

JUST REPORT MAY 26, 2025

WITNESS Dr Alaa al-Najjar, her husband and surviving son Adam



- Doctor Alaa Al Najjar was on duty when the bodies of 7 of her 10 children were brought in. Two children remain buried under the rubble. Remember their names:- Sidar, Luqman, Sadin, Reval, Ruslan, Jubran, Eve, Rakan and Yahya. Son Adam (11) survived, severely injured. Her husband is in intensive care. Full story [here](#). Dr Al Najjar continues to care for other children. This is unbearable, but we must not look away.
- Fergal Keane went back to see [the starving baby](#) we held in our hearts 2 weeks ago. She is still alive.
- 700 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes and ground invasions last week alone. [44 died today](#) (Monday) in 3 attacks on a school housing refugees, including 20 children. More than 300 Palestinians have died from starvation, malnutrition, and lack of access to medicine since March.

[This is moving witness](#) from Alon Mizrahi, which I found helpful.

Also two Guardian pieces resonate, [Rhiannon Lucy Coslett; Arwa Madawi](#), as do [letters written today](#). One writer- Stephen Moriarty in Australia- is collecting stones, painting them white and writing the name of a child killed in Palestine, and giving them away at festivals and street stalls for people to decorate or create memorials with. Maybe we can do this.

LEARN

- Quakers are the first church in Britain to recognise genocide in Gaza. See full statement [here](#). This was very hard won (see [Annex 1](#)) and the statement is highly hedged and qualified. Nevertheless, it represents a milestone, and Quakers working on interfaith relations believe it will be very influential.
- JVL have written a helpful article [on Gary Lineker](#) and the rat image
- [Use of human shields by IDF is systemic](#).
- After protestations from the UK government, [trade with Israel](#) remains in full swing. The British Embassy in Israel are delighted to welcome Sir Ian Austin...
- We talked last week about the Druze and here is a [useful article](#)

ACT

Several actions this week.

- Please email Quakers to let them know you support and honour the recognition of genocide. Ask them to make their presence felt at national demonstrations and in

- Turn Protest Into Policy – DEADLINES SOON [?]
600,000 marched in London, but we're struggling to get 10,000 (let alone 100,000) signatures on official UK Parliament petitions. If we want political change, we must show up for it. These petitions are a way to make sure issues get to Parliament and demand action. Please sign and share!
[Stop all arms exports to Israel & seek a ceasefire](#) (8,333 signatures)
[?] Closes: 5 June 2025
[Impose economic sanctions on Israel](#) (2,439 signatures)
[?] Closes: 9 June 2025
- Follow Jewish Voice for Labour advice and vote for Gary Lineker as Presenter of the Year via this [link to the National Television Awards](#)¹
- Write to David Lammy to recognise Palestine as a state [See Annex 2](#). We learn today that Ian Austin (yes THAT Ian Austin) is [visiting Israel on](#) a trade junket, so write as well to complain about this. REMEMBER TO ADDRESS HIM AS FOREIGN SECRETARY IF YOU ARE NOT A CONSTITUENT
- There is a beautiful petition by Palestinian Christian Women [here](#). Please read and sign. (thanks to Pat for this)

SHARE

- Well guess who is single-handedly responsible for Keir Starmer being slow to challenge Israel ??? No, not Morgan McSweeney, no, not Trevor Chinn, not Nigel Farage..... YES!!! HIM ...!²
- CAMPAIGN has sent a letter to the Guardian following Jonathan Freedland's [opinion piece](#), misleadingly suggesting that "biblical enmity" lies at the heart of Palestine-Israel relations. See [Annex 3](#)
- Charles sent a helpful list of those who seek to bring a sustained peace to Israel and Palestine, from Rabbis for Human Rights. See Annex 4.

