

JUST REPORT JULY 13th

WITNESS



Watching football in Gaza, and remembering Mohamed Al Waididi who arranged many screenings and was [murdered by Israel](#) just before the Egypt-Argentina game. He was the Director of Public Relations for the Egyptian Relief Committee in Gaza. Two children aged 8 and 10, and another person, were killed in the same strike. See here for an interesting [Al J article](#) on football and Palestine.

Israel targeted Gaza in [four strikes](#) over the weekend (you cease, we fire).

On the West Bank, amidst increasing settler violence, [US Democratic Senator](#) Ro Khanna found himself detained by the IDF, learning at first hand, if not for long, about the harassment.

We also heard of the death of [Sheikh Hamad](#) who consistently advocated for Palestine in Qatar...

LEARN

General Synod of the Church of England is the *Parliament* of the CofE, which of course is the *Established Church*, so relevant to us all. It is held twice yearly. The delegates are the Bishops, Clergy and Laity (ordinary parishioners). Since 2009 [Sabeel Kairos](#) have been trying to persuade them to vote on a motion to support Palestinians (Christians and Muslims). For the last 5 years the Carlisle Diocese has been working with Sabeel Kairos to put the motion, which was finally added to the agenda and debated on Sunday night and Monday morning. CAMPAIN's Lambeth Witness Group and JUST have been asking for this to happen.

The revised motion (Kairos 2) does not pull any punches, there has been a lot of opposition¹ and opponents proposed amendments to derail it. But it was passed by a resounding 2/3 (68% in favour, 13% against 19% abstentions). No bishops voted against, which was progress. We had a detailed report from Sharen, with supporting statements from Sue and Jonathan, who were there. Some of us watched online. Archbishops Sarah Mullally and Stephen Cottrell spoke for the motion – Bishop Rachel Treweek of Gloucester and Bishop Chessun of Southwark were also very persuasive. Father Fadi Diab from the Anglican church in Ramallah addressed Synod in a fringe event and was quoted often. Nicola saw him speak in St Albans Cathedral last Tuesday evening, which was wonderful, not least because the building was hung with Palestine flags and colours, and about 100 people attended. Read about him [here](#).

¹ Earlier in the week the [Board of Deputies of British Jews \(BoD\)](#) demanded that the Carlisle Kairos motion be withdrawn from the Synod Agenda. We wonder what their response would be if the Archbishops of Canterbury and York dictated what the BoD should discuss in their meetings.

A Methodist ecumenical observer also spoke and commended the motion as Methodists passed a similar one only last week. Three speakers opposed the motion with strong Zionist positions; we can expect this to continue. Praise be that finally we have some commitment – now let's see it turned into action. See Annex 1 for the commitments, and read about it [here](#) and [here](#) in an excellent JVL article providing background. Nothing so far from BBC news or Guardian....

Stephen Cottrell personally came out to witness the [die in](#) that a local group held in front of York Minster. Sue Cooke was very involved, and got to shake his hand. We had an animated discussion about this resolution – Diana felt it was a terrific achievement that could be a game changer, let's hope she's right! Jeffrey pointed out that Rabbi Mirvis always quoted as though he were the virtual Archbishop for British Jews, but in fact represents only one sector².

Andy Burnham – Stick or Twist...

We had another animated discussion on this topic. Some felt that it was important that he had spoken out and that it was easy to become *Eyores of the left* – some good points were made by David Hearst [here](#). **So worth writing to him to say thank you, now please follow through.** Others were more sceptical....see [Jonathan Cook](#), who lists actions to take.

Tony Greenstein expelled from Green Party

Those of us who thought the Green Party would resist the use of antisemitism allegations to discredit them and to expel members are disappointed not to say angry at this development. The Greens would appear to be using the same playbook and tactics as the Labour Party, and according to Tony he has not been given sight of the evidence. We condemn the use of non-transparent and unfair processes. Read Tony's account [here](#). If you agree with Tony's arguments and support his case, please write to Green party MPs, councillors and your local party to tell them what you think. Annex 2 has our colleague David's letter to Zack Polanski.

ACT

- Urgent – before 16th July Thursday, [write to the BMA](#) to congratulate and thank them for rejecting the IHRA definition. They are being bombarded with complaints and their Council will discuss the issue again on Thursday (NB make sure you sign at the bottom of the letter provided, I nearly forgot this!).
- Doctor Abu Saffiya is still detained, still tortured, still at the point of death. Read [here](#) and write to Global leaders, MPs, BMA and the GMC. [New and very good website here](#), with letters to sign. NB: although it said website blocked from composing, it went ahead when I clicked on allow.

A small chink of hope can be found in that [GERMAN](#) leaders have protested and demanded his release. Our Government is NOT doing this, despite Labour MPs calling upon them to do so.

SHARE

- Cadfa visit – Pam Manning reported this visit from young people from the West Bank went well
- Carmela bravely wrote in the chat at her online conference her views on inviting an Israeli speaker to address the forum and the need to speak up for Palestine.. well done!
- Police called to a planned [right wing attack on Muslims..](#)
- Read Rachel Spence on the [censorship of Palestinian and Jewish voices](#) in the UK
- [New film Life Support](#) documenting doctors' experiences in Gaza is on at the Barbican this week and then touring. Do watch.

UP AND COMING

- National March on July 18: Hope to see some of you there!
- July 19th Bristol ☪ Palestinian Museum and Cultural Centre, 27 Broad St, Bristol BS1 2HG. 2-4 pm, Gaza Empire, War and International Feminist Futures, Na'amod event. IN PERSON
- DOJ 30th July [demonstrate at Westminster Magistrates Court](#), 12 noon

ANNEX 1 MAIN COMMITMENTS FROM GENERAL SYNOD OF C of E

² From a [JVL article](#) "he represents less than a third of the 300,000 or so who make up British Jewry – not those many tens of thousands who adhere to the strictly-orthodox Haredi tradition, nor Liberal and Reform Jews nor the 50% of Britain's Jewish population who are secular in orientation."

Despite immense pressure and tactical delays, the voices of our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters were heard in the chamber. By passing this motion, the Church of England commits to:

- Engaging directly with the Kairos Palestine documents and the lived experiences of the suffering indigenous church.
- Reviewing investment policies in the light of the International Court Justice Advisory Opinion of July 2024 on the illegality of the Israeli occupation.
- Rejecting all forms of prejudice—opposing antisemitism unequivocally while refusing to remain silent about the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Thank you to every supporter who prayed and worked so hard for a very long time to get this motion passed. The real work of implementing these asks in our dioceses and local churches begins now. It is officially [#TimeToAct!](#)

[#GeneralSynod](#) [#CoE](#) [#CarlisleMotion](#) [#LivingStones](#) [#SabeelKairos](#) [#CostlySolidarity](#) [#JusticeForPalestine](#)

ANNEX 2 LETTER ON BEHALF OF TONY GREENSTEIN

Dear Zack, as a member of the Green Party (Canterbury), I fully support Tony's letter. I was a member of the Labour Party, but resigned and switched to the Green's after the pro-Palestine witch hunt that caused Jeremy Corbyn to be deposed. I hope that I do not have to resign from the Green Party because the same antisemitism playbook is now being repeated in the Greens. I have seen ZERO evidence of Tony being an antisemite, but I have seen buckets of evidence that he is strongly anti-Zionist, as I am. Since I fully support Tony, would you like to expel me as well?