

# JUST REPORT MARCH 30

## WITNESS:

Janan Abdu, lawyer, [has been unable to visit her client](#), a young Palestinian woman in an Israeli prison, since Feb 28 when all access was denied. We held her and all prisoners and their families – many now facing execution – in our hearts.

**20-25<sup>th</sup> March Gaza** 62 injured, 13 dead (Gaza Unlocked). Conditions [increasingly terrible](#) in Gaza, but there is still indomitable care for others in the [setting up of self-organising committees](#) for sharing resources.

Committee organises in refugee camp in Gaza – self-organising care for others. 60% of the West Bank is occupied by settlers and 53-60% of Gaza is now a "buffer zone" and a no-go area for Palestinians. The Yellow separation line between the Israel Defence Forces and Hamas in the Gaza Strip is becoming entrenched as a physical border. The army is implementing a large-scale engineering project: constructing a ground barrier stretching for many kilometres along the line. More than half of the Strip in IDF hands, and there is currently no detailed mechanism regulating a withdrawal from it.

[West Bank](#) 7 (8) killed since end February, 30 new settlements legalised. [8 more Palestinians](#) killed 29<sup>th</sup> March.

As expected but dreaded, the motion to [legalise the death penalty](#) for Palestinians who kill Israelis has been approved by the Knesset, with hanging the preferred method. Expected it to be challenged by the Supreme Court.

## LEARN

- **Anti-Zionist motion at Green Party Conference**

Halima reported on the sabotage of the Anti-Zionist motion (see Annex 1). Read Canary report [here](#), and a full report from Greens who support the motion [here](#). You can also watch the whole thing [here](#). The tech was attacked so it took around 3 hours to get online, and subsequently there was filibustering so that the motion was talked out of time. Delegates felt it was not well managed, and they will be better prepared when the motion returns to the autumn conference. Halima wound up by saying the motion will eventually prevail. The motion is against Zionism, not Jewish people. Jeffrey (by email) pointed out that over 75% of delegates were in favour.

If you are a GP member, sign up for [Greens for Palestine](#) here. In our discussion, 2 Jewish supporters were reported as expressing some concern that the motion as worded could be interpreted as antisemitic. See the motion in Annex 1, with the arguments for it. In general, there was agreement that although originally some Zionists saw the movement as being socialist and collaborative, Zionism by its nature involves racism (this is a topic we have debated often, and there are differing views in our group. We are working on Martin and Jeffrey's guide to talking with Zionists). Suggestions included asking people who identify as non-racist, liberal Zionists what they are doing to oppose the genocide and apartheid; emphasising that Christian Zionism is more prevalent and destructive. See here for a [fascinating interview](#) with CAMPAIN'S very own Stephen Sizer, apparently there are 30 Christian Zionists for every Jewish Zionist. Thanks, Halima, for your fortitude and commitment!

- **Sabeel-Kairos call to Christian churches**

Jane joined us to report back from a meeting between Sabeel Kairos and Quakers. [Sabeel](#), a Palestinian Christian initiative grounded in liberation theology, and [Sabeel-Kairos](#) is the British organisation supporting them and encouraging churches in the UK to campaign for solidarity with Palestinian Christians. Actions that Quakers and S-K ask for are: (i) to boycott ALL Israeli goods, not just those from settlements, as there is now no distinction between Israel and the settlements, given the way "Greater Israel" is extending (see above); (ii) Unequivocally reject Christian Zionism, as a theological distortion – Zionism can no longer be seen as benign in any way, and anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism should not be conflated with antisemitism, and: (iii) Churches need to declare a public position on Palestine. Quakers and Christians do what our faith demands of us, which is to speak up for faith, hope and love. Denying genocide is to deny humanity – you cannot be neutral or balanced on this issue. Jane queried the claim by Sabeel-Kairos that they oppose the state of Israel but not the Israeli

people, given that it appears 90% of Israelis are in favour of the war and the genocide. Pat noted that many Scottish churches are linked to Sabeel-Kairos. We thank Jane for coming and feel renewed despair at the Christian churches in this country. Do we need to once again lobby our Bishops and clergy?

## ACT

URGENT...“The UK Government must urgently act to urge the Israeli Government to stop the proposed law which would permit the execution of Palestinian Prisoners, past, present and future.” Please sign and share [this petition](#). And PSC action [writing to FCDO](#).

Take action to [end trade with illegal settlements...](#)

Don't forget to check status of your local trust on Palantir uptake..

- use [this tool](#) to find out what your local trust is doing
- See if you can link up with a local group, search [here](#)
- If you are not near a local group, register your interest with Amnesty at the above link. This doesn't commit you to anything, but will help them find out who in your area is concerned.
- Write to MPs (Lib Dems and Greens are against, so encourage them) ask to pause decision to award contract to FCA – opposition is building.

