

Britain's Sponsorship of Israeli Genocide in Gaza: British Colonialism Continued

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London | Washington



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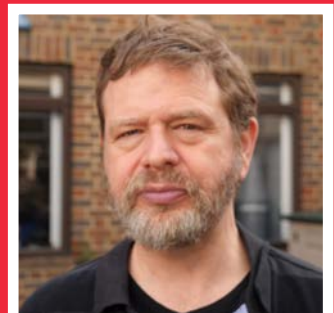
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“The F-35 plays a major part in Israel’s ongoing genocide in Gaza and brutal bombardment and invasion of Lebanon. [...] the UK is not only licensing the supply of spare parts but actively using UK military assets to facilitate their delivery. This makes UK ministers and potentially even military personnel complicit in war crimes.”

Sam Perlo-Freeman

Research Coordinator at Campaign
Against Arms Trade in the UK.¹



01

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Historical Overview of British Colonialism in Palestine



© The Communist

01

Historical Overview of British Colonialism in Palestine

1916

Britain and France secretly signed the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which intended to divide the Middle East into British and French colonies after the imminent fall of the Ottoman Empire following defeat in World War I.²

Under the Sykes-Picot agreement, Palestine was to be partitioned, with southern Palestine and a small coastal area including Akka and Haifa becoming a British colony, and the rest of Palestine to be under shared British, French, and Russian administration.³

1917

British Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, promised Palestine to Jews in a letter sent to Walter Rothschild, leader of the Jewish community in Britain and head of one of the wealthiest families in the world at the time.⁴ Palestine was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire at the time.⁵

Britain assumed de facto colonial rule over Palestine, occupying Jerusalem in December 1917, although this would not be formally recognised by the rest of Europe until 1923.⁶

1919

Direct negotiations over the colonisation of Palestine began between the British Foreign Office and the Zionist movement, which resulted in the proposed British mandate over Palestine.⁷

Palestinians were excluded from the negotiations, despite attempting to send delegations to negotiate with British officials in Cairo and Jerusalem in 1921.⁸

1920

The British mandate over Palestine was submitted the League of Nations, a precursor to the United Nations.⁹

The British colonisation of Palestine through the mandate would formally come into effect in 1923 and continue until the 1947 UN Partition came into effect in 1948.¹⁰

The terms of the mandate dictated that Britain would implement Balfour's promise to give Palestine to the Jews.¹¹

1931-1938

The British high commissioner in Palestine, Arthur Wauchoppe, coordinated his strategy of colonial rule with Zionist leader, David Ben Gurion.¹²

Historical Overview of British Colonialism in Palestine continued...

1936-1939

British military forces worked alongside Zionist terrorist militias, such as the Haganeh, to crush the Palestinian Great Revolt, which lasted for three years.¹³

During the first month of British operations in Palestine, from May-June 1936, British forces killed Palestinian villagers in Kafr Kanna, Nablus, Ramallah, Ramle, Safad, Tulkaram, and Kuwaykat, among other places.¹⁴

British forces employed collective punishment against Palestinians, including the seizure and destruction of Palestinian property, the confiscation of food, fuel, and other goods, the killing of livestock, the imposition of curfews, restrictions on movement, fines, collective beatings, the use of human shields, and public hangings.¹⁵

The British army and Zionist militias' attacks on Palestinians' resistance capacity during these years – in particular the killing, injuring, and incarceration of Palestinian men in concentration camps – set the stage for the 1948 Nakba, by reducing the strength and number of Palestinian resistance fighters.¹⁶

1948

British forces handed their military bases to Zionist militias as they withdrew from Palestine.¹⁷

1948 onwards

Britain has continued to support Zionism economically, militarily and diplomatically since 1948.¹⁸ Most British military support for Israel is transported through Britain's military base in Cyprus to evade public scrutiny.¹⁹

In addition to supplying arms to Israel, the British military has also bought Israeli weapons, helping to fund the Israeli weapons industry and fuelling the development of increasingly devastating military technology.²⁰

“Even before October 2023, successive Conservative governments not only shielded Israel from accountability but rewarded violations and abuses with yet greater support. The military cooperation agreement with Israel, made in 2020 during Boris Johnson’s premiership, was extended in March 2023 by Rishi Sunak’s administration with the “2030 roadmap for UK-Israel bilateral relations”, aimed at deepening military, economic, and technological ties.”