Small wins –

- Show Genocide the Red Flag
[Dulwich Hamlet and Clapton FC](#) support Palestine. Dulwich Hamlets and Clapton FC women's match [cancelled](#) partway through because of supporters with Palestine flags and banners saying Show Genocide the Red Card. Leave them supportive comments, and if you can, put something on social media for the Football Association to do so, as they are likely to be sanctioned. The L&SERWFL have said the cup final is void and will not be replayed or awarded to either finalist. Both clubs will also now face an FA disciplinary process (I tried ringing and commenting on the Wembley site but it's impossible).

¹ You don't have to vote in any of the other categories if you don't want to; you can just skip them.

² CLUE...The beardy one who shows up on Palestine national demos and tries to work on peace and justice and who apparently has taken up permanent residence in certain people's heads. See [here](#)

- Head of Gaza Aid group says no to unworkable plan. [Jake Wood resigns](#) from the US led Gaza Humanitarian Aid Group saying the plan to distribute aid is unworkable and inhumane.
- German Chancellor Friedrich Merz “Harming the civilian population to such an extent, as has increasingly been the case in recent days, can no longer be justified as a fight against Hamas terrorism,” he told broadcaster WDR [in a televised interview](#). However, President Netanyahu is still free to visit Germany.
- Daniel Yahalom, reservist, was jailed for 5 days last week for refusing to serve. Heartening report here [WeAreNotYourSoldiers](#).
- First global drop in sales for [MacDonald's](#) since 2020
- Local news: we heard from Sila and Pat about events in Scotland including the now open Palestine Museum in Edinburgh, Ghislaine in Hertford and Hitchin – where there are few takers for Israeli dates even from the foodbank...I know there was more, so apologies!
- See website [tartreez and tea](#) for fantastic courses and information about embroidery – Ghislaine told us about the talk about the thobe – Palestinian dress –
- Interview between Peter Osborne and Arab Barghouti, son of Marwan is [here](#). Apparently, it is also coming up on The Rest is Politics (Rory Stewart and Alastair Campbell), no date yet. Also See Chris Hedges and Gabor Mate on ['Palestine, the moral issue of our time](#).
- Surprise yourselves by [taking this quiz](#) – what quotes are from Nazis and what quotes from Israeli spokespersons?

Up and Coming

Tuesday 27th May 6.30pm – Balfour Project Tickets [here](#). Directed by LINA SOUALEM, and co-written by NADINE NAOUS, this stunning documentary follows actress HIAM ABBASS as she revisits the family and village she left behind, exploring themes of memory, exile, and the resilience of Palestinian women across generations.

[Fast on World Hunger Day](#) May 28 this is an AFSC Action

5th June [Oikoumene.org](#) webinar

7th June Concert [London Arab Orchestra](#), Barbican

Annex 1 Report from Britain Yearly Meeting – Quakers – discernment about genocide in Gaza (by Nicola Grove)

At least 4 of us regularly attend JUST at BYM online, and maybe more in person. Around 1,000 people in all attended – 250 or so of us online. We hoped that the topic of Gaza and Palestine would be raised. Two Ecumenical Accompaniers shared their experiences briefly on the Friday evening. On Saturday a session on “Radical Peacemaking” saw Gaza finally mentioned with great emotion by a young activist, about halfway through the session^[1]. Even online you could sense a shift in the focus. Ali Morgan (activist with Palestine Action and Just Member) spoke passionately and directly (compared to the all too frequent Quaker preference for circumlocution ^[2]), and I believe these two contributions led to a statement that the sense of the Meeting was a will to name genocide for what it is. Huge relief. But then the minute that was read out to summarise the ministry left this out. I queried this. The Clerks responsible for organising the meeting were reassuring that they just wanted to make sure the wording was right, so it would be brought back for further discernment at a later point. From then on, it was quite chaotic and highly stressful, as nobody knew when this would happen, and conflicting rumours abounded (Sunday afternoon.... Monday....). It turned out to be both. The Clerks took

advice during Saturday evening, and brought an extremely long minute back to us. At times it felt as though the decision could go either way, especially after some passionate opposition from two Quakers one of whom at least was a self-identified Zionist. Finally, a “good enough” Minute was agreed. It is fair to say that many of us still have major reservations about how it is phrased, but I think we are in unity that it represents a step forward. Now published on the website [here](#). Quakers are welcome to get back to me with comments on actionhourcampaign@gmail.com