**Ministers look to be [hunting for break clauses](#), more opposition is vital, especially [as Anas Sawar is committing to Palantir](#) for Scotland NHS. [Public Health Wales](#) do NOT use it.**

## Other news

- Thanks to all who made it to the [March Against Everything That's Wrong](#) on 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- Great podcast recommendations from Glynis: (i) A young Jewish American journalist was [discussing his observations of settler communities](#) in the West Bank. He said something interesting about unregulated foster homes where quite aggressive young people are housed, and the part they play in intimidating Palestinians in isolated villages/homesteads; (ii) [A conversation between Jay Shapiro and Peter Beinart](#) re: being Jewish after the Gaza genocide. Peter Beinart's book is entitled '*Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza: A Reckoning*', and; (iii) I've been following the recent arson attack in Golders Green (on the arson attack on the Jewish ambulances). There is some crossover with incidents that have occurred in Australia (mentioned in the [Crispin Flintoff podcast](#) – interview with David Miller<sup>1</sup> :
- [Qessar rearrested for](#) supposedly breaching her bail terms – youngest Elbit action hunger striker.
- [Shortage of 20,000 soldiers in Israel.](#)
- [Curbs on worship](#) for Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem
- Good news (ish). [Exoneration of Karim Khan must stand](#), [Spain closes its air space](#) to US raids on Iran.
- Our friend Makram Khoury Machel refused to bow to pressure to cancel the event in Cambridge debating the place of Palestine Studies and it [went ahead](#) triumphantly.
- [Hands Up Silent auction](#) open for 25 days – beautiful works of art supporting Hands UP which provides drama and creative writing workshops for children in Palestine.
- Iran war updates see here and here, thanks to Linda
- Cheer yourselves up watching [this attempt](#) to get Alexa to say “Free Palestine”. Try it yourself and report back. Maybe mass action will change the algorithm.

## Up and Coming

1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April Lakenheath. Come along to this year's [International Peace Camp](#) protest at Lakenheath US Airbase about US nuclear missiles and use of UK for illegal warfare. If you can go for just one day

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<sup>1</sup> About whom I personally have a few reservations as I think he crosses lines of acceptability from time to time, but he is very good here, sticking to evidence that is illuminating.

come on Saturday 4th for the mass blockade of the airbase gates. Coaches from London are organised.

6<sup>th</sup> April [Jewish Voice for Liberation Passover Seder](#) 6.45 pm join online. JUST will be meeting next Monday but feel free to attend the seder!

## **ANNEX 1. Green Party motion to identify as an Anti-Zionist Party**

Full text [here](#).

### CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Green Party declares itself to be an anti-Zionist party.
2. The Green Party rejects attempts to normalise the racist subjugation and oppression of Palestinians; to equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism; to deny or minimise Palestinian human rights; to create hierarchies of racism; and to normalise or attempt to justify apartheid, ethnic cleansing or genocide. With this we reject the adoption or use in frameworks of the non-legally binding IHRA, page 4/22 and JDA definitions of antisemitism (or alike), which have been weaponised to silence legitimate criticisms of the actions of the state of Israel.[SOC note sentence deleted OoO no consequential action (SOCC E2(f))]. We affirm that definitions of anti-Jewish discrimination should not equate Jewish identity with Zionist ideology or political practice. As with any ethnicity or faith group, no single political ideology should be ascribed to an entire people.
3. Following from Motion E05, which affirmed that Israel is an apartheid State committing genocide, and Motion E07 supporting reparations and accountability, the Green Party supports the establishment of a single democratic Palestinian State in all of historic Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital, equal rights for all, and the right of return for Palestinians and their descendants.
4. The Green Party affirms the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination, including the right of the Palestinian people to resistance and liberation from Israeli occupation, domination and subjugation, and acknowledges that the struggle to achieve that liberation by all available means under international law is legitimate.
5. The Green Party heeds the call from Palestinian civil society to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era, and calls upon the United Kingdom Government to impose full embargoes and sanctions against Israel.
6. The Green Party calls for the release of all Palestinian prisoners of conscience (including Marwan Barghouti), the end of the use of administrative detention of Palestinians by Israel, and the treatment of Palestinian combatants in accordance with international humanitarian law, including in particular those provisions dealing with prisoners of war in the First Additional Protocol of the 1977 amendments to the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts.
7. The Green Party calls for the removal of Palestine Action from the list of proscribed organisations in Schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (i.e. de-proscription).
8. The Green Party calls for the release of all prisoners detained for non-violent direct action in support of Palestinian rights and the end of the genocide, apartheid and the illegal occupation of Palestine and supports the demands of the Prisoners for Palestine 4

The motion was fiercely opposed by Zionists within (and outside) the Green Party. After criticisms from UKLFI, Israeli Embassy and other usual suspects, Greens for Palestine [responded](#):

*The Green Party motion, A105/E12, carefully defines Zionism as a political ideology which called for the creation - and, now it exists, the continuity - of an ethnonationalist Jewish State in historic Palestine to the exclusion and/or domination of the non-Jewish population.*

*The bad faith attempt of apologists for Israel like UKLFI to conflate that racist ideology with the with the right of Jewish people to self-determination is pitiful, Indeed, the motion explicitly and unequivocally calls for a single democratic Palestinian State with equal rights for all. It is apartheid and genocide apologists like UKLFI who expose their racism by opposing equal rights for all. Obviously, those in support of equal rights for all' are the anti-racists.*

*Moreover, the motion explicitly distinguishes between Jewish identity and Zionist ideology. The motion identifies the practice of Zionism as privileging one ethnic group on the basis of the subjugation of others. It explicitly and unambiguously does not concern the religious or ethnic background of those who may identify as Zionists. As the motion makes clear, not all Jews are Zionists and not all Zionists are Jews.*

*This further exposes UKLFI's role within Israel's international advocacy network, noting that the organisation operates alongside other state-funded entities designed to suppress international criticism of Israeli policies and practice, including the targeting of academics, artists, and institutions that support Palestinian rights as well as their infiltration into British Politics as 'is also evidenced by their attacks on this motion.*

See [here](#) for a full article on Greens for Palestine website with the argument for why Zionism is considered racist