The British Palestinian Committee.²¹



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British Arms Sales to Israeli Military



© Mark Kerrison - Getty Images

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British Arms Sales to Israeli Military

Between 2015-2023, the value of UK Single Individual Export Licences (SIELs) for arms sales to the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) was £492 million.²²

This does not include the value of exports conducted using secretive open licences, in particular components for the F-35 combat aircraft, for which most exports are conducted under an Open General Export Licence.²³

The UK government suspended about 30 out of 350 export licences for military equipment to Israel in September 2024 – almost one year into the genocide, and after the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.¹³⁸ The government exempted from this pitifully small number of suspensions the components for the F-35, despite admitting in court that there was a ‘clear risk’ that these planes would be used in serious violations of International Humanitarian Law.²⁴

Since September 2024, the UK government has issued a further 34 arms export licenses to Israel, including three open licenses which allow for the export of an unlimited number and value of goods.²⁵

Additional UK arms sales to Israel go indirectly via the US, as components for major equipment made by the US and then sold or provided as military aid to Israel.²⁶ Between October 2021 and December 2023, a total of £165 million worth of ‘incorporation’ SIELs were issued for export to the US, for which Israel was one of the authorised destinations for the complete equipment that the UK components would go into.²⁷

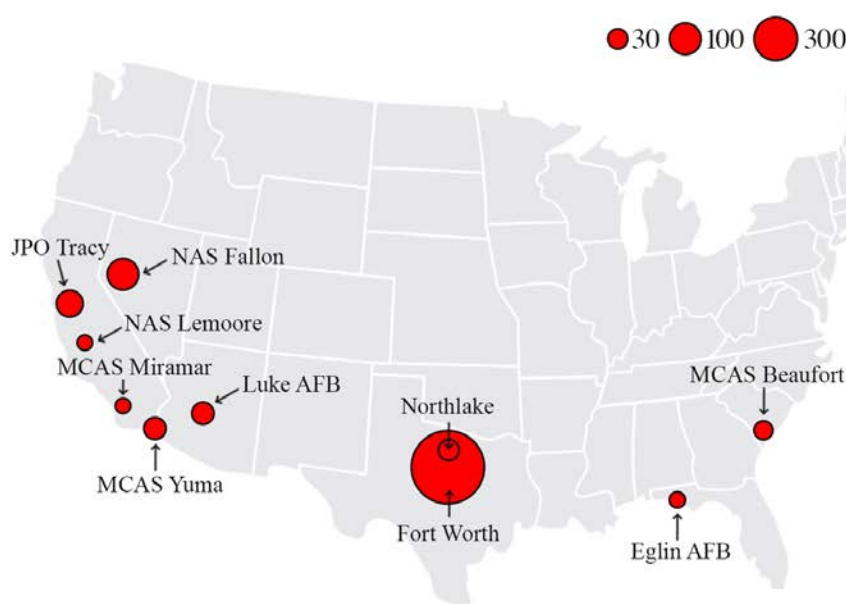
The F-35 Programme

The UK, and BAE Systems in particular, has been a major partner in the US F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, supplying several key components.²⁸ The UK industry supplies 15% of every F-35 produced, including the rear fuselage, electronics, and ejection seats.²⁹

Where British F-35 parts went in the US -top 10 sites

Shipments from
October 2023-November 2024

AFB: Air Force Base
MCAS: Marine Corps Air Station
JPO: Joint Programme Office



© Declassified UK.

British Arms Sales to Israeli Military continued...

