementation mechanisms;

49. Economic Measures

- 50. The UK should impose comprehensive sanctions on Israel to pressure it to end its apartheid regime similar to those sanctions on Russia;
- 51. The UK should sanction and embargo gas and oil resources off the Gaza coast being stolen by the Israeli and complicit corporations. This is one reason for the genocide occurring of the Palestinians. British Petroleum is one British complicit corporation. It has signed contracts for gas exploration off of Gaza's coast by the time Israel had killed over 11,000 Palestinians in Gaza. This listed measure is not exhaustive;
- 52. Ban all UK company investments in Israel until it complies with international law as was the case with Russia;

53. Political Measures

- 54. The UK should apply the same standards to the Palestinians who are experiencing Israeli occupation as was done for the Ukrainians against the Russians. Palestinians have a right to resist their occupiers, just as the French resistance opposed Germany in WWII. The UK is not recognising this UN enshrined right for occupied people. Instead, it is selectively supporting international law according to its interests;

55. Diplomatic Action

- Israel must immediately withdraw from Gaza. It must also retreat from all territories within the West Bank it has settled in.
- 56. Work with Egypt to open the Rafah crossing and allow the immediate free movement of people and aid in and out of the Rafah crossing;
- 57. Call for reparations from the Israeli government for the Palestinian people;
- 58. Support the right of return of the Palestinian refugees;
- 59. The UK and UN are directly responsible for the oppression of the Palestinians and creation of the Zionist supremacist entity. The UK should expel Israel from the UN as the special rapporteur has called for until it fully complies with international law;
- 60. Declare an apology for the Balfour Declaration and the British occupation of Palestine (1917 - 1948), and
- 61. Recognise that the creation of Israel in 1948 by the UN has resulted in the oppression and war crimes against the Palestinians.

62. The UK can also stop its complicity:

63. Diplomatically by

- 64. Revoking all treaties and agreements with Israel until it fully complies with International Law;
- 65. Denying visas to Israelis directly involved in the genocide (as done in Australia);

66. By Halting Military Support

67. It is insulting to cite the suspension of a tokenistic 30 arms export licences used by the Israeli occupation as evidence of measures to prevent complicity. This amount pales in comparison to the approximate total of 320 additional active arms export licences. These licences render the UK involved and complicit.

68. Recent reviewed cargo documents by Declassified UK, The Ditch, and Drop Site News revealed that over 500 shipments of F-35 parts were sent from Britain to the US where they could then be exported to Israel amidst this genocide.

69. On 6 February 2024, then Defence Minister James Heappey confirmed in parliament that “[n]ine Israeli Air Force operated planes have taken off and landed from British territory since 7 October”.

70. Additionally is the secret deployment of 500 additional troops to British bases in Cyprus since Israel began bombing Gaza. Despite being told of British warplanes bombing Ansarullah military targets, the UK government denies us information on whether Israeli F-35s have been landing at RAF Akrotiri and about their activities. This is a denial of our democratic right to know what our government is doing to help the perpetrators of an ongoing genocide.

71. This military complicity renders votes for a ceasefire meaningless. Instead, the UK should:

- 72. Fully disclose UK military involvement and the legal basis for this involvement. We also demand an end to all D- Notices preventing disclosure;

- 73. Enact a complete both ways arms embargo on Israel, including technology items. As such, this embargo should include products that can be of both military and civilian usage. In calling for an arms embargo, we are joining Labour MP Zarah Sultana, and previous Foreign Office official Mark Smith, Campaign Against Arms Trade, War on Want, and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.
- 74. Refuse all arms imports and exports (directly or via a third country) where the end user is the Israeli military or military industry;
- 75. Implement a ban on UK government facilitation of Israeli arms exports (for instance, participation of Israeli arms companies in UK arms fairs);
- 76. Ban collaboration between UK-based companies and the Israeli military or military industry;
- 77. Completely stop the sharing of military intelligence with Israel.
- 78. End all military support for Israel;
- 79. End all collaborations with Israeli universities, each of which supports the Israeli military;
- 80. The UK should stop accepting funding from Israeli supporting and lobbying organisations. This includes preventing all visits to Israel until Israel complies with International law, and
- 81. The UK should enshrine this approach in law to ensure compliance rather than a voluntary approach.

