

JUST REPORT MAY 12th 2025

WITNESS

We held in our thoughts and prayers this [young mother and her emaciated child](#). Najwa Aram is 23, her baby daughter Siwar Ashour is 6 months. Please note how tenderly and lovingly this little scrap is held and regarded.



The death toll last week was appalling, with 61 killed in attacks on a [restaurant](#) and school, 109 in total, on Wednesday, 7th May alone. The Gaza unlocked total is around 347 between 2-9th May. 57 people starved to death

LEARN

Our focus was famine in Gaza and its effects. There are several informative and distressing articles; Al Jazeera [here](#) and [here](#). Meanwhile, UKLawyers for Israel (UKLFI) seem to be claiming that starvation is doing the population good, and may increase life expectancy, “ bearing in mind that one of the biggest health issues in Gaza prior to the current war was obesity”.¹ The CEO, Jonathan Turner, is contesting facts set out in [a letter published by The Lancet last year](#), which coincidentally are being used for a [motion](#) to the Co-op AGM (17th May) calling for a bar on selling Israeli produce. Read his remarks [here](#).

Those of us who may have thought a plan for the US to deliver aid offered hope, are disillusioned (and disgusted) again, as [Skwawkbox](#) reveals: only 60 trucks a day (750 needed even before the famine); only in Rafah, causing families to abandon homes elsewhere; overseen by mercenaries, some of whom have already apparently committed war crimes; in closed compounds with entry dependent on biometric tagging.

In other news, Israel is now [assuming control of all land registry](#) in Area C of the West Bank (the majority). The much heralded [Peace Summit](#) in Israel hardly mentioned Gaza.

Arms supplies and Britain Major report [here](#), which is important to read – thanks to Linda W for forwarding.

¹ From the saved chat... There's an Israeli hashtag DEDICATED to 'fat Palestinians' who come out of Israeli detention much thinner. They publish 'before and after' photos as a big joke - the 'Abu Fit Diet' (ha ha).
https://x.com/hashtag/%D7%90%D7%91%D7%95_%D7%97%D7%98%D7%95%D7%91?src=hashtag_click

Britain is in the High Court this week [defending its continuing supply of arms](#) to Israel, in particular the F35 jet, arguing that the obligation to avoid selling arms that will be used in potential war crimes does not apply in this context because the F-35 programme is [crucial to ensuring](#) global “peace and security”. In yet another grotesque claim]lawyers for the government are saying there is no evidence of genocide or the targeting of women and children². Read these key articles: [Declassified](#), [JVL](#) and [Guardian](#). We discussed the need to have arguments that are pragmatic as well as moral, and helpfully this task is done for us by [Yasmin Ahmed](#), Director of Human Rights Watch. For arguments see Annex 1

The BBC has yet again [suppressed a film](#) about Palestine, this time the testimony of doctors – “Gaza medics under fire”. Watch a short broadcast [here](#). More info [here](#). Action below

ACT

- Stop the famine. We will sign here on a [unified call](#) for organisations, on behalf of CAMPAIN and JUST. Please forward to your local Friends of Palestine or others as it can only be signed by groups. Use the information to bombard MPs – again.
- Write to the BBC to praise them about showing The Settlers and demand that they show “Gaza Medics Under Fire”. Provide your feedback [here](#). Sign petition [here](#)
- Stop arming Israel – Crowdjustice action [here](#)

(Fashion BDS action will hold over till next week)

SHARE From the Palestine book club. *If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.*

This came in an email from Mazin Qumisiyeh, who wrote an excellent book *Popular Resistance in Palestine*, and *Sharing the Land of Canaan Human Rights and the Israeli-Palestinian Struggle*. Also recommended was Jeff Halper's [War against the People \(2015\)](#)

From Dan: we should keep an eye on the Richard Medhurst situation, (in court later this week on 'Terrorism' charges I believe) A great, and rather disturbing conversation was had between [Chris Hedges and him](#) (link below) On the subject of "The West serving as Israel's police" Well worth a watch / listen for a number of reasons regarding what we discuss here 

From Frank. The Palestinian artist [Malak Mattar](#), from Gaza, is having an exhibition in London, at [Window Gallery in Granary Square](#). Her works vividly and dramatically depict the horrors inflicted on the people of Gaza under Israeli attacks and siege. I plan to go and see it on Friday.

Linda sent a powerful poem which resonated with me, see [Annex 3](#)

Small wins

- American hostage [Eden Alexander released by Hamas](#),
- [Parliamentary debate](#) Tuesday 6th May saw some MPs standing up for Palestine, Tories as well as Labour (and others). Priscilla got a great letter from her Liberal MP Edward Morrissey in response to an email... shows the importance of keeping on.
- In the US, AIPAC's anti-BDS bill has been [set aside for now](#)
- [The Netherlands](#) has called for Israel to call off the blockade
- [Rector of St Andrews reinstated](#)...

