

JUST REPORT MARCH 2nd, 2026

We have a world to win, we've got a planet to save, we'd better get on with it
Graham Bash, JVL AGM 1st March 2026

WITNESS



Israel strike on elementary school for 7-12 year old girls kills 153,. Mostly children
Starmer response – does not rule out British participation in attacks because of the [“indiscriminate”](#) attacks by Iran which should [“go back to the negotiating table”](#).

Meanwhile in Palestine...

Israel [seals off](#) Gaza and West Bank, 21 killed in Gaza 21-25th February (source [Gaza Unlocked](#)). At least 2 killed in the West Bank. But young people are still expressing resilience – watch girls chanting the call to the first meal at dawn [here](#), and the defiant song of teenage boys in Gaza on [this link](#)... you need to scroll right down to find them, but it is remarkable to watch.

LEARN

Palantir latest

Disclosures from the Jeffrey Epstein files cast light on Palantir's expansion within an increasingly Americanised and rotten British establishment. Epstein associate Peter Thiel co-founded Palantir, while Epstein's friend, Peter Mandelson, introduced the company to Keir Starmer in Washington. This opened the door for a £330m NHS contract, and also a £240m Ministry of Defence deal [that was awarded without competitive tender](#). In February, Mandelson - then UK Ambassador to the US - accompanied the PM on a visit to Palantir's Washington headquarters. At the time, Palantir was a client of Mandelson's lobbying firm. Since then, Palantir has signed a £240m deal with the MoD, on top of its £480m NHS contract.

We need to know: did Mandelson use his position to unfairly benefit this secretive US spy tech company? Read the history on Novara Media's post [here](#), Read the report on the early day motion debate (I think this may be the one Pam referred to on Monday evening) in Parliament on 10th Feb [here at Hansard](#). Some reasonably robust questioning (including from Tories) of minister Luke Pollard; take note of points raised in order to oppose Palantir locally and/or write to your MP. Jeffrey asked a pertinent question: why is Palantir not on the BDS register (I suspect because we as individuals can't exercise consumer choice, but a question worth putting).

Police Federation [concerned about use of Palantir](#) to surveil members *“Officers must not be subjected to opaque or untested tools that risk misinterpreting unsustainable workload pressures, sickness or overtime as indicators of wrongdoing.”*

Greens have written to demand more scrutiny of Palantir, see [here](#). Pressure does seem to be mounting. However, Palantir is not the only Israeli spyware used by UK, see [here](#)

ACT

Palantir petitions – urgent.

- [Foxglove petition](#) calling on Keir Starmer and the Cabinet Secretary to INVESTIGATE PETER MANDELSON'S DEALINGS WITH PALANTIR.
- [SUSPEND ALL PALANTIR CONTRACTS](#)
- [PALANTIR OUT OF NHS](#)

BBC – several reasons to complain.

- BAFTA awards coverage...BBC ignores racial insult but cuts speech about support for people suffering oppression and genocide. [Watch the original here.](#)
- Recent programme [How did we Get Here: Israel and the Palestinians](#) 10 part series tracing the history. Not a single Palestinian historian is interviewed. The presenter, Johnny Diamond has form – on World At One he recently accepted the views of an Israeli spokesman on casualty figures and agreed the ratio of combatants to civilians was “unusually low” for urban warfare (sic), see [here](#).
- BBC has also just [sacked head of Arabic service](#) for apparently “painting Israel as the aggressor”

Write to support Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, the Bishop of Gloucester at bgloucester@glosdioc.org.uk. Her letter to the Church Times in support of Palestinians after her visit to the West Bank has inspired what one can only call trolling by clergy and politicians alike (see Annex 1 for appalling letter from so-called Christian ministers; feel free to write letter of complaint to Church Times).

Would you like to help Declassified UK report court cases? [Declassified](#) is an alternative media outlet that does excellent work scrutinising British foreign policy and its impact on Palestine and the Middle East. They have a small and highly productive staff and are looking for volunteers to help them report court cases, mainly in London. You don't need to be a journalist, just good at drawing up concise notes. If this interests you, please advise Jonathan at admin@campaign.org, and he will put you in contact.

