

JUST ACTION PALESTINE REPORT July 20th, 2026

WITNESS



As the World Cup ends, we held in our hearts Palestinian teenager Fadi Hamdallah al-Nassan, 17, who played for his country's national youth football team [has died from a gunshot wound](#) sustained when Israeli settlers attacked his village in the West Bank - and all the other sportsmen, sportswomen and enthusiastic young people who have so much to offer. For those of you who can access the Observer, they actually did a [feature on](#) the deaths of footballers in Palestine... We learned that the beleaguered village of Masafer Yatta is again a site of [demolition](#), even though the families had a court order confirming rightful possession.

Watch this [inspiring video](#) of Mohammed Saad, a bookseller who lost his son, his home and his livelihood, but is selling books he salvages from the rubble. His love of books and learning is infectious.

LEARN

- **The Government's Green Paper on Media Reform.** Britain desperately needs to reform its news media, but there appear to be serious problems with aspects of this paper which, if implemented, may result in Youtube and other social media providers discriminating in favour of a flawed mainstream media and against those online news sources on which we rely (Double Down News, Declassified UK, Middle East Eye, the Canary etc.). Richard Sanders thinks the Government is seeking to strangle outlets like DDN that hold the Government and the powerful to account. Annex 1 contains a note that Jonathan has written on this topic. Please read it now and get prepared to answer the consultation questions in the next week or two, after we have all had time to reflect on the paper.
- **Green Party Zionists replay.** Linda and Tony provided us with an update on the Green Party's conflicts on Zionism. It is alleged that there is a secretive Zionist group *Greens against Antisemitism* orchestrating a campaign to brand opponents as antisemitic whilst plotting to sabotage an ongoing anti-racist motion. *Zionism is Racism*. We've discussed this before, and only a week ago in relation to Tony's expulsion. In-depth investigative reporting for [the Canary](#) reveals some shocking details about the lead conspirators and indeed the disciplinary procedures. Same playbook as for the Labour party. Please bear in mind that The Canary has been [debanked by Lloyds](#) and is appealing for donations. A ray of hope is that the Young Greens have [rejected the IHRA definition of Antisemitism](#) and are strongly anti-Zionist and pro-Palestine.
- **Suing DCMS (Dept of Culture, Media, Sport) over the IHRA definition.** Bea Foster is a 76-year-old Methodist preacher¹ and interfaith activist. She founded Building Bridges Burnley, a charity dedicated to dialogue, inclusion and social justice. In 2023, DCMS gave her the King's Award for Voluntary Service. In 2025 her charity was accused of antisemitism because of social media posts condemning Israel war crimes. DCMS threatened to withdraw the award and cited the IHRA definition of antisemitism which they claimed her remarks had infringed. She felt she had no option but to step down in order to protect the charity. Now the European Legal Support Centre is challenging the DCMS based on an infringement of her human rights. Read more [here](#). If you can, please donate [here](#). see below...
- Pam talked us through the [Early Day Motion 614](#) lodged last week and sponsored by Calum Miller. The motion calls on the UK Government to:

¹ Elderly women religious are showing us the way – the indomitable Reverend Sue Parfitt was arrested again last week

- Publish its formal response to the ICJ opinion (it has dragged its feet on this)
- Ban all UK trade in goods and services with illegal Israeli settlements.
- Sanction Ministers responsible for encouraging settlement expansion.
- Halt all UK arms exports to Israel.
- Press the Israeli Government to allow journalists and human rights investigators access to Gaza.

The motion is signed by 59 MPS mostly Lib Dem currently. Can't see any Labour! We need to get others to sign. Various people said that their MPs who may even be sympathetic, view the signing of EDMs as a waste of time... what is the answer to this? well, it takes you no time to add a signature, it keeps issues to the fore, it is one of the only actions available to back bench MPs to support important causes that get lost in the overall business... and... well... ***if you aren't going to sign it, please tell me what you are doing instead to ensure that these issues are addressed?***