Annex 2 Letter to David Lammy on Recognising Palestine

Thanks to Sue. Remember when emailing David Lammy to address him as Foreign Secretary

The time to recognise Palestine has come. I think you probably know this already I urge you to take this important step with no further delay. Do it for the people of Palestine let the children who survive this 'plausible' Genocide have some hope for their future.

Recognise Palestine because it is the right thing to do now not 6 months down the line when more villages like Masafer Yatta and Umm al Hiran & have disappeared, taken illegally by Israeli settlers and hundreds more families in Gaza are wiped out, murdered. If you are not familiar with Umm al Hiran this is in the Negev Dessert where the Bedouin residents are actually Israeli Citizens, however this holds no protection for them from Jewish settler violence & murder.

Recognise Palestine because it is a Labour Manifesto pledge, recognise Palestine because our allies in France also plan to do so. Make this a positive step forward to peace and self-determination for the people of Palestine whom we abandoned in 1948. Recognising Palestine should not be used as a tool to punish Israel for its war crimes; this is the job of the ICC & the ICJ, they must also be supported in their important work.

Recognise Palestine because it is the right thing to do, and please make this Urgent decision Now.

Annex 3 CAMPAIN Letter to the Guardian

We originally sent a version drafted by CAMPAIN member Jerry Headley, but The Guardian has published neither this nor any other comment on Freedland's article. Thanks to Priscilla Alderson. we have now resent a slimmed down version to the Opinions Editor, Hugh Muir. See below:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/may/23/gaza-conflict-israel-palestinians-jewish-museum>

Jonathan Freedland ([A biblical hatred](#), 23 May) attributes the failure to resolve Israel-Palestine conflict to rigid, biblical worldviews held equally by both sides. This ignores the profound imbalance of power between an occupying state and an occupied people, also Israel's violation of international law with illegal settlements, blockades, and military occupation, supported by the United States. At the United Nations, the US veto, unchallenged by the UK, repeatedly grants effective immunity to Israel.

This isn't ancient tribalism, but today's global politics. Freedland is profoundly misleading when he presents the conflict as an insoluble clash of ancient sacred texts. By suggesting that justice is beyond reach, he lets the Western powers off the hook. But a just resolution is possible if international law is upheld, human rights are honoured, the mass media

provide accurate reports and analyses, and world leaders work together to promote peace and justice, the predominant values in religious texts.

Jonathan Coulter

for CAMPAIN Ltd.,

Campaign against Misrepresentation in Public Affairs, Information and the News,
www.campaign.org

Address:

Annex 4

Rabbis for Human Rights sent these organisations

Academia for Equality, Akevot, B'Tselem, Bimkom, Breaking the Silence, Culture of Solidarity, Combatants for Peace, Emek Shaveh, Gisha, HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual, Ir Amim, Isha L'Isha, Itach Ma'aki, Jahalin Solidarity, Jordan Valley Activists, Looking the Occupation in the Eye, Machsom Watch, Mizrahi Civic Collective, Mothers Against Violence, Neve Shalom, Other Voice, Osot Democratia, Oz VeShalom, Parents Against Child Detention, Policy Working Group, Physicians for Human Rights Israel, PsychoActive, Rabbis for Human Rights, The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, The Parents Circle – Families Forum, The School for Peace in Wahat al-Salam Neve Shalom, This is Not an Ulpan, Yesh Din, Your Neighbor As Yourself, Zazim

They cry in a wilderness, but not unheard, though more voices are needed to join theirs and those of the starving.

Shalom and Salaam,

Charles Lewsen