

## JUST REPORT 18<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2026

### WITNESS



95 year old woman [refuses to leave Gaza](#). Fatima Obaid survived the Nakba in 1948, and has been displaced many times in the present conflict, losing 70 family members. But she displays the same grounded attachment to the land of Gaza that we have seen in so many other determined, strong, desperate people. We held in our hearts the grandparents and elders in Palestine – and those who witness here in the UK – Diana Neslan, her contemporary, will be at P21 gallery on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May – see below.

**Deaths in Gaza** 8<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 1– c. 21 including the [attack on the apartment block](#) which killed the current leader of the Qassam Brigades Izz al-Din al-Haddad ... see report [here](#)

Wedding party was on going – 8 killed. A list of ceasefire violations by Israel can be found [here](#):  
3000 killed in Lebanon

### LEARN

- **Sanctions**; Martin presented information from the Ha'aretz article about the newly agreed EU sanctions on settlers in the West Bank – see report [here](#). He sees grounds for optimism and makes a case for how we can use the information to lobby MPs for similar action. His analysis and suggestions for arguments can be found in Annex 1. He shows that the UK has in some ways gone beyond the EU, but that there are inconsistencies – making the case for applying sanctions consistently and systematically. Jeffrey pointed out that similarly, [the bill presented in the US](#) – West Bank Violence Prevention Act (which won't pass) – offers opportunities for strategic consideration and keeps the feasibility of these measures in the public eye. We<sup>2</sup> hope to present a similar analysis NEXT MONDAY, which will enable all of us to mount an informed campaign of letter writing<sup>3</sup>
- **History of Polish refugees** in Iran. Nell told us this [little known story](#) – during WWII, when the USSR was fighting on the German side, many Poles – including Jews - were forcibly transferred to Russia and forced to work, under terrible conditions. When the USSR changed sides, nobody knew what to do with these famished, sick people, including many children. They were sent to Iran – where they were welcomed and kindly treated, with no distinctions made on the grounds of “race” or religion. At the end of the war, many Jews remained, since Poland was not an option for return (well established history of antisemitism there), and the Jewish community in Iran became the largest outside Israel – which did not prevent Israel from bombing a synagogue and a Jewish graveyard in the recent hostilities.

<sup>1</sup> These are difficult to estimate, since datatechforPalestine appears to have changed the way they do the count, so I am relying on the figures from Gaza Unlocked (AFSC) + news reports.

<sup>2</sup> I say “we”.... Looking for volunteers with the analytic skills to take this on.... One skilled person does spring to mind...

<sup>3</sup> As I wrote this, I thought to myself “how feeble and inadequately this reads in the face of the ongoing horrors”.... But we have to keep up the pressure in the only ways available to us...

## ACT

- **Dr Abu Safiya.** This seems to be the most up to date petition – Avaaz [here](#) . You can also sign an open letter to the Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health (who have taken no action on this despite dr Safiya being a paediatrician himself), [here](#).
- **Misan Harriman.** Protest about the defamation by the Telegraph and Mail (and others, needless to say). Director of South Bank Centre, photographer, film director, known for his integrity and solid, historic antiracism was smeared in the right-wing press, where a speech he made about the Golders Green attacks was clipped and misrepresented. Sign the letter<sup>4</sup> [here](#), background [here](#) and [here](#) on CAMPAIN website.
- **Jewish Voice for Liberation.** Are asking for new subscribers – they do an unrivalled job of posting relevant and important information on their site, and also provide seminars and interviews. † You can subscribe as an affiliate member if you are not Jewish. Please consider joining them. [www.is.gd/join\\_JVL](http://www.is.gd/join_JVL)
- Pam shared info with me about making hygiene kits for Gaza... I am looking into it for next week.

## SHARE

- Nakba march 250,000 estimated by PSC; “15-20,000” by police. Peaceful and energetic; no 12 arrests by police cp 20 at Unite the Kingdom (and 22 at football). One was the indomitable Tony G (thanks for coming Tony!) holding a banner with proscribed content.... Germany, Nakba protestors were beaten by [police](#) so we count ourselves lucky.
- Double Down News, highly recommended, has a [video](#) contrasting the speeches at both events; and an analysis by Lowkey (it's worse than you think) of “Tommy Robinson”'s [relationship with Israel](#). And Richard Sanders has produced [a second weekly Double Down Newswatch bulletin](#).
- Carmela also found [this clip](#) of Jackie Walker interviewed by Crispin.
- Tony is back from Germany after [covering the proceedings against](#) the Ulm 5 (Palestine Action activists). Fears of a show trial. Tony was arrested and questioned (of course he was) but freed and he says the police were very polite (see above).
- The [Doctors against Genocide](#) (DAG) Zoom meeting and YouTube live broadcast goes on for up to 4 hours each Sunday, from 5pm our time, and is very informative from doctors all over the world. The Zoom is more like a Webinar (so you are not seen) but you can ask questions in the question list which are only replied to in the chat. Recommended. Note we would love to hear a report if anyone can attend for some of it!
- Rabbi Herschel Gluck, president of Shomrin (Jewish neighbourhood watch in NE London, promoter of interfaith solidarity) banning Pro Palestine marches would violate fundamental rights of Jewish community – the marches have a proportionately higher Jewish participation than any other group in the UK. Criticises political use of Jewish suffering to justify restrictions. [Watch this great guy here](#)
- Read about the [amazing rescue](#) of the Palestinian archive documents relating to ownership of land and property, the only records for future evidence that will be needed one day...
- Raj Menon – complaint stopped on only procedural grounds, Judge Johnson has option to go via Attorney General as he should have done in the first place. See [Craig Murray post](#) here