Israel has been using the F-35s extensively to bomb Gaza, operating them at a far higher rate than normal.³⁰ In December 2023, a US Congressional hearing recorded that officials were working at “breakneck speed” to rush spare parts for the F-35 to the IOF for use in Gaza.³¹

Between October 2023 and October 2024, British air force base RAF Marham sent at least seven shipments of F-35 parts to the IOF F-35 base at Nevatim.³²

RAF Marham also sent over 500 shipments of F-35 parts to the US between October 2023 and December 2024, which can then be shipped onwards to the IOF, with over 100 of these shipments occurring after the September suspension.³³

Palestinian human rights organisation Al-Haq and the Global Legal Action Network brought a judicial review case against the UK government over their continued arms supplies to Israel, in which the government acknowledged the clear risk that Israel may commit serious violations of international law with the F-35.³⁴

Despite this, no action was taken to restrict exports, based on the government’s fabrication that the F-35 programme played a role in “international peace in security”, which they claim overrides “further evidence of serious breaches of [International Humanitarian Law]”.³⁵

The UK government’s exemption of the F-35 parts from suspension is largely due to their value, which is likely to be around £360 million, not counting spare parts.³⁶ This value directly correlates to the F-35’s killing capacity, having been described as the “most lethal” fighter jet in the world, making it one of the most valuable weapons in Israel’s arsenal.³⁷

Documented instances of the use of F-35 in horrific attacks against Palestinians in Gaza continues.³⁸ For example, on 13 July 2024, an F-35 dropped three 2,000lb bombs on Al Mawasi displaced peoples camp, massacring at least 90 Palestinians sheltering there.³⁹

“British exports for the F-35 programme are covered by an Open General Export License... In 2023, this license was used fourteen times to export goods for the F-35 directly from the UK to Israel – nearly three times more than in any year since 2016.”

The British Palestinian Committee.⁴⁰



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British Military Collaboration with the IOF in Gaza



03

British Military Collaboration with the IOF in Gaza

The British military has been regularly conducting bilateral military engagement and partnerships with the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), despite their genocide and war crimes in occupied Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria.⁴¹

The UK military's continued collaboration with the IOF and Israeli officials throughout the Gaza genocide demonstrates the government's complicity in Israel's genocide in Gaza and culpability in Israeli war crimes.⁴²

The UK military's complicity in Israeli genocide and war crimes include:

Providing Weapons, Ammunition, and Military Equipment for the IOF

From October 2023 to October 2024, the RAF conducted half of the 1,600 intelligence gathering flights over Gaza, more than any other country, including the Israeli Occupation Forces (20 percent) and the US military (33 percent).⁴⁸

Since October 2023, the Royal Air Force (RAF) has flown over 78 transport aircrafts to Israel, carrying military equipment for the IOF to use in the Gaza genocide.⁴³

In October 2023 alone, dozens of British transport aircrafts were flown to the UK's military base in Cyprus, carrying equipment and arms for Israel.⁴⁴

British Military Spy Flights over Gaza

Since October 2023, the RAF has flown surveillance flights over Gaza almost daily, providing the IOF with intelligence to facilitate the Israeli genocide in Gaza.⁴⁵

In order to prevent public scrutiny, RAF planes taking off from Britain's military base in Cyprus turn off their transponders, which reveal their location, as they near Gaza.⁴⁶

On a visit to the UK's military base in Cyprus in December 2024, UK Prime Minister Kier Starmer sinisterly remarked: "Quite a bit of what goes on here can't necessarily be talked about all of the time. We can't necessarily tell the world what you're doing".⁴⁷

Between 2 December 2023 and 27 March 2025, the RAF conducted more than 518 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance flights over and around Gaza.⁴⁹

Many of these flights have coincided with or shortly preceded major Israeli attacks, including:

- Nuseirat Refugee Camp Massacre on 8 June 2024, when the IOF killed 274 Palestinians and injured 700.
- Rafah Massacre on 12 February 2024, when the IOF killed 67 Palestinians.⁵⁰

The flights are operated by 14 Squadron, which was previously nicknamed the 'Crusader Squadron'.⁵¹

British Military Collaboration with the IOF in Gaza continued...