C.2. - What can be learned from the record of UK Government policies to date?

82. Lack of Legal Justification

83. The UK government has not shared any legal justification for its support of Israel in any capacity, despite supporting Israeli war crimes and genocide. Resultant legal risks and implications will increasingly come to the fore. Prosecutions will occur for UK politicians, UK media and others enabling the genocide as brought about by multiple organisations including the International Centre for Justice for Palestinians.

84. Selective Application of Human Rights

The UK should desist from its racist, one-sided framing of the war on Palestinians by Israel. Israel does not have a legal right to defend itself as the occupying force; the Palestinians do. Gaza is no longer an open air prison but a slaughter house. The Israelis have been granted full impunity by the UK and US and its Western allies to perpetrate a genocide.

85. It is imperative that the UK calls out and condemns the genocide occurring against the Palestinians while removing itself from its consequences. The UK government has actively called out the genocide against the Rohingya in Myanmar and supported the case brought about by the Gambia. Numerous British political voices have also called out the genocide against the Uyghurs by China. However, the selective application of Human Rights law by the UK is counter-productive. It is clear that the UK weaponises Human Rights law for political purposes and its own interests. This is utterly reprehensible.

86. Two-State Failure

The UK has historically advocated for a two-state solution between the Palestinians and Israelis and continues to do so. However, it has never taken any action towards implementing this. This approach has failed to lead to justice and peace for the Palestinians and Israeli Jews. The UK should learn from its failed approach towards the rights of the Palestinians. The UK should recognise that the Oslo Accords are ineffective and are no longer relevant. The facts on the ground do not allow this to occur as Israeli actions have wilfully undermined this and Israeli settlements do not allow a viable Palestinian state to exist.

87. The two state solution has been rejected by both Palestinians (although the Palestinian Authority accepted it in 1988) as well as Israelis, including Israeli officials like Netanyahu (including before 2023), Hotovely, Regev, and the majority of Israel's parliament. Israeli officials have shown no commitment to respecting this two-state vision. It has been quite the opposite, they have demonstrated their commitment to continuing the ethnic cleansing of Palestine:

- 88. Almost 2 million Palestinians in Gaza have been ethnically cleansed from their lands since this latest campaign of genocide began, as noted by Amnesty International on May 15, 2024. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently reviewed a plan to use starvation to force the Palestinians out of North Gaza. According to Giora Eiland who wrote the 'General's plan', whoever remains would be considered a Hamas member or sympathiser and thus a legitimate target. Two weeks after Netanyahu stated that he was considering this objective, the siege on North Gaza and the ground invasion of Jabalia began.
- 89. Israeli Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich has suggested on X that what he describes as a 'voluntary migration' of Palestinians in Gaza to other countries is the 'right humanitarian solution'. National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir has also advocated for forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza.

90. Proscription of Organisations and UK Anti-Terrorism Policies

91. The labelling of Hamas as a terrorist organisation is also unhelpful for peace. In this regard, the Palestinian Authority is not accepted by the Palestinian people. The British government has not learned from its experience in Northern Ireland when labelling the IRA as terrorists. The Good Friday Agreement came about only after this label was dropped. Most recently the HTS organisation who have taken over Syria are currently being relabelled away from being 'terrorists'. The UK was also wrong on its position of the ANC and not taking the right side of history when it actively supported apartheid in South Africa. The ANC was also considered by the UK as a terrorist organisation rather than a force of resistance.

92. Further, the ongoing domestic suppression of free speech regarding the genocide is problematic, including in submission of evidence to the inquiry. In the current climate, publishing of names puts individuals in danger of unemployment and other threats. In this regard, the use of UK terrorism laws against Palestinian supporters in the UK should be rescinded. The draconian language and demonization against pro-Palestine demonstrators needs to be curtailed. The demonstrations in Northern Ireland calling for the establishment

and recognition and rights of the Catholic people calling for a united Ireland were similarly dealt with.

