

JUST REPORT APRIL 21, 2025

WITNESS



We held in our hearts **Fatma Hassona**, 25 year old photojournalist. She received news on April 15, her birthday, and days before her wedding that the film made about her, *Put your soul on your hand and walk* will premiere at Cannes next month. Aged 25 she was murdered along with 10 members of her family. [Articles](#) about her can be easily found. She wanted her death if it came, to be loud and to reverberate across the world. Her work can be found [here](#). and a short film she made which is extremely powerful and moving is [here](#). Speaking of her arrival into a kinder afterlife, Haidar al-Ghazali, a Palestinian poet, wrote:

Today's sun won't bring harm. The plants in the pots will arrange themselves for a gentle visitor. It will be bright enough to help mothers to dry their laundry quickly, and cool enough for the children to play all day. Today's sun will not be harsh on anyone.

I have just found out (from JVL) about a [daily update of deaths in Gaza and the West Bank](#) compiled by an activist in Israel (click on the tabs for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank).

LEARN

We focused on the experience of Easter in Palestine this year with many reports of how hard it was to find any joy, the muted celebrations, and the blocking of access to Christian sites in Jerusalem (see the separate document for Mary Brown's excellent piece). And the reaction of Palestinians to the death of Pope Francis, who had spoken every night to the Catholic Holy Family Church in Gaza – texting from his hospital bed.

ACT

- Doctors for Gaza (NL) has nominated Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya for the Nobel Peace Prize. Together with Dr. Abu Safiya's family and The Rights Forum, we are launching a petition to show our support for him and all Palestinian healthcare workers who risk their lives to care for their patients. Dr Abu Safiya's family have asked that the petition to nominate him for a Nobel prize be shared widely – it may give some protection for him in the [terrible conditions](#) in which he is being held. [Share the information](#). Sign the petition [here](#).

- [Protect Palestine](#) is a grassroots organisation co-ordinating Palestinian support globally. They are calling on the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Co-operation) to put together a protective force to stop the genocide, ensure unhindered aid, protect civilians and guarantee Palestinian rights to self-determination. Senior Officials are meeting in Saudi Arabia from 27-29th April 2025, we call upon people worldwide to encourage representatives of the OIC to place discussions on a protective force for Palestine on the international agenda. This is a new initiative and we feel it is worth supporting. The relevant site is [here](#). Templates for letters and emails can be found in Annex 1. Note that it is important NOT to send emails all at once as they will be blocked. See note in red in Annex 1.

Protect Palestine has excellent resources including what you can do [in 3 minutes](#) and 5 minutes. Highly recommended.

- Co-op motion. If you are a member of the Co-op movement and have voting rights, please help to get [this motion](#) passed. Share with others.
- Although Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar has now left the UK, you may wish to write to David Lammy to ask why a war criminal was invited to Downing Street. Ken Loach and Paul Laverty have written a very good letter with key points, see [here](#). More information in Annex 2.

SHARE

- Pastor Munther Isaac spoke last week to the [Palestinian book club](#) who are reading [Christ in the Rubble](#). Some of us are attending. A searing interview in the Church Times is [here](#). To register for the book club (international, great people), email bcop0081@gmail.com
- Pat Bryden shared with us the stance of the Church of Scotland. Their Israel Palestine Committee has written to the UK Government to urge for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. It also challenged David Lammy about the ongoing arms sales. See Annex 3
- Mary Brown, who told us last week about her trip to Palestine and Israel, has now written a very informative report (attached separately) - thanks so much Mary!
- Sue Cooke was sent information about the film [Where Olive Trees Weep](#) now available on major streaming platforms Apple TV, Amazon, Youtube, Google Play and Fandango.
- Caryl Churchill's play *Seven Jewish Children* has been [made available to watch/screen](#) to raise money for MAP (10 minute film)

Small wins

- As we probably all know, 36 members (just over 10%) of the Board of Deputies of British Jews have broken ranks to write an [open letter](#) criticising the actions of the Netanyahu government. In turn the remaining members are looking to [discipline them](#).
- Standing Together, a Jewish Arab coalition, is demonstrating tomorrow 23rd April in Tel Aviv. The Israeli police has banned images of children or babies from Gaza, and the word

“genocide”. Images of Israeli captives held in Gaza are also banned. According to their [Instagram post](#), after initially backtracking, the ban has been reinstated. But the organisers are standing firm. Read more [here](#) from Ha’aretz and take heart that the images of dead children appear to have had an impact on bystanders.

