



haringey justice for palestinians

HJFP Briefing 14

“Palestine is the barometer of Western integrity”

Don't call me a Palestinian of the Palestinian Territories because it is called Palestine.
Don't give me a fraction of my homeland and call it a solution.
Don't give me oppression and call it peace.
Don't give me a Bantustan and call it a home.
Don't give me a prison and call it freedom.
Don't draw the borders of my existence according to your whims and interests and call it a state.
My Palestine is the home that is mine since the dawn of history till the end of history.

Israel's Policies: National and International Reaction

01. Tell Argentinian team and Lionel Messi: There's nothing "friendly" about shooting Palestinians

In a [video message](#), young Palestinian footballer Mohammed Khalil makes a powerful appeal to the Argentinian national football team, including captain Lionel Messi, to **cancel their friendly match with Israel** on June 9, 2018. Khalil, from Gaza, was [shot by an Israeli sniper in the knee](#), ending his promising football career.

[Send a strong message](#) to Argentina and Lionel Messi:

There's nothing "friendly" about Israel shooting Palestinian footballers!

The scheduled match will be part of Israel's 70th anniversary "celebrations" and is taking place while Israel implements a **criminal shoot-to-kill-or-maim policy** against peaceful Palestinian protesters in Gaza. This makes the "friendly" a whitewash of Israel's crimes and therefore extremely *unfriendly* to human rights! Israel denies all Palestinians, including footballers, their right to freedom of movement. The Israel Football Association's official leagues include [teams](#) in illegal Israeli settlements that are driving Palestinian communities off their own land.

The Israeli government has agreed to pay [three million dollars](#) to host the match. This is part of its "sports-washing" propaganda strategy, which exploits sporting events to hide its systemic human rights abuses against Palestinians. Argentina and Lionel Messi are adored by fans around the world, including in Palestine and the Arab region, and [the calls](#) from BDS Argentina to cancel the match have had **huge popular support**.

[Join Mohammed Khalil](#) and [send a strong message to Argentina and Lionel Messi](#) that fans around the world won't stand for them teaming up with Israel's regime of oppression against Palestinian human rights!

Source: [Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel](#), 15.05.2018

02. Gaza massacre: Must-watch interview with Noura Erakat on CBS

[How are Palestinians reacting to the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem and violence in Gaza?](#)

03. Mandela in 1990 speaking in New York/South Africa withdraws Ambassador.

1. [Rare Video: Nelson Mandela Speaking on Palestine \[Extracts\]](#)

2. <https://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2018-05-14-sa-withdraws-ambassador-to-israel-following-gaza-strip-attack/>

04. Chair of the Balfour Project trustees

As a charity, the Balfour Project's main aim is educational. It also believes that the Project offers the British people and the UK Government a way to work for a just peace between Israel and Palestine, retaining hope despite the tragic loss of life we witness. There must be a better way.

Last week we wrote about [the call by Alon Liel](#), former Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, for the British Government to recognise the state of Palestine alongside Israel. The online *Guardian* carries an article by Dr Liel, '[The UK must act to counter Trump's destructive Jerusalem decision](#)', in which he explains his reasoning, which the Project strongly supports. **Source: Sir Vincent Fean, Chair of Trustees, the Balfour Project; former Consul-General, Jerusalem (2010-14)**

05. UK and Germany call for independent investigation into Israel-Gaza killings

Britain called for an "independent investigation" into the violence on the Israel-Gaza border that left 60 people dead, after the US blocked a UN Security Council statement calling for an investigation. "The UK supports an independent investigation into what has happened," Alistair Burt, a minister at the foreign office responsible for Middle East affairs, told parliament. Germany signalled its support for such a probe. "It is our view that an independent investigation commission can clarify the violent incidents and the bloody violations at the border area," said German government spokesperson Steffen Seibert.

The UK's Burt called on Israel to show "greater restraint" in the use of live fire, and said that the inquiry should look into why so much was used. However, he also said it was "deplorable, but real, that extremist elements have been exploiting these protests", adding the UK government "understands the reasons why Israel would seek to protect its border and its border fence".

Meanwhile, the Arab League's permanent committee on human rights has urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor to urgently investigate "the crimes of the Israeli occupation" against Palestinians. "Israel is an oppressive and murderous entity and its politicians and officers must be taken to the ICC," Amjad Shamout, the committee's chairman, said in a statement. The Arab League will hold emergency talks on Wednesday to discuss what it has called Washington's "illegal" relocation of its embassy to the disputed city.

Most of the 60 Gazans killed on Monday were shot by Israeli snipers, Gaza's health ministry said. At least 2,400 others were wounded in the bloodiest day in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since the 2014 Gaza war, which took place as the US unveiled its new embassy. Burt repeated Britain's commitment to a two-state solution to the conflict, and said it did not agree with the US decision to move its embassy. He also told parliament that the government had "no information to suggest UK-supplied equipment" was used against Gazans.