## Good news

- [head of Microsoft](#) in Israel steps down after an investigation into his dealings with the military, led by the Guardian.
- Sanctions against Francesca Albanese [suspended](#) in US
- ICC is pursuing [5 new arrest warrants](#) against Israeli politicians and army officers
- Layan Nasir [returns home](#) to West Bank after third spell in prison...
- A useful curated list of Nakba resources has been developed by PIPD. Download [here](#)

## Up and coming

**21<sup>st</sup> May 18.30.** By popular demand our very own indomitable Diana Neslen at P21 Gallery, 21-27 Chalton St, London NW1 1JD London. Book [here](#) The evening will comprise a showing of Helena Aksentijevic's film about Diana "Israel, the Golem and the Mark of Cain" exploring her Diana Neslen's journey from Zionist youth to actively campaigning against the apartheid state of Israel. Following the film there will be a discussion between the Diana

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<sup>4</sup> The largest number of complaints ever to IPSO apparently.

Neslen, and two other South African activists against apartheid and the Israeli state, Shereen Pandit and Bahir Laattoe. This will be moderated by Luca Salice, Chair of Westminster PSC. This will be open to questions and comments from the audience.

## **ANNEX 1 Martin's analysis of Ha'aretz article**

**The idea is to develop a letter to MPs to suggest how sanctions can be consistently implemented...**

### **Ha'aretz Article**

The sanctions on groups at the heart of Israel's settlement enterprise are an essential, albeit late, reminder that policies rooted in the disregard and oppression of human rights carry consequences. It finally dawned on Europe: Israel's expansion of settlements in the West Bank, while backing Jewish terrorism, must come with a price tag. Sanctions approved by the EU foreign ministers on Monday hit close to home in Jerusalem, targeting figures and groups directly tied to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and the heart of the settlement enterprise. Unlike previous rounds aimed largely at individual violent settlers, the latest sanctions are structural, targeting, according to Haaretz reporting, organizations and their leaders active in settlement construction, like Amana; the displacement of Palestinians through legal battles, like [Regavim](#); and grassroots efforts encouraging Israelis to move deep into the West Bank, like [Nachala](#). They rely heavily on fundraising, including from abroad. Sanctions that threaten those financial channels could have a major impact. oo little, too late? After more than a year of inaction over Israel's deliberate destruction of Gaza and its people, this is finally a meaningful step, one that could pave the way for broader measures now being pushed by several member states, including ending free-trade benefits for West Bank settlement goods or banning such imports altogether. A special shoutout goes to Hungary, whose new government, led by Péter Magyar supported the measures and lifted the perennial Viktor Orbán "blackmail" veto, showing within just three days of taking office how consequential the nationalist leader's downfall was to Israel's ethnonationalist agenda. In their response, Israeli leaders once again revealed their levels of shamelessness, victimhood and zeal when it comes to the West Bank. Netanyahu blasted European politicians for being "coerced by their radical constituencies," as if he himself were never beholden to extremists, while complaining that this was happening while Israel was "fighting for civilization" and doing Europe's "dirty work" in Iran, despite European leaders opposing what has turned out to be a costly and failing war. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who himself co-founded one of the sanctioned groups, Regavim, called for annexing the West Bank "this evening" in response. But Diaspora Affairs Minister Amichai Chikli took it further, accusing the EU of "raw antisemitism" and Nazi-like tendencies... The reactions of Israeli officials, which also include calls for "strategic" operational measures, demonstrate why further action may be needed, as they lay out clearly the Netanyahu government's most precious and contentious *raison d'être*: annexing the West Bank after five decades of apartheid-style rule and emptying it of as many Palestinians as possible. With the impact of the EU's measures still to be assessed, they were nonetheless a clear message to Israel. They should be even clearer to those vying to replace Netanyahu, especially Naftali Bennett, who himself was once closely allied with many of these sanctioned figures as a former settler leader... The EU sanctions are an essential reminder that policies rooted in the disregard and oppression of human rights carry consequences. If this is a path Israeli governments – under Netanyahu or otherwise – continue to choose, then they must also be prepared to bear the cost: deliberately pushing their country into deeper international isolation, war and suffering.

### **Analysis of the Haaretz article and possible questions for MPs to table**

#### **Source check — key points**

The Haaretz article is broadly supported by independent reporting: on **11 May 2026**, EU foreign ministers agreed sanctions on **three Israeli individuals and four settler-linked organisations**, alongside Hamas figures. Reuters reports that the names were not yet officially disclosed at the time; Peace Now identifies the four organisations as **Amana, HaShomer Yesh, Regavim and Nachala**, with **Avichai Suissa, Meir Deutsch and Daniella Weiss** also targeted ([Reuters](#)).