- Gary Lineker won’t be cowed, and keeps speaking out. He skewers BBC arguments for so-called *balanced reporting*, by saying: *If it is raining outside, you don’t need someone’s opinion to say it’s not raining.* <https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/article/lineker-teaches-top-bbc-presenter-how-to-report-facts/>.
- [A group of Labour MPs are advocating for Palestinian statehood](#)
- There is a [beautiful story](#) on Al Jazeera about how a lost baby was reunited with his father after living for a year with a family who found him, and how the families came together.

Upcoming

24th April 1-2pm. Divestment drop in – advice from PSC. Register [here](#)

25th April [Global day of action](#) for Gaza

26th April Boycott Barclays day of action nationwide, [information here](#)

27th April Support runners for [Palestine at the London Marathon](#)

29th April: 20 year Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Ceremony, co-hosted by Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle – Families Forum, will take place. This powerful and courageous act of remembrance brings together people from both sides of the conflict - Palestinians and Israelis who have chosen to mourn together and to imagine a different future, rooted in dignity, justice, and shared humanity. at 8:30 pm Jerusalem time. <https://parentscirclefriends.org/2025memorial/>

- Mohammad Tamimi, founder and director of the Hebron International Resources Network is on a speaking and fundraising tour in partnership with the Amos Trust. [HIRN](#) -works with the most threatened Palestinian communities in the West Bank. Raising funds to help students continue studying. Instead of diving with sharks ☹️(they were ill!!!) he abseiled down the stadium at Anfield! Contribute [here](#).

Thursday 24th April, Woking, Surrey 7.30pm Maybury Center, 27 Board School Rd, Woking, GU21 5HD <https://www.westsurreypsc.org/events>

Friday, 25 April, Dorking, Surrey Green Room Theatre, 8-10 Reigate Road, Dorking, RH4 1SG <https://www.westsurreypsc.org/events>

Saturday 26th April, Frome Somerset 7pm Trinity Hall, Frome, Somerset BA11 3DE <https://HIRN.eventbrite.co.uk>

Sunday, 27 April 2025 Barnstaple Devon, The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple, EX31 1 DR pscnorthdevon@gmail.com

ANNEX 1. TEMPLATE FOR OIC LETTER AND EMAILS

Subject: Urgent Action Required – Protect the People of Gaza

Your Excellency,

I write to you with deep urgency as you prepare to convene for the Senior Officials Meeting in Jeddah on 27–29 April 2025. As a Member State of the OIC — the collective voice of over 1.8 billion Muslims — you carry the hopes of millions who look to the OIC for principled, courageous leadership in the face of injustice.

For over 18 months, the world has witnessed Israel’s brutal genocide against the Palestinian people. Tens of thousands have been killed. Hospitals, schools, and homes destroyed. Basic human needs denied. The time for statements is over. We respectfully but firmly urge the OIC to immediately establish and deploy an armed protection force to Gaza to:

- Prevent genocide and protect civilians
- Deliver and secure humanitarian aid
- Uphold Palestinian rights to self-determination
- Enforce international law and stop this injustice

This is a moment that will define the legacy of the OIC. Will you act in the spirit of justice, or remain silent as history unfolds? The world is watching. The time is now.

NB: When emailing OIC states, don’t send too many messages at once. Services like Outlook, Gmail, and Yahoo have daily limits (as low as 100–300 emails).

Take 1–2 minute breaks between emails or spread them out over the day.

If you hit the limit, your account may be blocked for 24 hours like this message shows: “Outlook.com has blocked your message – the daily message limit helps us free the world from spammers.”

Send to:

Afghanistan – info@afghanistan-un.org

Albania – OfficeofthePR.Albania@mfa.gov.al

Algeria – algeriamission.ny@gmail.com

Azerbaijan – mission@azerbaijanun.org

Bahrain – newyork.mission@mofa.gov.bh

Bangladesh – bdpmny@gmail.com

Benin – beninewyork@gmail.com

Brunei – bruneiunmission@protonmail.com

Burkina Faso – miperfaso.ny@burkina-onu.org

Cameroon – cameroon.mission@yahoo.com

Chad – chadmission.un@gmail.com

Comoros – comoros@un.int

Côte d'Ivoire – cotedivoiremission@yahoo.com
Djibouti – djibouti@nyct.net
Egypt – mission@egyptmissionny.com
Gabon – info@gabonunmission.com
Guinea – missionofguinea.un@gmail.com
Guinea-Bissau – guinebissauonu@gmail.com
Guyana – pmny@mission.gov.gy
Indonesia – ptri@indonesiaun.org
Iran – iranunny@mfa.gov.ir
Iraq – iraq.mission@iraqmission-un.com
Jordan – missionun@jordanmissionun.com
Kazakhstan – unkazmission@gmail.com
Kuwait – kuwait@kuwaitmissionun.org
Kyrgyzstan – Kyrgyz.unny@gmail.com
Lebanon – contact@lebanonun.org
Libya – Libya_mis_us@foreign.gov.ly
Malaysia – mwnewyorkun@kln.gov.my
Maldives – info@maldivesmission.com
Mali – miperma@malionu.com
Mauritania – ambarimnewyork@diplomatie.gov.mr
Morocco – morocco.un@maec.gov.ma
Mozambique – mozambique.unmission@gmail.com
Niger – nigermission@ymail.com
Nigeria – permny@nigeriaunmission.org
Oman – oman@un.int
Pakistan – pakistan@pakun.org