C.3. - How can the UK assure the resilience of efforts to bring about a lasting peace at a time of uncertainty caused by conflicts elsewhere and changes in leadership in the international community?

93. Beyond a Ceasefire

94. The objective sought by this inquiry is a false means and a false end. A ceasefire is also meaningless if it is temporary and one-sided. Israel has no intentions to abide by a ceasefire and has never abided by one. Instead, Israel is fully committed to ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from all parts of Palestine. This needs to be acknowledged and prevented by the UK government going forward. Lasting peace would only be brought about by a single state solution with equal rights for Palestinians and the Israelis, and right of return of the Palestinian refugees (many of whom reside in Gaza) as indigenous people to their land.

95. Without active external pressure, Israel will not comply with international law nor will it accept a single state solution. Instead, the UK should learn from its failures and take the aforementioned steps to end complicity and support Palestinian liberation, and an end to apartheid and occupation. If not, there is clearly a danger of a global war starting in the Middle East. Israel's wilful malicious actions to bomb and control the Middle East will only drag the UK into further illegal wars that the British people will not want nor accept.

96. The UK should also immediately plan for the 'day after' a ceasefire occurs also. UNRWA involvement must be enforced upon Israel. UNRWA funding must increase due to the devastation wrought. Israel's obligations as the occupying power must be enforced. An immediate plan to treat Palestinian victims is demanded. Allow Palestinians to come to the UK in the same manner as for Ukrainians.

97. Desisting from Imperialist Policies

98. A fundamental requirement is for the UK to desist in its imperialist aspirations. The British Empire is gone. Its imperialist aspirations should not use Israel as a tool for Western hegemony in the Middle East. It has to prevent the dehumanising of Palestinians, Muslims and Arabs at home and abroad. The UK, its media, and the amplifiers of Islamophobia create conditions for crimes to occur such as the riots in the recent summer. The permanent credibility of the UK globally is at stake.

99. Lebanon

100. Israel's bombing campaign in Lebanon has killed at least 2,083 people, injured over 2,500, and displaced over 1.2 million Lebanese people. This displacement has been through "warnings" which are overly general and raise questions about whether they are intended to create the conditions for mass displacement. Indeed, such 'warnings' have instructed residents of entire towns and villages in south Lebanon to be displaced from their homes. According to the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHA) one quarter

of Lebanese territory has been impacted by “evacuation warnings”. Given the mass displacement of Lebanese people resulting from Israel’s expansionism, the UK should uphold international law if Israel annexes Lebanon.

101. In September 2024, Israel exploded booby-trapped walkie talkies in its indiscriminate pager terrorist attack which killed at least 37 people, including two children. Nearly 3,000 were wounded, many of them critically. This war crime was given the green light by Netanyahu. We are horrified to hear reports of Conservative MP Lincoln Jopp glorifying Israel’s “phenomenal” pager attack that should be “look[ed] on with awe” and described the “kids playing with them when they went off” as “collateral damage”. We are also truly appalled at the silence from the likes of Keir Starmer about this terrorist attack. The UK should acknowledge this attack as an act of state terror.

D – Conclusion

102. It is imperative to assert that there can be no rationale for the wholesale extermination of every aspect of Palestinian life, the horrific acts of violence that result in the loss of innocent children’s lives, the bombing of hospitals, and the targeted attacks on medical personnel and hospital patients, the destruction of all schools and universities whether in Gaza or any other location. It is clear Israel is intent on the annihilation of all Palestinians. Such abominable atrocities represent a profound moral failing and pose a grave threat not only to the people of Gaza and the Palestinians, but also to the very fabric of our shared humanity.

103. If, directly or indirectly, our government has played any role in facilitating or supporting such blatant breaches of international law and violations of human compassion, the repercussions will undoubtedly reflect back upon us. These actions risk undermining the foundational values of our British society, which we are bound to protect and uphold. To ignore this erosion of our principles is to endanger not only our international standing but also the moral integrity of our nation.

31st December 2024