

## JUST REPORT May 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

### WITNESS



Ali al-Samoudi, journalist [just released](#) after a year in prison without charge under Administrative detention. – was shot in the back when, Shireen abu Aqlah was killed. He has recovered and spoke at her memorial at St Brides in London. Request to pray for him and family from a Quaker Palestine Solidarity member.

[Killed Gaza April 24-30<sup>th</sup>](#) 35. Injured 78. Death toll since ceasefire 824 Palestinians 2,316 injured. See also for shocking statistics on conditions. Israelis are [destroying water sources](#).

West Bank – UN on 29<sup>th</sup> April described situation as [intolerable](#). 126 new settlements approved. [10 Palestinians including 5 children detained](#) see [Gaza Unlocked](#).

Ramallah, attack on school: 14 year old boy [Aws Hamdi al-Nassan shot](#). “Now he joins his father” killed in 2019, 32 year old Jihad Abu Naim, a parent, also killed as he tried to rescue children.

Lebanon: [BBC are lying about](#) the situation there, where civilians are being killed, but the Israel line on *Hezbollah* targets is parroted.

### LEARN

**[Golders Green attacks on 2 Jewish, 1 Muslim man. Real fears amidst weaponisation of antisemitism](#)**

Some people have found Peter Beinart’s book *Being Jewish after the Destruction of Gaza: a Reckoning* (review and interview [here](#)). And here a very thoughtful review from [Progressive Israel](#).

On linkage between antisemitism and activism for Palestine, see [an interview](#) with Daniel Levy. *not an incompatibility between Jewish safety and civil liberties*.

There is official [pressure from many sides to stop the marches](#). Met Police Commissioner<sup>4</sup> Mark Rowley has claimed that the marches should stop because they target synagogues. PSC states *None of our marches or proposed march routes has ever targeted a synagogue or even directly passed one along its route, and the Met Police knows that*. Lindsey German, convener of the Stop the War Coalition, similarly dismissed Rowley’s claims as *simply untrue*. *We have never set out with intent to march near a synagogue and we have never intentionally held a demonstration outside or near to one*, said German. *We keep our routes well away from them*.

We are deeply appreciative that Rabbis Charley Baginsky and Josh Levy have [called on all Jews](#) to speak up and to criticise Israel’s actions as a moral obligation.

Rachel Shabi is an Iraqi Jew by background and an award-winning journalist. She delivered the 2026 Salter Lecture for the Quaker Socialist Society at British Yearly meeting on May 3rd<sup>1</sup>. She stressed the need to separate recognition of historic trauma and present fears – which are understandable - from the *politicisation* of this issue which is not acceptable.

We discussed this issue at length, highlighting the dilemma some people feel as to whether the marches might trigger people who are already unstable; the need to absolutely decouple support for Palestine and antisemitic attacks – and be prepared to recognise the very real fear that Jews feel when they are the victims of violence to persons and to Jewish buildings. We must never come across as unfeeling – Jeffrey felt the Left were sometimes not quick enough with this recognition.

Diana has been reflecting on the question of perpetrators, victims, bystanders and supporters, taken from Stanley Cohen's book (see SHARE). She regards the perpetrators as the Israeli, British and American governments, the victims as Palestinians, the supporters as the marchers, and the bystanders as those who stand back. She felt amplifying the acts of antisemitism does not help, and may encourage copycat behaviour.

Glynis reflected on how easy it is to deny the sufferings of others, quoting a conversation she had where the Holocaust came up, and she, Glynis, cited the [massacres of indigenous Tasmanian people in the 1800s](#)<sup>2</sup>, to which the response was *yes but there weren't 6 million of them*. Listening to the news in Britain she is forcibly reminded of what happened in Australia after the Bondi beach massacre – same playbook.

Carmela reminded us that we are facing a mental health crisis and a crisis of violence amongst young people. – these acts don't occur in isolation from the wider context.