British Military Trips to Israel

Senior British military officials have made at least five visits to occupied Palestine since October 2023, including the chief of defence staff, the head of the Royal Air Force (RAF), and the commander of strategic command.⁵²

IOF Planes Landing in the UK

From October 2023 to February 2024, nine IOF planes took off and landed from British territory.⁵³ The Ministry of Defence has refused to disclose what the planes were transporting or the nature of their passage through UK air bases.⁵⁴

In October and November 2024, the IOF operated over three flights from RAF bases in the UK. It is believed that these flights were transporting US weapons for IOF crimes against Palestinians.⁵⁵

“It is sheer hypocrisy for the government to call for a ceasefire, condemn the humanitarian crisis and decry the lack of aid, while continuing to enable the Israeli military to commit war crimes. The UK must impose an immediate embargo on all arms sales – direct and indirect – to Israel and ensure it is no longer complicit in oppression, war crimes or crimes against humanity anywhere in the world.”

Zarah Sultana
MP for Coventry South.⁵⁶



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British Political Support for Israeli Genocide



© Hollie Adams - Reuters

British Political Support for Israeli Genocide

Throughout the genocide, Britain has continued to sell arms to Israel, and both former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and current Prime Minister Kier Starmer, have supported the IOF's genocide in Gaza.⁵⁷

Although the independent member of parliament Jeremy Corbyn urged PM Starmer to establish an independent inquiry in the UK's involvement in Israeli genocide in Gaza, no action has been taken thus far.⁵⁸

Permitting weapons destined for the IOF to travel through UK airspace

Between October 2023 and August 2024, over 55 tonnes of munitions destined for the IOF have been permitted to fly through British airspace.⁵⁹

U.S. planes carrying sniper ammunition, explosives for use in military aircraft, and detonators are allowed to travel over the UK on route to Tel Aviv, which requires special clearance from the UK Civil Aviation Authority.⁶⁰

Providing diplomatic immunity for Israelis

Although Israeli officials and IOF soldiers can be arrested under the principle of universal jurisdiction in international law, which allows foreign governments to arrest those suspected of war crimes abroad as part of their responsibility to protect against war crimes and genocide, the UK government has intentionally made universal jurisdiction difficult to enact.⁶¹

This intentional prevention of justice came after substantial Israeli lobbying, including by the Israeli Ministry of Justice.⁶²

In 2011, the UK government passed new legislation requiring the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions before universal jurisdiction arrest warrants could be issued, effectively providing immunity for Israelis entering the UK.⁶³

The UK government can also issue “special mission” certificates to Israelis entering the UK on diplomatic missions, providing them with full legal immunity for the duration of their visit.⁶⁴ Over 17 of these certificates have been issued to Israeli officials, three of which were issued since October 2023.⁶⁵

From 21 to 22 January 2025, an IOF delegation was given diplomatic immunity from arrests for war crimes in order to visit the UK.⁶⁶

IOF General Oded Basyuk, who is head of the IOF Operations Directorate, led the delegation.⁶⁷ The Directorate prepares the IOF for committing attacks on Palestinians such as the Gaza Genocide, and Oded himself played a role in the IOF's ground invasion of the occupied Gaza Strip.⁶⁸

During the trip, the IOF delegation met with the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office, and the Cabinet Office.⁶⁹

The UK's decision to provide IOF officials with diplomatic immunity contradicts the UK's obligations under international law, which allows countries to issue arrest warrants against individuals who have committed war crimes under universal jurisdiction.⁷⁰

British Political Support for Israeli Genocide continued...

PM Kier Starmer's support for genocide

On 11 October 2023, Keir Starmer expressed his support for Israel's "right" to cut off Gaza's water and power, a clear act of collective punishment and a war crime.⁷¹

After coming to power in July 2024, Starmer has continued Sunak's policy of support for Israel virtually unchanged.⁷²

Although Labour announced a partial arms embargo on Israel in September 2024, spare parts for F-35 fighter jets were excluded, provided they were shipped to occupied Palestine via another country.⁷³ F-35s are Israel's most deadly fighter jets – demonstrating the shallowness of Keir Starmer's commitment to international law.⁷⁴

On 14 November 2024, Starmer denied the genocide in Gaza, stating: "I'm well aware of the definition of genocide, and that is why I've never described [Israel's attacks on Gaza] as and referred to it as genocide".⁷⁹