SHARE

- The OU cuts references to Palestine from curricula. See Owen Jones [article here](#). (confirmed by my colleague who works there). Apparently The Committee for Academic Freedom - by no means a left wing campaign - has told the OU they could be fined by the Office for Students for caving in to Lawyers for Israel (over the Palestine terminology) – read [here](#). Do contact anyone you know at the OU – or just write as prospective students to say what you think.
- Sue has watched the Peter Beinart webinar [Being Jewish after the Destruction of Gaza](#) and found it very useful. He [has a substack](#), and a weekly Zoom.
- Pat recommends [Deborah Maccaby's critique](#) of Schlomo Sands' book 'Judeophobia in History' (she picked olives with Debbie and two other Jewish girls in 2004 thanks to the Alternative Tourist Group).
- Colin shared with us the awful effects of the war and of all the aggression on small businesses such as hotels and shops. The [Alternative Tourism Group](#) is a Palestinian NGO and was recommended, they work with Green Olive Tours and are sure to be suffering at the moment. We need to be getting the word out to avoid Israeli tour companies (not that anyone will be going there just at the moment...).
- Carmela told us that the [Palestine Trauma Centre](#) is fundraising at present – Ghislaine reported on their work last year, and they are very worthy of support.
- This intriguing post came my way this week: Help open a *Queer Emergency Center* in the West Bank. This is a fundraiser to open a Queer Emergency Support Center in the West Bank, run by *Faeries of Palestine*— a grassroots collective committed to protecting and uplifting gay Palestinians. For many LGBTQ+ Palestinians, safety is not guaranteed. Many face family rejection, violence, homelessness, blackmail, and lack of access to confidential health care. There are very few safe spaces where gay people can turn without fear. Support [here](#).

ANNEX 1

The 3 bishops who have visited the West Bank and spoken out about what they found there are **The Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani** *Bishop of Chelmsford*; **The Rt Rev Rachel Treweek** *Bishop of Gloucester*; **The Rt Rev Graham Usher** *Bishop of Norwich*. Below is the kind of response they receive from their “Christian” colleagues.

Bishops should not let UN shape view of Israel. *From the Revd Drs Ian K. Duffield and Alan Billings*

Madam, — There can be no doubt about the integrity of the Bishop of Gloucester. In her robust defence ([Letters, 20 February](#)) to the charges levelled by Baroness Deech and Lord Farmer ([Letters, 13 February](#)), the Bishop reveals that she has diligently consulted UN bodies before presuming to talk about Palestine using the language of “genocide”, etc., to describe Israel’s actions. Unfortunately, the bodies that she relies on, however eminently titled, are notoriously anti-Israel, as is the UN Human Rights Council, which regularly issues more resolutions about Israel than about all the other countries of the world put together. The so-called “Independent” International Commission was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, and its chair is anti-Semitic, as is the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. And the grand-sounding International Criminal Court is, significantly, not recognised by either Israel or the United States, and is unable by its terms of reference to prosecute states, even if it should eventually accuse Israel of genocide in defending itself against a genocidal enemy. So, it remains unfortunate that Anglican bishops have strayed into this fraught domain. By over-reliance on UN bodies that reflect the UN’s systemic bias against Israel, the bishops do themselves no favours and further muddy the waters for others who hear and take note of their “authoritative” pronouncements. This does not bode well for all of us who wish to see an end to this conflict and to see Jews and Arabs live peaceably together in the region. As it is, the Abraham Accords have made great strides in this direction, but constant vilifying of Israel, the only democratic state in the region, undermines further development that could establish greater stability for all. IAN K. DUFFIELD, ALAN BILLINGS Sheffield

ANNEX 2 Poems I found inspiring

PROMISED LAND by Michael Rosen, 11 Aug 2014 (cited on [JVL](#) last week.

A family arrived and said they had papers
to prove that his house was theirs.

No, no, said the man, my people have always
lived here,
my father, grandfather and look, the garden,
my great-grandfather planted that.

No, no, said the family, look at the documents.
There was a stack of them.

Where do I start? said the man.

No need to read the beginning, they said,
turn to the page marked ‘Promised Land’.

Are they legal? he said, who wrote them?

God, they said, God wrote them, look –
Here come His tanks.

DUKKA by Lena Khalaf Tuffaha

... Love
is paying attention, I remark, and you
repeat it to me. Love is also the father
who plants an olive tree for every newborn
trusting they will grow up to harvest it. Love is
the elderly woman who stood inside
Damascus Gate knowing the settlers
were on a rampage, knowing
what her body would have to endure. Love is a
story
we never tire of telling, just as Shireen
told it with a microphone and a camera
beautiful poem “says it like so:
(grateful acknowledgement to Pádraig Ó Tuoma’s
[Poetry Unbound.](#))