### **Liberal Democrats on Palestine**

The Greens were not the first major party to call out the Genocide and that Ed Davey had recognised the Genocide in September 25. Ed Davey speech [here](#). [Here is a link](#) that summarises Lib Dem policies Canvassing flyer – Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine. Calum Miller, Foreign Affairs spokesperson, has raised the issue of sanctions many times as have other Lib Dem MPs. A quick google will bring up many posts by LDFP with in depth background.

### **Green Party news**

Zack Polanski did NOT, as reported, apologise to the police for criticising their physical attack on the man who carried out the stabbings in Golders Green (kicking him in the head as he lay handcuffed on the ground) ... watch interview with Zack [here](#).

### **Flotilla news**

The flotilla of [more than 50 vessels](#) set sail from France, Spain and Italy with the aim of breaking a decades-old Israeli blockade of Gaza and bringing supplies to the devastated Palestinian territory. The boats were intercepted by Israeli forces in international waters off Greece on Thursday with Israel saying it captured 175 activists, from 22 boats, two of whom – Spanish national Saif Abu Keshk and Brazilian Thiago Avila – were taken to Israel for *questioning*. Their detention has been extended by the Israeli government. Spanish government has called for Saif's release. Both have Palestinian nationality. Conditions for detainees [like animals](#). Although Meloni is equivocal, [Italian prosecutors](#) are opening an investigation into torture of those detained – who were on Italian boats.

### **Peace Plan**

Israel and US have [rejected the latest Palestinian peace plan](#), insisting that Hamas must fully disarm before Israel makes any concessions. And we know what would happen then... According to Jeffrey, Samer Siniwali, who is trying to set up a new party in the West Bank said that Witkoff and Kushner are the key players in these negotiations, and they are focusing on the war against Iran.

### **Met continues to arrest peaceful protestors but...**

[refuses to prosecute](#) British citizens who have committed war crimes when fighting with the IDF in Palestine. "BHeard " social media posted that Senior Met officers have accepted an invitation to address an Israeli think tank linked to Mossad. The report is supposed to be on [Declassified](#), but I have not been able to find it yet.

### **Index of Repression**

The European Legal Support Center has created an *\*Index of Repression.\** The European Legal Support Center (ELSC) systematically documents incidents of repression against Palestine solidarity in Europe, with a specific focus on

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<sup>1</sup> *The Middle East: A Moral Catastrophe:* Will be available to watch in a few days time

<sup>2</sup> Glynis, hope this is a good link...

Germany, Britain, and the Netherlands. The repression of Palestine solidarity across Europe is a continuation of a colonial pattern that denies the history and reality of the colonised. This denial seeks to destroy, distort, and negate Palestinian identity in order to manufacture consent for settler colonialism and genocide. To facilitate this, the same project seeks to deter and silence international solidarity with the Palestinian people. Click [here](#) to see the UK database, and you can also report any instances you've experienced. There seems to be coverage of newspaper reports so this could be helpful for our campaign against misrepresentation.

## ACT

A first... something of a dearth of new actions this week...<sup>3</sup>

- Subscribe and donate to the Resistance Solidarity Network <https://www.refuser.org/>
- I'm going to try and visit to my local synagogue to show solidarity. Maybe send a card, or put some flowers on the step...(as one Quaker does).
- Complain to BBC about the latest Panorama programme on Antisemitism. See Annex 1 for this urgent request from JVL.

I am reposting from last week...(for anyone who hasn't done it yet...)

- Key action for elections. [Councillor Pledge for Palestine](#). This is something important we can all do. Check who in your area has signed the pledge and make sure (if elected) that they will keep their promise to disinvest (or try to). It would also be useful to reach out to your local party and ask those candidates who haven't signed the pledge yet to do so.
- Tell Eurovision to exclude Israel. [Petition here](#)
- Protest against the [closure of the FCO unit](#) monitoring Israeli war crimes (ordered by the much admired Olly Robbins, civil servant sacked by KS over the Mandelson vetting)

## SHARE

Two books were recommended this evening:

- Stanley Cohen's book on perpetrators, bystanders, victims: *States of Denial: Knowing about Atrocities and Suffering*
- *Games People Play* by a Jew Eric Berne. Persecutors, victims and rescuers and how we go round in circles taking roles in turn

Glynis shared these links:

- [Interview](#) between Jay Shapiro and Ilan Shapiro.
- [Documentary by Richard Sanders](#) on the demise of Jeremy Corbyn's campaign.

