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Campaign Against Misrepresentation in Public Affairs, Information and the News

To: Jonathan Hall KC, by email to Jonathan.Hall@6kbw.com

5th July 2025

Dear Jonathan Hall

Further to your reply of July 1st

Many thanks for your reply to my letter of 25 June.

You invite me to tell you if there is something I would like you to reconsider. Well yes, it is the very concept of “threat neutrality” upon which you seem to place great store.

You say that “many extreme causes, for example on the extreme right wing, are considered by their adherents as saving people or getting justice”.

I would like to ask you how many such extreme-right causes enjoy the support of international law, British Government policy and expert opinion, as does the Palestinian cause. While far-right advocates are often passionate about their causes, I think you will get an answer close to Zero.

Ever since the 6-day war of 1967, it has been British policy to oppose Israel moving its settlers into the Occupied Palestinian Territories and stealing natural resources therein. In this, it is supported by UN resolutions, most recently Resolution 79/91, adopted on Dec 4, 2024. The only problem is that Britain has for many decades refrained from using its diplomatic muscle and sanctions to restrain the Israelis in their delinquent behaviour.

I hope you are familiar with the rulings of the ICJ and ICC that you can [see here](#). As regards the ICJ’s ruling on genocide, the Convention of 1948 requires member states to do all in their power to stop genocide coming about – and that means not providing military, diplomatic and logistical support to the responsible party, as Britain has done since October 2023.

As for expert opinion, I draw your attention to those human-rights organisations, notably Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which have concluded that Israel is committing genocide. There is moreover a whole raft of genocide scholars, including a distinguished group of Israelis (Prof. Omar Bartov, Prof. Raz Segal, Prof. Amos Goldberg, Dr. Daniel Blatman, Dr. Shmuel Lederman) who have braved the slings and arrows of their own country to assert that what is happening is indeed genocide. Are we to assume that all these experts are delusional and dishonest?

I therefore put it to you that your comparison of the Palestinian cause with those of extreme right-wing groups does not hold water. When our Government is backing up a state that is

committing such widely and authoritatively attested crimes, there is no way one can speak of “threat neutrality”.

We do not oppose the State taking Palestine Action people to court if it is judged they have broken the law (e.g. through trespass or criminal damage), so they may be judged by their peers. However, it should not be employing the Terrorism Act for this purpose.

Our members are aghast that Palestine Action has been bracketed with ISIS, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram and two extreme and violent right-wing organisations of Eastern European origin. They also wonder why the Government has singled out Palestine Action for proscription from among campaigning groups that cause damage to property but not to other humans. They believe it is because Palestine Action severely embarrasses British governments by drawing attention to their complicity with the horrors Israel is visiting on the Palestinians.

One of our committee members made this comment: “The big question that Hall does not address is what the moral and legal duty is of a citizen who sees genocide being actively promoted by his or her own government”. Another commented that: “This all hinges on the definition of terrorism as an attack on people not property. Hall has taken it on the slippery slope towards the latter”.

Another said that the proscription: “obscures the important distinction between civil disobedience and terrorism, and will have the practical effect of undermining important democratic freedoms”. This is a major problem because people can be prosecuted under sections 11 to 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 not only for direct involvement, but for expressing support for a proscribed organisation.

Given that there is unquestionably significant support for the view that the scale and gravity of Israel’s crimes justifies the type of actions Palestine Action undertakes, it is questionable whether the police and courts will really be able to enforce sections 11 to 13. Furthermore, any prosecutions of people who have merely expressed their support for Palestine Action will inevitably be viewed as being politically motivated, further eroding trust in law enforcement and the justice system.

I do not question your good faith but continue thinking you lack familiarity with the protest movement and the political economy involved. I therefore ask you to take urgent action to put this right and amend your recommendations, including the one about Palestine Action.

I shall be grateful to hear from you within the next week.

Best wishes

Jonathan Coulter

Secretary of CAMPAIN Ltd.

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