Sadly there was also a motion on Dr Abu Safiyah but only signed by 10 MPs²

ACT

- **Read and provide feedback on Jonathan's note on the Government's Green Paper on media reform (Annex 1)**, with a view to submitting consultation response. However, we suggest you wait for further guidance before submitting any response.
- **ICRC access** Sign this [open letter to the International Red Cross](#), urging them to continue to demand access to Palestinian prisoners (the Supreme Court of Israel has [directed this to happen](#) but prisons and the IDF just ignore it)³; Dr Abu Safiya is specifically mentioned here.
- An **LNER train guard lost his job** last year for showing solidarity with Palestine. Can you [sign this petition](#) before it's delivered to LNER HQ? Posted by Nell... apparently LNER tried to keep this under wraps.
- **Support Raj Menon KC**: sign petition [here](#). When in January 2026, Menon was defending Charlotte Head, one of the Palestine Action defendants charged over the 2024 Filton factory protest, he referred to jurors' right to acquit according to their conscience, based on the 1670 case of R v Penn & Mead that established the principle of [jury equity](#). Head was later acquitted, and the trial judge accused Menon of contempt of court — despite later accepting there was nothing improper in citing the 1670 case.

Menon has worked on some of the most important human rights cases of modern times, challenging failures and abuses of power by the state in relation to the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the Hillsborough Disaster, and the Grenfell Towers fire. The current case has become a test of the principle of Jury Equity: do jurors have a right to acquit according to their conscience, even where a judge's directions point toward conviction? Judges can now forbid barristers from mentioning Jury Equity even though the independence of juries has been recognised in law since the 1670 case, and is honoured on a plaque at the Old Bailey. Menon now faces a two-day contempt trial on 28 July.

If the independence of juries can no longer be spoken of in court without risking prison, every defendant's ability to receive a fearless defence is put at risk. This Wednesday, 22 July, 5.30 - 7pm there will be a webinar on this topic run by Menon's chambers, with Helena Kennedy, Gareth Pierce, Michael Mansfield, Shami Chakrabarti. Register to attend by [clicking here](#).

SHARE

- Reportedly, [100,000 of us](#) were on the streets of London on Saturday, led by Husam Zumlot.
- The UK consulate in Jerusalem posted [criticism of Israeli use of administrative detention](#) — and had its social media account promptly deleted by X (now reinstated). YES, MORE OF THIS PLEASE!
- We discussed further the General Synod ruling on hearing the Kairos II document from Palestinians. The Methodists have accepted it fully. Martin is looking at counter arguments. Our present Archbishop of Canterbury's willingness to support Palestinians is a landmark. Munther Isaac, the Lutheran pastor from Bethlehem, someone we on Just think

² How is this possible. Are these even human beings?

³ Tony pointed out that this is totally par for the course, the supreme court is powerless (and probably knows it)

very highly of, contributed to the Kairos document and writes about the Synod vote [here](#). Jonathan is in conversation with a Methodist minister in Palestine about possible links.

- The Global Elders have [issued a statement](#) after a visit to Palestine. OK we don't think the 2 state solution is a runner, but this is a call out from substantial people... who will listen? (actually they made a strong statement in 2025 as well...)
- Alan Johnson has lodged written evidence to Parliament about "anti-Zionist antisemitism" as a threat to British Jewry. If you can bear it, read [here](#)
- Tony Greenstein wrote [a great letter](#) to the Church Times in response to the Chief Rabbi blaming Hamas for the destruction in Gaza

Film release

- Andrew Feinstein says...I'm proud to announce the release of my new film "*Complicit: Bankrolling the Occupation*", my final work for Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit. It dissects Western complicity in the Zionist settlement project inside the West Bank, and shows how western donors evade charity law to provide aid to illegal Zionist settlements. Read about it [here](#). Watch [here](#). Very important evidence..

Up and Coming

Wednesday 22 July 5.30-7pm Garden Chambers "Descent into Authoritarianism" event is online only at 5:30-7:00PM on Wednesday 22 July, 2026. Register to attend by [clicking here](#).

Thursday 23 July Elbit Systems Bristol 11am-1pm. Assemble 11am at Elbit Systems, 38 Bolingbroke Way, Bristol, BS34 6FE. Public transport: trains run from Bristol Temple Meads to Patchway (approx. 15-minute walk from protest). Coaches are available from London. Details [here](#).