The UK has already sanctioned **Amana** and **HaShomer Yosh** in October 2024, saying they supported violence and illegal outposts; it later sanctioned **Daniella Weiss** and **Nachala** in May 2025, and **Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich** in June 2025. ([GOV.UK](#))

The main UK gap appears to be **Regavim** and possibly **Meir Deutsch / Avichai Suissa**, depending on the current UK consolidated list. The parliamentary angle is therefore: **will the UK now align with the EU and close any gaps in its sanctions regime?**

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## MP Briefing Note

### EU sanctions on Israeli settler organisations: case for parallel UK action

#### Key Judgements

The EU decision marks a shift from sanctioning only individual violent settlers towards targeting **organisational infrastructure** behind settlement expansion, outpost construction, legal displacement campaigns and settler mobilisation.

The UK is already ahead of the EU in some respects, having sanctioned several settler organisations and two Israeli ministers. However, the EU's reported inclusion of **Regavim** raises a clear question about whether the UK will now designate equivalent organisations and office-holders.

The strongest UK rationale would be consistency with:

1. the UK's stated position that settlements are illegal;
2. UN Security Council Resolution 2334;
3. the ICJ's 2024 advisory opinion that states must not recognise or assist Israel's unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory ([International Court of Justice](#)).

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## 1. What happened?

On **11 May 2026**, EU foreign ministers agreed sanctions against Israeli settler-linked targets and Hamas figures. Reporting indicates the settler-side package covers **four organisations: Amana, HaShomer Yosh, Regavim and Nachala**, and three associated figures. (Reuters)

These measures appear aimed not only at physical violence, but at the **financial, logistical, legal and organisational ecosystem** enabling displacement of Palestinians and settlement expansion.

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## 2. Why this matters to the UK

The UK has already accepted the principle of targeted sanctions against settler violence networks. In October 2024, the FCDO stated that settler violence often seeks to force Palestinians from their homes and seize land for outposts, and cited over **1,400 settler attacks since October 2023**. ([GOV.UK](#))

The UK has also sanctioned **Ben-Gvir and Smotrich** for incitement of violence against Palestinian civilians. ([GOV.UK](#))

The question is therefore not whether such sanctions are possible, but whether they are being applied comprehensively and consistently.

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## 3. Organisations of concern

Organisation	Reported role	UK position
<b>Amana</b>	Settlement construction and outpost support	Already UK-sanctioned
<b>HaShomer Yosh</b>	Volunteers and support for illegal agricultural outposts	Already UK-sanctioned
<b>Nachala</b>	Mobilising settlement/outpost expansion, including in West Bank and Gaza	Already UK-sanctioned
<b>Regavim</b>	Legal and political pressure to demolish Palestinian structures and advance settlement interests	Apparent gap: should be checked against UK list

Peace Now alleges Regavim has promoted settlement expansion and Palestinian dispossession through legal, governmental and public pressure, including court petitions seeking demolition of Palestinian construction. (Peace Now)

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### **Suggested Parliamentary Questions**

#### **Urgent / Oral Question**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs whether the Government will make a statement on the EU's decision of 11 May 2026 to sanction Israeli settler organisations linked to violence and displacement in the occupied West Bank, and whether the UK intends to impose parallel sanctions on any organisations or individuals not already designated under the UK Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations.

#### **Written Questions**

- To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs whether he has assessed the EU's reported designation of **Regavim** in connection with settlement expansion and displacement of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.
- To ask whether the Government is considering sanctions against **Regavim, Meir Deutsch or Avichai Suissa**, following the EU's 11 May 2026 sanctions decision.
- To ask what assessment the Government has made of whether UK-based fundraising, charitable giving, corporate services or financial transfers have supported organisations involved in illegal settlement outposts.
- To ask what steps the Government is taking to ensure UK persons and entities do not provide financial or material support to settlement organisations involved in serious human rights abuses.
- To ask whether the Government will publish a consolidated assessment of settler organisations sanctioned by the UK, EU, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Norway, identifying any gaps in UK designations.
- To ask whether the Government considers settlement-linked organisations that facilitate displacement of Palestinians to fall within the scope of the UK Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020.
- To ask what assessment the Government has made of the compatibility of continued trade with settlement-linked entities with the ICJ advisory opinion of 19 July 2024.
- To ask whether the Government will consider banning imports from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, or at minimum ending any preferential treatment for such goods.
- To ask what discussions Ministers have had with EU counterparts about coordinated sanctions against organisations supporting illegal settlements and forced displacement.
- To ask whether the Government will review whether UK charities, companies or financial institutions have links to organisations sanctioned by the EU for activities in the occupied West Bank.

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#### **Core political line for an MP**

The UK has already accepted that settler violence is not simply a matter of isolated individuals, but is supported by organisations, funding networks and political incitement. The EU's latest decision strengthens the case for a coordinated UK review, closing gaps in the sanctions list and ensuring that UK money, trade and institutions are not sustaining unlawful settlement expansion or the displacement of Palestinians.