

JUST REPORT MONDAY JUNE 16TH

WITNESS



Mohammed Khalil student activist detained illegally in US. As a judge ruled his detention was illegal, we all hoped for his release in time to spend Fathers Day with the baby son he has never seen. But his detention has been extended. [Watch here](#) readings of his moving letter to his son.

The killings in Gaza continue and increase, especially through luring people into “aid distribution centres” and then firing on them. Last week around 400 people were killed according to Gaza Unlocked and Al Jazeera. Today (Tuesday) they brought in tanks killing 51 at the distribution centres and injuring over 300, many of whom are in a critical condition. Please read this horrifying whistleblower’s report on the “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” [from a volunteer contractor](#).

LEARN

Colonial trauma, and resistance. Talk by David Harrold from the [Palestine Trauma Centre](#). Ghislaine reported on an excellent and moving webinar. Slides are [here](#); presentation [here](#). For all of us, there is a lesson about resistance. Rebuild immediately; turn destroyed homes into memorial sites; Never ask “How are you doing?” ask “What are you doing?” For Gazans see themselves as already dead, therefore they live in faith and not in hope. Actions for allies – join one of the many small organisations that are springing up for the reconstruction listed on the slides.

We cannot give up.

Israel war on Iran

We know that the aggression comes from Israel, with an unprovoked attack; that Iran is not near to building a bomb (though this action will encourage them to do so); that [Israel has extensive networks of agents](#) in Iran who have perpetrated attacks and provided information – and of course fomenting paranoia and undeniable repression. Israel has placed the occupied West Bank under lockdown, sealing the entrances of cities and villages with iron gates and concrete barriers, as its forces bomb Iran.

See here for a range of reports. Chris Hedges [here](#); Orla Noy from +972 [here](#). Israelis are [denying Palestinian citizens of Israel access to shelters](#).

Middle East Eye has a range of excellent articles on the [Israel Iran conflict](#).

See Annex 1 for a moving piece by Dan whose family lived in Isfahan.

[Global march to Gaza](#) halted because of collaboration between Egypt and Israel. Watch Leigh Evans, Welsh nurse, plead with Egyptian soldiers [here](#). Solidarity.

SHARE

[Lowkey](#) on the media trolling of Greta Thunberg and the Madleen, and on [why Trump really wants war with Iran](#)

Small wins

[Palestine Action activist acquitted](#) UK.

[France shuts down](#) Israeli stands at Paris airshow

[Baby Siwar](#), whom we have featured in Witness, has been successfully evacuated to Jordan, although Jordan has a history of returning children to Gaza once they have been treated.

Dr Alaa Al-Najar, whose husband and 9 children were massacred by Israel as she treated wounded children in hospital, has been evacuated to Italy with her surviving son Adam. [This piece](#) is very uplifting and sad. He is hoping for "A beautiful place."

Local events

Falkirk Antonine Wall group, twinned with JAYYOUS IN the West Bank, is launching the Gaza children's poetry and illustration book: 'Moon Tell the Truth'. It is beautiful and was exhibited in the Poetry library here some months ago

Bristol women in black did big copy of the Mohammed Khalil's letter to his son, put it on the ground, and surrounded by kids shoes. Some of us from Bristol are working on book of poems for Palestine to raise money and awareness.

Colin Lomas says an important act of support of Palestinians is to hold a regular zoom chat. In W. London we have a conversation every month with Palestinians in East Jerusalem. The Palestinians constantly affirm that they greatly value these events. Colin can advise on how to set this up.

ACT

- The Crime and Policing Bill (3rd stage) will be debated in Parliament on 17th and 18th June. Clause 114 will significantly affect the right to protest near ANY places of worship. Email your MP to ask them to: (i) Support Amendment 161 to delete Clause 114; (ii) Support Amendment NC50 and other amendments that protect the right to protest. [See here for arguments](#)
- Oppose UK involvement in war with Iran. [NO WAR with IRAN petition](#)
- Trump is trying to bully judges at the International Criminal Court for targeting Netanyahu. But now a team of legal experts is asking the Court to investigate if Trump committed his own crimes against humanity. To convince the Court to investigate, they need massive public support - add your name to [this global call](#).
- Metropolitan Police purchase of Sandcat vehicles "road tested" in Gaza; Scottish police have also purchased. **Nicola and Pat are going to send FOI requests** with a set of questions, and will report back. See Annex 2 for useful info from Jerry about the cost to Scotland!
- 17th June: UN member states prepare to convene in New York on 17 June for the High-Level Conference on the *Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine*, co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, and as France is set to convene selected actors on 13 June with the declared

aim of issuing “a clear and urgent call to action to the international community” ahead of the conference, we—the undersigned Palestinian civil society organizations and coalitions in Palestine and in exile—reaffirm our unified demands for a just and lawful resolution grounded in the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. They are asking for signatures from organisations [here](#). Trump has left the conference in order to ...um....[?][?][?]

Up and coming

Scottish Parliament [debating Gaza](#) and recognition of Palestine this week.

Wednesday, 18 June at 7pm London time, Swarthmore Lecturer Emily Provance will be holding an hour-long online gathering, sharing stories and experiences of her recent travels to Ramallah Friends School, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and the Tent of Nations. Register [here](#)

21st June National Demonstration for Palestine, London. Quakers for Peace meeting Friends House Euston, garden midday for Meeting for Worship. Briefing and gather at 12.30 at the north-west corner of Russell Square (WC1H 5EF).

