JUST REPORT MAY 5, 2025

WELCOME

To all who came for the first time… thank you, it was so great to have you with us and we hope we will see you again.

WITNESS

Remembering Hind Rajab who would have been 7 on May 3rd.

The Hind Rajab Foundation (HRF) has identified the commander responsible for her murder – Lt Col Beni Aharon and the 401st Tank Brigade. "This Foundation carries the name of Hind and will make sure that her martyrdom is not the end of the story. We are relentless in the pursuit of justice, and we are not alone. More organizations are starting to follow the path we have opened. More names will follow. More jurisdictions will open. The wall of impunity that shields war criminals is beginning to crack. And it will crack because a six-year-old girl asked for help. Because she waited and we could not save her. Because we will not let her name be buried.

We wonder how he sleeps at night. Jamie Webster is donating royalties from this song (generally about war, not this incident) to the Red Cross. Seems apposite.

Killing in Gaza. Al Jazeera reports 51 people killed since dawn on May 5. In the last week, over 465 people have died. We remember also Janan Saleh al-Sakafi, the baby girl who died of malnutrition and dehydration on May 3, one of many.

LEARN

- **Starvation in Gaza**
  More than 3,500 children below the age of five years "face imminent death by starvation", Gaza's Government Media Office (GMO) has said, adding that some 70,000 children are being hospitalised in the enclave due to severe malnutrition amid more than two months of total Israeli blockade. "Under this systematic blockade, more than 3,500 children under the age of five face imminent death by starvation, while approximately 290,000 children are on the brink of death," the GMO statement on Telegram said on Sunday.

  One report suggests that Israel is supporting criminal gangs to loot warehouses, then fire on aid workers attempting to stop this. No confirmation but plausible. Reported on

AFAEFP whatsapp thread.. a twitter feed; you need to search the feed, but also carried by New Indian Express

- **Takeover of Gaza**
  Israel is to expand its military operations in Gaza in the coming weeks, with the aim of **"conquering"** the territory and establishing a **"sustained presence"** there, Israeli officials have said. The plan was unanimously approved at a May 4 security cabinet meeting would involve a new and intense offensive leading to "the conquest of Gaza and the holding of the territories, moving the Gaza population south for their protection [and] … powerful blows against Hamas".

- **Wildfires in Israel**
  The forest fires which swept through Israel were blamed on Palestinians, but it is now clear that they were started by settlers torching Palestinian crops, see Skwawkbox and Ha'aretz report. Trees donated from all over the world were planted on the remains of Palestinian villages to obliterate them and supplant Palestinian planted trees– read this informative report on "green colonialism", Being non-native species they are not as fire resistant as native plants such as the **sabra** – the prickly pear cactus whose Palestinian name is appropriated by Israelis for those born in the state. A revealing video by Jonathan Cook[1] is here. Ali M. told us of her encounters with the innocuous sounding Women in Green – settlers dedicated to Zionist colonialism.

- **Malta Freedom Flotilla incident.**
  There is a very comprehensive report on Wikipedia. The ship *Conscience* carrying volunteers and humanitarian aid was fired on by two drones. Israel has not admitted responsibility, but is widely held to blame, See Appendix 1 for details in a letter to the Maltese High Commission. See Al Jazeera and Skwawkbox for more info.

- **Emily Thornberry interview** with Jackie Long on C4 News.
  Thornberry seemed to say that we had to rely on US pressure for Israel to "treat the Palestinians nicely" (the Orange Opiner's view) and that the UK was helpless. We are reminded to try not to treat our politicians as the "other", and ET has spoken out against Lawyers for Israel, but maybe we can stiffen her resolve. What moved her to genuine anger previously was the secret recording of a meeting with an Israeli delegation with the details leaked. We'd like her to show rage about genocide, frankly, rather than petty personal humiliation.

ACT

- Demand our MPs take action on starvation in Gaza – information here. Copy in Emily Thornberry (see above) in her role as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee thornberrye@parliament.uk. Make sure to put *Attention Foreign Affairs Committee* in the subject line, and to address her as Madam Chair – MPs will not respond to personal communications unless from constituents, but are bound to take notice of communications relating to their official positions.

- Write to Malta High commission re failure to deter attack on Freedom Flotilla see Appendix 1.

[1] Thanks Sarah S for this, brilliant.

- Boycott Eurovision.. 38 degrees action here. Let's face it, you probably wouldn't watch anyway, but it is particularly galling to see Doctor Who taking part….so pitch in and let them know.

And should you wish…

- Email C4 here (contact form) to thank Jackie Long for robust questioning of Emily Thornberry and BBC to commend them on showing The Settlers – Louis Theroux.[2]

- Remember to write to local papers – Sue Cooke has fired off 20 letters and gets our prize of the week[3]. Keep letters short and to the point, and mention any local actions that are coming up.

SHARE

- Palestine museum opening in Edinburgh on May 17. Pat Bryden gave us a heartening report on the launch of this new venture in the centre of Edinburgh. See report with pictures here. Do leave comments on the site. The song mentioned is *Jerusalema*
- I just found this, or I would have shared it last night. Amazing speech at Counterfire on May 3 by actor Khalid Abdulla, one of the few public figures to consistently speak out. Put fire in your belly listening to him here
- The Settlers – Dan Gmaj recommends this highly to those who have not yet seen it. Issa Amro, the Palestinian who features in the film has been targeted for his participation. For those, like me, who find these things difficult to watch, I need to do so as an act of witness just for this one brave man. We had long discussions about (a) Israel's actions in Syria and the history of the Druze (b) the Biblical and historical antecedents of Palestinians and Israelis – see below for recommended reading.
- Sila updated us on actions by the Highland Palestine group at Inverness.
- Martin updated us on Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East (LFPME), which is starting to be more active – information next week about a meeting this weekend. Declassified has an interesting article on how it declined under Lisa Nandy.