In February 2025, after a Palestinian family from Gaza, whose home was destroyed by an Israeli airstrike, successfully applied to join family members in the UK through the Ukrainian Family Reunification Scheme, Starmer stated that the judge who allowed their reunification made the "wrong decision".⁷⁵ He subsequently pledged to close the legal loophole which allowed Palestinians fleeing genocide to settle in the UK.⁷⁶

Former PM Rishi Sunak's support for genocide

Sunak ignored repeated public calls for the UK government to support a ceasefire in Gaza and cease arms sales to the IOF whilst he was PM.⁷⁷ Sunak even travelled to occupied Palestine on 19 October 2023 for diplomatic talks with Israeli officials whilst they were committing genocide in Gaza.⁷⁸

Proscription of Hamas' Political Bureau

On 26 November 2021, Hamas' political bureau was added to the list of proscribed terror groups by the then Home Secretary Priti Patel.¹³⁹ Hamas' 'armed wing' – al-Qassam Brigades – had been proscribed since March 2001.¹⁴⁰

The designation has facilitated Israel's war crimes of intentionally targeting public sector workers and infrastructure in Gaza, under the justification it is ' Hamas-run '.¹⁴¹ In this way, the proscription of Hamas' political administration has legitimised attacks on Palestinian healthcare workers, teachers, aid workers and effectively all civil society employees because their salaries are paid by Gaza's government.¹⁴² For example, the legitimacy of Gaza Health Ministry is repeatedly undermined as the Hamas-run health ministry, despite doctors and paramedics having no role in Hamas' politics or resistance.¹⁴³

Patel's decision to proscribe Hamas was motivated by her personal political opinion that the distinction between Hamas' military and political wings was 'artificial', as well as her political support for Zionism.¹⁴⁴ This is despite government ministers stating as recently as June 2020 that there was a "clear distinction".¹⁴⁵

British Political Support for Israeli Genocide continued...

Patel had privately met with Israeli government officials on previous visits to occupied Palestine and has demonised pro-Palestine supporters on multiple occasions.¹⁴⁶

On 9 April 2025, a landmark legal application was submitted to the current UK Home Secretary – Yvette Cooper - under Section 4 of the Terrorism Act 2000 to remove Hamas from the government's list of proscribed organisations.¹⁴⁷

The application argues that the proscription of Hamas violates Britain's obligations under international law, including that the proscription does not consider that Palestinians are defending themselves against extermination; impedes humanitarian relief efforts into Gaza; infringes upon human rights and free expression protected under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR); and undermines democracy given no tangible threat is posed to the UK from the group.¹⁴⁸

The legal challenge argues that banning Hamas facilitates the mass criminalisation of support for Palestinians' right to resist genocide and the illegal occupation through armed struggle, which is both legal and lawfully protected under international law.¹⁴⁹ This further impedes the right of freedom of expression within the United Kingdom for those actively engaged in Palestinian advocacy and support:

- the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people;
- the use of armed struggle pursuant to that right by Hamas;
- and the use of armed struggle by Hamas to resist the acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, and illegal occupation by the Zionist State.¹⁵⁰

“These people [Keir Starmer and David Lammy] are hypocrites. They speak with a forked tongue. They do not interpret or apply the Genocide Convention in a consistent manner. The statements of British parliamentarians vary depending upon whether they are referring to their friends or their enemies.”

William Schabas

leading scholar on genocide⁸⁰



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How British Media Aided and Abetted Israeli Genocide



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How British Media Aided and Abetted Israeli Genocide

The British public service broadcaster, the BBC, has consistently aided and abetted Israeli genocide in Gaza through its coverage, acting as a mouthpiece for the British government and Zionist lobby groups.⁸¹

The BBC has consistently aided and abetted Israeli genocide in Gaza by dehumanising Palestinians in its coverage, intentionally misleading the British public about the Gaza genocide in order to suppress opposition to the UK government's policies, and spreading pro-Israel propaganda and misinformation.⁸²

The BBC's biased coverage is a clear example of journalistic malpractice given the outlet repeatedly fails to uphold basic standards of journalistic integrity and fulfil its duty as a public service broadcaster to provide the British public with the truth.⁸³