David read a shocking [article in Ha'aretz](#) where an IDF commander admitted that they discriminate between stonethrowers – Palestinians are shot, whereas with Israelis de-escalation is preferred.

## Local action <sup>4</sup>

Freda reported from Richmond & Kingston PSC branch. Leafleting at Kew station was well received. At Richmond the resident Jewish community are negative, but commuters who pass through are generally encouraging. At the annual fair, they set up a stall opposite, and run stands at other fairs. Richmond MP is not helpful, but Twickenham and Hampton MP (Munira Wilson) is more responsive. Ed Davey (despite formal support see above) does not reply. With Kingston Council, an Independent Group - the Kingston Independents, 15 candidates of varying backgrounds has been set up. It is closely linked to a committee member of ours who produced a superb paper submitted before Christmas to the Council on the matter of disinvestment. Initially, it was well received but latterly, they got cold feet and it is largely as a result of that, we find ourselves supporting the Independent candidates. We would be able to progress with the pledge there.

Richmond Council is relatively small and has joined with Wandsworth in terms of pensions etc so having initially approached Richmond, we then had to put the proposal to Wandsworth council about a month or so ago and got a strong No. The group will continue to push it again – they won't give up and will keep pushing. We learned of successes with Westminster and Waltham Forest councils, so this is worth pursuing! Pat told us that in Scotland they are still pushing the First Minister, Swinney, to put into action the Scottish parliament's vote to divest from all arms trading and support for Israeli military. We need to push councils more.

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<sup>3</sup> Priscilla is working on a draft for Timothy Garton Ash for next week after his warmongering op piece for the Guardian

<sup>4</sup> Note, this is really useful – I'd like to include something regularly so that we can get ideas from each other. Please do send in brief reports like this that we can include.

## Up and Coming

**6th May** Doubledown news are [launching a new weekly programme](#), featuring the best of independent media at 6.00pm. We urge you to watch on Youtube.

**6th May** Na-amod 7.30-9pm. Open to all Jewish people in the UK, Free. Dismantling Antisemitism and Building Shared Safety. Members and non-members welcome. [Register here](#)

**7th May** [Protest](#) outside Barclays AGM QEII Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London, SW1P 3EE.10am

**7th May** 6.30pm. Defend our Juries Open call for an update on action. [Link and information here.](#)

## Annex 1: Critique of the Panorama programme of April 20

You may have seen the [post on our website](#) analysing this programme - *Antisemitism: Why British Jews are Afraid*. It shows the programme to be biased and factually inaccurate, peddling the dangerous falsehood that Jews are at risk because of hatred emanating from the Palestine solidarity movement.

The BBC is obliged to respond to complaints submitted via its formal process. The more it receives the more seriously it has to take them.

As JVL's media officer I have submitted four separate complaints:

1. Factual inaccuracy - Misrepresenting Palestine solidarity
2. Bias - Demonising Palestine solidarity
3. Bias - No acknowledgement of diversity of Jewish opinions
4. Bias - Anti-Zionist sentiments presented as Jew hate

You can [download and read these](#) to use a basis for writing your own **but please do not just copy and paste as the BBC ignores duplicated complaints**

Please consider taking a little time to send in one or more of your own, in your own words. It needs to be done within 30 days of the broadcast, i.e. before May 20.

Use [this link to the BBC complaints page](#) to get started. Before you get to the box for explaining your complaint, you will need to fill in a number of fields stating

- what you are complaining about (TV);
- which channel (BBC One);
- if it's an old complaint (No);
- the programme title (Panorama: Antisemitism: Why British Jews are Afraid); date of broadcast (20.4.2026);
- how you watched it (live or on demand);
- how far into the programme did the issue arise (leave it blank if you are complaining about the whole programme);
- type of complaint (bias or factual inaccuracy/error);
- subject of the complaint (in max 50 characters).

In solidarity,

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