Palestine – admin@palestinemissionun.org
Qatar – pmun@mofa.gov.qa
Saudi Arabia – correspondences@mofa.gov.sa
Senegal – senegal.mission@yahoo.fr
Sierra Leone – sierraleone@pmun.net
Somalia – somalia@unmission.gov.so
Sudan – sudan@sudanmission.org
Suriname – suriname_un@proton.me
Syria – syrianmission-ny@sar-un.org
Tajikistan – tajikistanunmission@gmail.com
The Gambia – gambia_un@hotmail.com
Togo – togo.mission@togounmission.org
Tunisia – tunisiamission@usa.com
Türkiye – tr-delegation.newyork@mfa.gov.tr
Turkmenistan – turkmenistan.un@mfa.gov.tm
Uganda – admin@ugandaunny.com
UAE – NYUNPRM@UAEUN.ORG
Uzbekistan – uzbekistan.un@gmail.com
Yemen – yemenmissionny@gmail.com

ANNEX 2

Information for contacting David Lammy regarding the war crimes of Gideon Sa'ar.

This week, Israeli foreign minister Gideon Sa'ar **secretly visited London** and met with UK foreign secretary David Lammy.

According to the Israeli foreign ministry, Sa'ar and Lammy discussed “the full range of regional issues on the agenda, foremost among them **the Iranian nuclear issue**”.

They also spoke about “the negotiations for the release of the hostages in Gaza” and “**advancing bilateral relations** between the two countries”.

Not included in the talking points, it seems, were **Israel's violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza** or the detention of two British MPs in Tel Aviv last week.

The Israeli government only acknowledged the meeting took place once Sa'ar's travel plans had been leaked to the press. Britain's Foreign Office initially **did not release any information** about it, but has now said Sa'ar met Lammy during a "private visit to the UK".

It seems likely that Sa'ar sought to keep the visit secret for fear of becoming the **subject of an arrest warrant** for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While Sa'ar is not currently wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), it is possible to issue private arrest applications in Britain under universal jurisdiction legislation, which allows for the **most serious crimes** to be prosecuted in another jurisdiction.

Yesterday, Human rights group Global Legal Action Network (GLAN) announced that it is **seeking an arrest warrant** for Sa'ar, focusing on his alleged complicity in the siege of Kamal Adwan Hospital at the end of 2024.

GLAN's director Gearóid Ó Cuinn said that "Sa'ar is directly linked to mass death, destruction and suffering in Palestine; we have submitted extensive evidence detailing his role in and awareness of this".

In October 2023, Sa'ar also declared "**Gaza must be smaller after the war**, [not only for security reasons, but because] it's the price of loss that the Arabs understand".

More information from HRF [here](#) and Glanlaw [here](#)

Annex 3 Pat Bryden's report on stance of Church of Scotland

There is a committee for Palestine-Israel matters, since there is a Church of Scotland in Jerusalem and 'retreat' in Tiberias (controversially).

A letter to David Lammy was written last August, Church of Scotland's Israel Palestine Committee has written to the UK Government to urge for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. It also challenged David Lammy about the ongoing arms sales.

The request is set out in a letter to Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP which also calls on the government to recognise the State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel without delay, and to join the other 145 countries in the world who currently do so, in order to contribute to a lasting peace and justice for all.

I haven't noticed anything since then, though the Moderator (a yearly position), has made a statement (not sure to whom) condemning the recent attack on Al Ahli hospital and the devastation. It is not, however, contextualised or calling for accountability over 75 years for the current situation. I am not sure if it goes anywhere as it isn't a letter and possibly reaches only local churches and members.

There are many prayers for churches to use. My church is not what I would call political as I had no comments when I wrote about Pastor Munther Isaac's talk at Pax Christi last year and 'Christ in the

Rubble'. Since Dr Runa Mackay died (a member of that congregation), no one from my church except me attends the annual MAP fundraising sale.

The General Assembly meets during the third week in May. I will try to keep ears and eyes open and lobby the relevant committee about what they will do in the way of resolutions at that.

Taken from the website of the Committee

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