Refusal to use the term genocide

The BBC has refused to use the term genocide in its coverage of Israeli attacks on Gaza, despite international legal rulings and a consensus amongst leading humanitarian organisations.⁸⁴

When comparing the BBC's coverage of the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar, versus their coverage of the genocide in Gaza, the BBC has overwhelmingly only referred to the "conflict" or "war" in Gaza, with no reference to the ICJ ruling on the plausibility of genocide.⁸⁵

By comparison, the BBC's coverage of Myanmar would regularly refer to "what the UN has described as a possible genocide".⁸⁶ For example, BBC headlines read: "Myanmar Rohingya: World court orders prevention of genocide".⁸⁷

Representing Israeli lies as fact

The BBC regularly repeats lies by the Israeli government and Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) spokespeople, despite a lack of evidence, and their proven unreliability as sources.⁸⁸

For example, the BBC repeated Israeli lies that Gaza's hospitals were being used by Hamas.⁸⁹ The BBC justified the IOF's second attack on Al-Shifa Hospital with the following headline on 21 March 2024: "New Gaza hospital raid shows Hamas is not a spent force", and the IOF's attack on Kamal Adwan Hospital on 28 October 2024 with the headline: "One medic left at Gaza hospital as Israel says it arrested '100 terrorists'".⁹⁰

Failing to challenge misinformation

BBC News has frequently allowed Israeli spokespeople to propagate propaganda on their channels without interjection or correction from BBC interviewers.⁹¹

For instance, on 11 October 2023, BBC Newsnight interviewed the Israeli Ambassador to the UK, Tzipi Hotovely, who repeated this fabrication, saying: "We have seen the bodies of those babies and children and actually this is evidence-based".⁹² Her claim was not challenged.⁹³

Disproportionate and biased coverage of Israeli and Palestinian deaths

Israeli deaths are repeatedly reported ahead of the number of Palestinians killed within BBC articles and news coverage, despite the Palestinian death toll far outnumbering the Israeli death toll, ensuring Israeli lives take precedence over Palestinian ones.⁹⁴

How British Media Aided and Abetted Israeli Genocide continued...

Likewise, Israelis are described as being “killed by Hamas”, whereas Palestinians are passively described as “dying” or “dead”, usually without reference to the IOF as the perpetrator of their killing.⁹⁵

Undermining Palestinian voices

The Palestinian death toll during the genocide has been repeatedly undermined and discredited by attributing them to the “Hamas-run health ministry”, instead of the Gaza Health Ministry, despite the figures being corroborated as accurate by the UN, the Lancet, and other leading organisations.⁹⁶

Similarly, BBC interviewers often repeat Israeli talking points to Palestinian guests and demand their position on the 7 October Palestinian resistance operation before they are permitted to discuss Israel’s killing of Palestinians.⁹⁷

Inviting extremist guests

The BBC has repeatedly invited the editor of The Jewish Chronicle, Jake Wallis Simons, to commentate on its programs, despite his Islamophobic statements online, including a post on X written in October 2023, stating: “We need to face reality: much of Muslim culture is in the grip of a death cult that sacralises bloodshed. Not all, but many Muslims are brainwashed by it. That is a big part of the problem”.⁹⁸

BBC Newsnight interviewed Israeli politician Danny Danon, who responded to a question about whether he was concerned about the diminishing support for Israelis as more Palestinians were killed by including the term “barbaric animals”.⁹⁹ The presenter did not challenge Danon’s language.¹⁰⁰

Pro-Israel bias

The BBC’s pro-Israel bias has been documented by both biased language in their reports, and journalist testimonies about the editorial culture within the BBC towards Palestine.¹⁰¹

For example, in November 2023, the BBC’s International Editor, Jeremy Bowen, ran a BBC News article with the headline: “Israel does not want to occupy Gaza”, despite wanted war criminal and Polish-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stating that he wants Israel to have “indefinite” control over Gaza.¹⁰²

This editorial bias is statistically evident, with the BBC mentioning ‘Israel’s right’ overwhelmingly more than the right of Palestinians, at a ratio of roughly 4:1.¹⁰³