30th June, 1st July. Support Filton 18 in their court case at Kingston Crown Court. Details [here](#).

JULY

Weekly, starting Sat 19th July - Big Ride for Palestine [register here](#)

1-5 July P21 Gallery London is featuring the amazing [Villa in the Jungle installation](#) that we looked at last year. Visit!

Sunday 6th July (5.45) 6pm to 7.30 pm WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO OPPOSE “NORMALISATION” IN ISRAEL AND THE UK? A JVL FORUM members only. To register for this event please fill out the form linked [here](#).

11th July Online [Children Not Numbers](#)

Annex 1: A Journey to experience “Half of the World”

by Dan Gmaj



Isfahan (Iran) 1943

School / Refugee camp. Mainly for orphans of war, in Isfahan (Iran) in 1943 (I believe but it could have been as early as late 1942) Andrzej Gmaj (7-8 yrs old) centre front. His Mother, Zofia, a teacher, (Behind, left)

At time of writing (June 14th 2025), Israel, using, weapons and intelligence gained via their disgraceful

interaction with co-conspirators in the USA & UK, have decided to distract from their ongoing Genocide of Palestinians, by recklessly Initiating what is fast becoming a dangerously growing conflict with Iran. I am aware that targets in central Iran (formally Persia) have included the ancient city of Isfahan with its 2.2 million population, a city so rich in architectural and artistic culture that it is notably, best defined by the proverb “Isfahan is Half (of) the World”.

My knowledge of this region sparks from conversations with my father, Andrzej Gmaj (Centre front in the small group picture. 1935 – 1989). He would talk with great respect and admiration of his time as a child in Isfahan. His interaction with the people & culture, so rich in compassion & humanity that it became much more than simply the ‘stop gap’ between life and death for so many thousands of polish Children between 1942 and 1945. ([Read more on this here, a fascinating potted history](#)) This (smaller group) picture, was most likely taken soon after arrival. A journey that started three years before in 1939, fleeing the Nazi occupation east, out of Poland (With my Great Grandmother, Grandfather Jozef, Grandmother Zofia (in picture) and Andrzej’s baby Sister Zofia – Julia, who, like Jolanta, before her and Andrzej’s own twin (who died at birth) sadly, did not even make it this far, an impossible journey in itself, but the escape from Poland into Lviv (Ukraine), where, as registered refugees, my family (and tens of thousands of others) were arrested and packed on to small freight carriages (35 to each) for what became a Three Week (2000 mile) journey, with limited sustenance, to labour camps near Sosva in central Russia.

Over Two years of hell ([But at least survival. See here for the source material](#)) was spent in these camps, Russia swapped sides allowing for essential, though perilous escape for the thousands of refugees who mostly fled south to Kazakhstan. Here my grandfather, Jozef, joined with the 10th division Polish free army and the family was split. As my great grandmother, grandmother & father were shipped off through Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan into Iran, they, like so many, were again, scared and alone.

And so to Isfahan. You may never have heard of this place before, but as you hear the news reports now, please remember that this place, the incredible cultured people and rich history of the land served, cared for and 'safely passed on' many thousands of refugees across the world including us lot!, Arriving in the UK in 1947 (I believe) with intention to go on to Argentina which never happened, so sorry (not sorry), you are stuck with us now! The school & refugee camp in Isfahan grew, mostly orphans, child refugees from war torn Europe that were given the space and opportunity to at least try and start again. (other picture / larger group)



This image from 1944 and also contains my grandmother Zofia & Dad, Andrzej (although you will have to look hard to find him! (In the top right group I think! (Aged 9)

Such an authoritarian world of 'purposeful state terrorism' we now live in. Surely, we must all understand that the vast majority of humans are keen to live, love and be nice

to people. The remainder is a complex mix! Some 'lied to' over generations inciting mistrust and hatred of others as with the Israeli experiment, and others led by the lies and media monopolies of what is considered to be an 'Elite' of just 1%. I would say that we would all benefit from being a bit more Iranian 😊 especially in terms of historical context anyway, a deeply cultured, compassionate and caring people.

May the bombing stop, the children go on to thrive and may peace rain upon "the other half of the world". There is a one state solution to much of this and it's name, for all that would peacefully live within it, is Palestine. Dad would approve 😊 Please do what you can and reject the 'Simplistic' to blame or hate others! No matter who tells you or where you see it, you must know that, love, compassion, tolerance and understanding are the key!

Annex 2: from Jerry, Sandcat vehicle purchase

Police Scotland has faced a huge backlash ever since it purchased the "monstrosity". A Freedom of Information request found the force spent a whopping £282,240 on the 4x4 but just £12.40 had been spent on the vehicle's maintenance. Maggie Chapman, the Scottish Greens justice spokeswoman, said: "Police Scotland must immediately sell this monstrosity and do a full accounting of other significant purchases to ensure another £300,000 of taxpayer's money isn't wasting away in a dust-filled garage somewhere."

The Scottish Police Federation (SPF) added that the vehicle needs to be sold to free up vital cash for the struggling force