Books recommended

- Nada Shawa: *Indigenous Soul Gaza and me*. Available Waterstones (worth using mainstream publishers to keep Palestine in view) and at Hadeel Moving, real and full of poetry too.
- Jonathan Wonham *Ceasefire Now* 150 days of war, daily documentation with a poem a day.
- We are not numbers – Ahmad Alnaoukh's organisation, newly published stories of Gaza young people

History of Palestine-Israel[4] - thanks to Martin and Ali for suggestions

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[2] It was pointed out in the chat that broadcasters shouldn't need commending for just doing their jobs, but also that it's like dealing with toddlers, you need to reward them instantly for good behaviour, not just sanction them for bad behaviour….

[3] Sorry, there isn't really a prize. Just our heartfelt thanks

[4] Munther Isaac *Christ in the Rubble* p.38 commenting on the claim that Ishmael's descendants have not accepted that God gave Israel to the descendants of Isaac "Our destiny here in this land should not depend on our DNA. In addition can we euate the Jews of today with Abraham, and the Arabs and Palestinians of today with Ishmael? Is this really how we should try to comprehend one of the most tragic and complex realities in our world today? The argument that the conflict underlying the current reality in Palestine is millenia old is

Tom Holland In the Shadow of the Sword
Colin Chapman on Christian Zionism and the theology of the land
Shlomo Sand' The Invention of the Jewish People.

Alison Weir's[5] website If Americans Knew is useful - Including this booklet from the History section -

Up and coming

May 8 Britain Palestine Project Rule of Law conference Kings College 1.30- 6.30pm. free online. Husam Zumlot, Helena Kennedy, Brenda Hale (yes THAT Justice Hale, I have a spider tshirt in her honour). All the more important because the FCO has recently notified leading lawyers that they are at risk of serious sanctions by the Trump regime for advising the International Criminal Court re war crimes by Israeli leaders.
May 10 Highland Palestine march. 1.00pm Inverness town centre. March start at 1.30pm. arriving at Bught Park speakers etc.
May 14 Mass lobby of Parliament 2-5pm– register here. Only register if you can attend in person. You will receive a briefing pack.
May 15 Workplace Day of Action Nakba 77. Details here. Talk to colleagues and trade unions.
May 17 National March for Palestine, London. Details here
Grand opening of the Palestine Museum in Edinburgh

Thursday 8th May 7pm to 9pm or **Sunday 18th May 6pm to 8pm. JVL Education Workshops**: open workshop on Zionism and anti-Semitism. There are two dates to choose from: Register here As the workshop is open to everyone, please feel free to share the link among your network, though we ask that you don't share it publicly on social media.

Small wins

- **Concert tour cancelled after BDS pressure** Jonny Greenwood, Radiohead was planning a tour in London and Bristol with Dudu Tassa, an Israeli singer who has entertained the IDF. Protests have forced them to cancel. Details here. Greenwood and Tassa performed in Tel Aviv whilst the IDF bombed Rafah last yere.

APPENDIX 1 LETTER TO MALTA HIGH COMMISSION – adapt to personalise this
maltahighcommission.london@gov.mt
I am writing to express my extreme concern regarding the drone attacks on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla ship Conscience, on May 2. As reported in the **Times of Malta** "an Israeli military aircraft left Israel on Thursday and hovered around Malta airspace hours beforehand, its movements independently confirmed by an online tracker. The Hercules C-130 made a series of manoeuvres over Hurd's Bank – the region where the Gaza Freedom Flotilla's Conscience was struck – at a relatively low altitude of around 5,000 feet. "
This is a serious violation of your territorial rights. The aircraft was careful to stay within Malta's flight information region rather than invading the airspace, but did not apparently notify your government. Had Maltese officials taken action during this 3 hour period, it is likely that the vessel would have remained intact.

factually nwrong. …the roots are modern stemming from the events leading to the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. Palestinian Arabs and Jews did not fight for thousands of years before this.."
[5] Not the Medieval/Tudor popular biographer – unless she is in disguise…

Meanwhile you have a Malta-flagged vessel, Vanna, supplying fuel to a US-flagged tanker that regularly supplies jet fuel to Israel, helping keep its air force afloat, and passing close to Malta. Your government has told activists that Malta would not collude in Israel's genocide, but at this crucial stage where starvation and dehydration, as well as lethal force are killing thousands of Palestinians, your government tolerates these manoeuvres. The suspicion is inevitably that the government of Malta is acting at the behest of Israel which is currently committing a genocide in Gaza which is widely condemned by all major human rights and aid organisations around the world and the vast majority of the British public.

Please contact your government and inform them that we, the ordinary people of the UK, expect them to act in accordance with human rights and international law, and, accordingly, to protect both this boat and its crew, secondly to deflag the Vanna and stop supplying fuel to Israel. I am of course relieved that the government responded to the distress call from the Conscience, preventing loss of life.