Erasing Palestine

BBC editorial guidelines are designed to erase Palestine and Palestinian identity, stating, “In day-to-day coverage of the Middle East, you should not affix the name ‘Palestine’ to Gaza or the West Bank”.¹⁰⁴

Erasing International Law

The BBC has repeatedly failed to acknowledge international legal rulings on Palestine, such as the established illegal occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the illegality of Israeli settlers in the West Bank.¹⁰⁵ This failure to provide legal context casts doubt on established facts and legal consensus that harm Israeli narratives.¹⁰⁶

“An entire language was constructed to put distance between Israel and its actions” at BBC News [...] “Appears” casts doubt on the reliability of the video, which came from the phone of Palestine Red Crescent paramedic found shot in the head. It functions much like “ Hamas-run health ministry” – a phrase suggesting the death toll from this ministry is unreliable. The video is robust verifiable evidence. The death toll is widely relied upon. These BBC News editorial decisions muddy the waters and remove clarity from reporting. They’re telling the audience that these sources can’t be trusted, despite the evidence. Meanwhile, Israeli claims with no backing are treated as credible, though the IDF has long proved it’s a bad source.”

Karishma Patel

former BBC Journalist who resigned over its coverage of Israel’s genocide in Gaza¹⁰⁷



06

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Policing of Palestinians in the UK



06

Policing of Palestinians in the UK

Palestinians in the UK have been heavily policed for standing against Israel's genocide in Gaza.¹⁰⁸

In December 2023, Dana Abuqamar, a 19-year-old Palestinian law student who had 15 family members killed in the Gaza genocide, had her student visa revoked due to her public statements at a pro-Palestine protest.¹⁰⁹

In October 2024, Abuqamar won her appeal against the Home Office's decision to revoke her visa.¹¹⁰

During a pro-Palestine protest on 18 January 2025, police arrested the British-Palestinian director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Ben Jamal, and charged him with breaking the Public Order Act during the demonstration, despite prior coordination with the police regarding the protest.¹¹¹

“I witnessed the arrest of a brown Muslim mum, who had a 16-year-old child and a child under 10 years old. The family were arrested for having a placard which showed a cartoon of the Israeli prime minister – he had a knife. Below the knife was a Palestinian child. She got arrested because the placard was deemed antisemitic/inappropriate.”

Witness statement following police repression of pro-Palestine marches in London.¹¹²



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Silencing British Support for Palestinian Liberation



© Straight Arrow News

Silencing British Support for Palestinian Liberation

The UK government and police have repeatedly attempted to demonise and criminalise pro-Palestine advocates and protestors as violent, dangerous, and antisemitic, despite their being no evidence supporting such accusations.¹¹³

Pro-Palestine Demonstrations

The British government began the demonisation of pro-Palestine protests immediately after 7 October 2023.¹¹⁴ On 10 October 2023, then Home Secretary Suella Braverman stated in a letter to the Metropolitan Police that the chant for Palestinian liberation: “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” should be understood as an expression of a violent desire, and that protests for Palestine were “antisemitic abuse”.¹¹⁵

On 30 October 2023, Suella Braverman described pro-Palestine protests calling for an end to Israeli genocide in Gaza as “hate marches” and intimidating mobs against Jewish people.¹¹⁶

On 11 November 2023, the Metropolitan Police attempted to charge a pregnant protestor with a racial offence for criticising Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s policies on Palestine as upholding white supremacy – despite herself being a woman of colour.¹¹⁷ She was found not guilty at court but had lost her job due the public defamation campaign against her.¹¹⁸

On 21 May 2024, then Communities Secretary Michael Gove stated that protests for Palestine on UK university campuses were “antisemitism repurposed for the Instagram age” and “deeply, profoundly intimidatory to Jewish students”.¹²⁰

On 18 January 2025, the Metropolitan Police arrested over 77 peaceful protestors at a national march for Palestine in central London, which had been pre-approved by the police.¹²¹ One of those arrested was Chris Nineham, founder of Stop the War campaign and the chief steward for the national Palestine marches, who had coordinated extensively with the police in organising monthly pro-Palestine protests since October 2023.¹²²

Two Members of Parliament, Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell, were also interviewed under caution by the Metropolitan Police for their attendance at the protest.¹²³