Thursday 23 July 6pm Shaksuka Restaurant Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PH an evening about unifying love and tolerance in the land of Palestine. With Nur Masalha and Diana Neslan. Food looks great and there is spoken word and music too. £12.50 per head, too. Details [here](#)

Sunday 26th July 7pm online. Wonderful Avigail Abarbanel, psychotherapist born in Israel, lives in UK, talking on *Israeli Society: Social Psychology of indoctrination, settler colonialism and genocide* at the invitation of Prof. Haim Bresheeth of the anti-Zionist, pro-BDS, UK-based [Jewish Network for Palestine](#). Details and register [here](#).

Annex 1: note on the Green Paper on Media Reform, and critiques

The Green Paper

This [green paper](#) was put out by Ian Murray, Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts, and it involves a consultation exercise that runs till 31 August.

Much of the paper is dedicated to consulting on the phasing of the transition from Digital Terrestrial TV (DTT) to Internet Protocol TV (IPTV), and the development of media literacy among the population. In this note I focus on the other main topic – one that particularly interests CAMPAIN – which is the development of a "prominence" regime for "trustworthy news".

In this regard the paper expressed much concern about the way the explosion in social media had created a news environment consisting of a vast number of individually

curated feeds, and where divisive and inaccurate narratives are more likely to survive, undermining “social cohesion”.

It points to the problem of Algorithmic Amplification, with algorithms “typically prioritising engagement over value”, risking echo chambers (or as the authors put it ‘filter bubbles’) that erode the shared cultural experiences once provided by major broadcasters, or what it calls Public Service Media (PSM). An example is the violent unrest following the Southport murders.

Instead, they want to “foster a healthy information environment where trustworthy news is easy to find”.

It proposes to do this by requiring social media to make the news content of PSM providers, and potentially also national and local news publishers, prominent and easily discoverable. The Green Paper says a starting point for identifying a trustworthy news provider may be the [Online Safety Act 2023](#). It also seeks to promote media literacy.

The concern about algorithms is legitimate, but are the authors of the paper proposing an effective way of dealing with this problem? And will it have other negative effects?

The critiques

Most importantly, the paper fails to address the problems of accountability of the mainstream media with its audiences. The [Press Regulatory Panel](#) (PRP) and the Independent Media Association (IMA – see brief paper [here](#) and a slightly longer paper [here](#)) highlight the problem with the press.

The IMA starts by supporting the Government’s objective of improving the visibility of trusted public-interest journalism. It welcomes the recognition that the concentration of power among news media presents a significant challenge for journalism, democracy and the public’s access to credible news and information. But it goes on to say that the entire proposal is at risk of being undermined by relying on a deeply flawed definition of trusted news providers.

Mainstream news publishers have a terrible record, measured particularly by what we see in The Mail, The Telegraph and the Tabloids; so how can they complain about social media? Since it was acquired by Axel Springer, journalists in The Telegraph are now required to tow the Israel line.

Moreover, mainstream publishers now reach large parts of their audiences through social media and online channels, such that weak accountability can have wider consequences for public trust, social cohesion and individual or collective harm.

The PRP says that if social cohesion is a policy objective, any intervention that stops at the gates of Fleet Street is unlikely to succeed. The press regulator IPSO

is a creature of the press barons, and lacks independent oversight. The Culture Secretary has questioned the low proportion of complaints that IPSO has upheld) and the fact that no publisher has ever been fined (so why is he not addressing this problem in the Green Paper?) IPSO's editorial code moreover contains significant gaps, including the absence of protection against discrimination directed at groups rather than individuals.

Members of the IMA voluntarily submit to independent regulation through IMPRESS, demonstrating a commitment to independently enforced editorial standards and public accountability. Yet it says their content is often disadvantaged by platform algorithms, which IMA understands may deprioritise regulated publishers relative to larger, unregulated outlets. Any future prominence regime should reward publishers that voluntarily meet independently enforced public-interest standards, rather than relying solely on statutory definitions of a news publisher.