² Admittedly this refers to the situation in July 2024 but even then the intent was quite clear... these lawyers seem to be in competition with UKLFI to see who can make the most outrageous statements

There is a general feeling that the tide may be turning, but that was before Netanyahu announced his all-out incursion. Read [here](#), and [Alon Mizrahi](#) here, and hope..

Up and coming

Saturday May 17th Nakba77 [National March for Palestine](#). CAMPAIN are meeting at [St Stephen's Tavern](#) in Westminster at 11.30 am. Let Jonathan know if you are coming admin@campaign.org

17-18th May [Palestine Film Festival](#), Edinburgh

Saturday, May 24th, Derby: [Palestinian festival of culture and film](#)

ANNEX 1 Arguments against continuing to supply arms

1. The F35 jet was used to bomb the designated "safe area" of [Al Mawasi](#) clearly violating international law
2. It violates international arms treaties, including the UN ATT, ratified in 2014 by the UK.
3. Sets a precedent for putting relationships with allies over international obligations
4. It will have far-reaching consequences for the lives of people in Gaza and risks the conflict there becoming a blueprint for other armed conflicts, where international law is treated as optional and relationships with a powerful ally are considered paramount.
5. It further harms our relationship with the global South.
6. Suspending arms sales has popular support. It is the legal, moral and popular course of action.

Re David Lammy: a groundbreaking report finds he has misled public & reveals scale of arms exports to Israel

Read more [here](#) // Share us on FB [here](#) // RT piece [here](#)

The report reveals for the first time the extraordinary scale of UK arms exports to Israel using new data from the Israel Tax Authority, and concludes that "it appears that Foreign Secretary David Lammy has misled Parliament and the public about arms shipments to Israel".

Former Labour Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell MP and Zarah Sultana MP are calling on Keir Starmer to launch an investigation into evidence in the report that Ministers have misled Parliament and the public, saying that, if the Ministerial Code has been breached by David Lammy or any other Minister, this is a "resigning matter".

Annex 2: Sue Cooke's letter

Children and their families are being starved to death, denied access to water, medicines everything which sustains life, while much of the world looks on. This is 2025, this is happening in Gaza now. The country perpetuating these war crimes & crimes against humanity is Israel and they are being supported in this ongoing plausible Genocide by the UK Labour Government.

Until our government does the right thing and recognises Palestine, this appalling violation of human rights is likely to continue.

"The Labour Manifesto in 2024 stated that: 'Palestinian statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people. It is not in the gift of any neighbour and is also essential to the long-term security of Israel. We are committed to recognising a Palestinian state as a contribution to a renewed peace process which results in a two-state solution with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state.' If the Labour Party and others in Parliament genuinely believe in two states in the land of historic Palestine, then our Labour Government should recognize both states, Palestine and Israel. Failure to do so is delaying any hope of peace and self-determination for the people of Palestine in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank.

How many more innocent lives need to be lost, babies, children, teachers, medical workers, people like you and me, need to be taken before our political leaders stand up to be counted and bring a stop this barbaric

treatment of the Palestinian people. The time is now to stop arming Israel and to recognise Palestine; 147 of the 193 member states of the UN, have done this. Why is the UK Government so slow to do the right thing? Most urgent of all, food, water & medicines must get into Gaza, if not perhaps we are all doomed to knowing we just let this happen.

Annex 3: At My Door

by Voirrey Faragher, Cornwall Quaker Area Meeting

Published in The Friend Magazine

Please God they are not at my door.

It's likely God is looking the other way for they are here walking up the hill approaching our bungalow. A mass of desperate human debris. Some must be carried, some have sticks, others lean on friends.

They arrive and look at me in expectation.

Five thousand or more - I am not able to do a head count.

I usher twenty into our kitchen, to a table and two settees, but many remain on the path to our gate, on the pavement which winds down the hill.

I give them tea and cake, find bandages - it's all I have, for Tony's bread is eaten. They have given up on weeping and wailing and sit quietly and wait. I am not in a position to do anything. We cook for those in the kitchen.

We can surely find room on beds, on sofas, on the floor for those who can sleep. We have plenty of water.

Amir is some sort of leader. He tells me of the bombs, of the torture, of disease and starvation. Of frozen babies.

I can do nothing.

Some of those who were in our kitchen have died.

We have a big garden - big enough for several graves.

The others seem to be growing stronger and returning to some sort of physical health. They have resumed weeping and wailing, which must surely be a good thing.

But I worry about the silent among them who stare at the floor. I am worried about how long we can go on.

I am worried about the four thousand and eighty people, minus those who have died, who remain outside.