On 8 March 2025, after a pro-Palestine protestor scaled Big Ben, a police officer told demonstrators who gathered to support his actions that they would be arrested for protesting in support of Palestine, but protests for Israel were allowed.¹²⁴

The Metropolitan Police have frequently attempted to frustrate pro-Palestine demonstrations by repeatedly reneging on agreed timings and locations for protests at the last minute, causing confusion amongst attendees.¹²⁵

The existence of synagogues near to protest locations or overlap in timings with Sabbath services was used as an excuse to backtrack on previous agreements with protest organisers, despite high Jewish attendance and an absence of antisemitism at pro-Palestine protests.¹²⁶

Silencing British Support for Palestinian Liberation continued...

Pro-Palestine Journalism

UK police have arrested several pro-Palestine journalists, raided their homes, and seized their electronic devices.¹²⁷

In April 2024, British police arrested Martin Pope, a photojournalist planning to attend a protest at an arms company that supplies weapons to the IOF to photograph the demonstration.¹²⁸ He had not yet attended the protest and was released without charge.¹²⁹

On 15 August 2024, counterterrorism police arrested journalist Richard Medhurst upon arrival to London Heathrow Airport and detained for 24 hours.¹³⁰

On 29 August 2024, counterterrorism police raided the home of reporter Sarah Wilkinson, who works for MENA Uncensored.¹³¹

On 17 October 2024, British counterterrorism police raided the home of Asa Winstanley, an associate editor of The Electronic Intifada on suspicion of “encouragement of terrorism”.¹¹⁹ He was not arrested or charged.¹³²

On 24 February 2025, counterterrorism police detained journalist and academic David Miller on his arrival to Heathrow Airport.¹³³ He had been reporting as a journalist in Beirut, covering Hassan Nasrallah’s funeral.¹³⁴ He was later released without charge.¹³⁵

“We’re not going to go away. In order for us to be quiet, they will have to lock us up.”

Professor David Miller

Sociologist who was unlawfully fired from the University of Bristol for his anti-Zionist views.¹³⁶



08

British Media Bias

Since October 2023, all mainstream British media outlets have been systematically biased towards Israel, and weaponised their platforms to sustain the Gaza genocide and silence Palestinian narratives.

Depicting genocide as a war

British media continues to frame Israel's genocide in Gaza as a war or military offensive against Hamas.

B B C NEWS

How 15 months of war has devastated Gaza

Promoting Israeli Lies

British media continues to reproduce Israeli statements verbatim despite them being proved routinely false and unreliable.

B B C NEWS

Israel Gaza: Hamas raped and mutilated women on 7 October, BBC hears

B B C NEWS

IDF releases CCTV it says shows Hamas bringing hostages to al-Shifa hospital on 7 October

British Media Bias continued...

Demonising pro-Palestine Protests

British media has repeatedly amplified Zionist smears that pro-Palestine demonstrations are antisemitic or hate marches.

MailOnline

Met police arrest Gaza protesters for racism and hate banner comparing Israel to the Nazis - as 'up to 100,000 people' take to the streets of London in latest pro-Palestine rally

sky news

'These are hate marches': Home secretary hits out at pro-Palestinian protests as UK terror threat level remains 'substantial'

The Telegraph

Anti-Semitic banners at pro-Palestine march despite Met hate speech warnings

Man carrying placard with Nazi symbols arrested on suspicion of inciting racial hatred

“Israel’s decision to block humanitarian aid to Gaza is a war crime and amounts to collective punishment of the civilian population. It’s a continuation of the policy to impose on Palestinians conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction. This is genocide.

The UK government must stop equivocating when it comes to the widespread breaches of international law Israel is clearly responsible for – this only serves to conceal the truth about the crimes of apartheid and genocide being inflicted daily on the Palestinian people.

The UK has a legal obligation to prevent and punish genocide. At the minimum, it should immediately stop all transfers of arms to Israel and actively support international justice mechanisms. Not doing so risks UK government complicity in genocide and other grave violations of international humanitarian law.”

Karla McLaren

Amnesty International UK’s
Government Relations Manager.¹³⁷



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