IMA's principal concern is the paper's suggestion that the Online Safety Act's definition of a recognised news publisher could serve as the starting point for determining which publishers benefit from prominence. The definition was never intended to distinguish genuinely trustworthy public-interest journalism from other news publishers. It requires publishers to have a standards code and complaints process, but not that those standards be independently enforced.

The PRP and IMPRESS were created under the Leveson reforms of 2013, but due to press and Government opposition, were only partially implemented. If the Government really wanted to ensure the accountability of the mainstream media, it would require all publishers accorded "prominence" status to be registered with IMPRESS or another Leveson-compliant regulator. IMPRESS regulates 237 independent media including a large number producing local news, The Canary, Byline Times, Novara Media, Declassified UK, Prospect Magazine, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, Kernow Damo and Zeteo UK (see [member directory here](#)). It holds publishers to higher standards than IPSO, and provides Alternative Dispute Resolution services (i.e. mediation and arbitration) at a fraction of the cost of going through the courts.

The Green Paper likewise fails to deal with the problem of accountability in the case of broadcasters/PSMs:

[Richard Sanders](#) and [Owen Jones](#) cite many examples where the PSM got it wrong, e.g. the non-existent WMDs and the invasion of Iraq in 2003, failure to point out how Britain's surveillance flights making us potentially complicit in war crimes in Gaza, Peter Mandelson friendly relationship with MSM for many years, BBC "both siding" the most appalling crimes in Gaza, creating a permissive environment for genocide. As Sanders says: it is an absurd simplification to describe PSM as "the cornerstone of trusted news".

I drew attention to the accountability issue in my blog about our experience with the BBC <https://www.campaign.org/post/how-the-bbc-stonewalled-campaign-s-complaint>. Significantly, the regulator Ofcom was unwilling to hold it accountable for **non-reporting** of major newsworthy items. There is no excuse for this given the BBC Charter's demand for *accuracy and impartiality*.

Sanders and Jones are particularly concerned about the prospective impact on YouTube, upon which they depend for exposure. Jones says that: "For large broadcasters with multiple sources of funding and distribution, YouTube reach is useful. For many independent publishers, it is existential". Government seems to be asking for the power to promote particular news outlets and turn down the volume on others; this should not be possible.

Sanders thinks Government finds the diversity and unmanageability of the current media landscape to be threatening, and is therefore seeking to strangle outlets like DDN that hold the Government and the powerful to account.

Jones says: "Imagine a government leading the country into a catastrophic war and activating a system that privileges officially recognised broadcasters over independent anti-war voices. Imagine a mass movement against an unjust law". He cites other ways in which Government could tackle the way algorithms inflame inflammatory discourse:

Platforms should be forced to disclose far more about how recommendation systems operate. Their algorithms should undergo independent audits. Qualified researchers should receive access to the data needed to investigate systematic harms. Users should be offered chronological and genuinely subscription-based feeds rather than being trapped inside opaque profiling systems.

I have not so far been able to check out the viability of these alternative approaches.

Next steps

Please let me know your observations on the above. I am **NOT** advising you to answer the consultation questions now, but to wait for further guidance. We also need to confirm that the consultation remains in place following current ministerial changes and try to ascertain how the prominence regime will affect foreign news sources (Linda Whittern's question). We need to take our time over this.

Looking at the Government's [document presenting the Green Paper](#), you will see a section with the **consultation questions**. You must answer the questions on [a different document](#), scrolling down to "Ways to respond" and then clicking "respond online". You can answer as many or few questions as you like - you don't need to complete the whole thing. But, as I say above, I do not advise you to respond for the moment.

The questions that are most relevant to the “prominence regime” seem to be Nos 4, 4a, 5, 6, 22-24. But watch out for leading questions. Several consultation questions are framed in a way that encourages respondents to accept the Government’s underlying assumptions. For example, as [this website](#) says, if it asks:

“Should trustworthy news receive greater prominence?

a more fundamental question would be:

Who decides what counts as trustworthy?

That question is largely absent..... make use of any accompanying text box to explain where you disagree with the premise”.

Jonathan Coulter

21/07/26