On Monday, tens of thousands had gathered near the border in protest while smaller numbers approached the fence and tried to break through, with Israeli snipers positioned on the other side. The death toll led to strong condemnation from rights groups and concern from a range of countries, but the US, which blamed Hamas, blocked the adoption of a UN Security Council statement that would have called for an independent probe into the violence, diplomats said.

Source: EuroPal Forum, 15 May 2018

06. 54 ambassadors boycott Israeli American Embassy celebration

54 out of 86 ambassadors to Israel, boycotted a ceremony held by the Israeli Foreign Ministry yesterday evening in Jerusalem on the eve of Washington's transfer of its embassy to the occupied city. The *Haaretz* newspaper reported that most EU member states did not participate in the ceremony because they have a firm policy towards the transfer of the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It said that the ambassadors of Russia, Egypt, India, Japan and Mexico also did not attend the celebration.

According to *Haaretz*, 32 ambassadors participated in the ceremony, including only four from EU countries: Austria, Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic, in addition to five European countries which are not members of the union: Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine and Georgia. The ambassadors of 12 African countries attended the ceremony, namely Angola, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zambia and Rwanda.

From Central America, ambassadors of five states participated in the celebration: Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama and Honduras, and from South America, only Paraguay and Peru participated. Four Asian countries attended the celebration: Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The US embassy was actually transferred from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on Monday, during a ceremony in its new headquarters. A US delegation arrived in Israel earlier Sunday, led by the daughter of US President Donald Trump, Ivanka, her husband Jared Kushner and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, to attend the embassy's opening ceremony. On 6 December, 2017, Trump announced Jerusalem as the capital of the occupation entity, which sparked the Arab and Muslim world anger.

Source: MEMO/EuroPal Forum, 15 May 2018

07. Jeremy Corbyn blasts UK response to 'flagrant illegality' of Israeli Gaza killings

The Labour leader said ministers "cannot turn a blind eye to such wanton disregard for international law" as he called for Britain to review its arms sales to the country. The Government implored Israel to show "greater restraint" in its effort to defend its borders after troops killed at least 55 Palestinians protesting on the day the new US embassy was opened in Jerusalem. The Foreign Office said that while the country had the right to shore up its frontier against protesters, "the large volume of live fire is extremely concerning", in what has been the deadliest outbreak of violence in the region since the 2014 war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his military was acting in self-defence against Gaza's Islamist rulers, Hamas, who he said wanted to destroy Israel. Meanwhile the Palestinian Authority's leader said the action represented a "massacre", while the UN spoke of "outrageous human rights violations". Mr Corbyn said in a statement that action was needed "to hold those responsible to account". "This slaughter follows weeks of killings of Palestinian civilians demonstrating for their right to return, most of whom are refugees or the families of refugees," the Labour leader said.

"Coming on the day President Trump moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, it underlines the threat to peace posed by the continuing and intolerable injustices faced by the Palestinian people. "The response from many western governments to this flagrant illegality, including our own – which bears a particular responsibility for a peaceful and just resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict – has been wholly inadequate. "They should take a lead from Israeli peace and justice campaigners: to demand an end to the multiple abuses of human and political rights Palestinians face on a daily basis, the 11-year siege of Gaza, the continuing 50-year occupation of Palestinian territory and the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements.

Mr Corbyn added: "We cannot turn a blind eye to such wanton disregard for international law. That is why Labour is committed to reviewing UK arms sales to Israel while these violations continue. "The international community must at last put its collective authority and weight behind achieving a lasting settlement that delivers peace, justice and security for both Israelis and Palestinians, who have waited so long to achieve their rights."

DESTRUCTIVE TO PEACE

The UK Government said the violence in Gaza and the West Bank territories had been "shocking", while the loss of life and the large number of injured Palestinians was "tragic". Ministers said it was "extremely worrying that the number of those killed continues to rise". Foreign and Commonwealth Office minister Alistair Burt said: "Such violence is destructive to peace efforts. We have been clear that the UK supports the Palestinians' right to protest, but these protests must be peaceful.

"It is deplorable that extremist elements may have been seeking to exploit these protests for their own violent purposes. We will not waver from our support for Israel's right to defend its borders. "But the large volume of live fire is extremely concerning. We continue to implore Israel to show greater restraint." He called on all sides to "show real leadership and courage, promote calm, refrain from inflaming tensions further, and show with renewed urgency that the path to a two-state solution is through negotiation and peace."

Source: Politics Home/EuroPal Forum, 15 May 2018

08. Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital 'on brink of collapse' as injuries mount

Gaza City's main hospital is bustling with patients and mourning families on Tuesday as the Palestinian enclave reels from Monday's violence in which Israeli forces [killed at least 60 protesters](#) and wounded more than 2,700. Suffering for many families in [Gaza](#) was exacerbated by Tuesday's 70th commemoration of the Nakba, or catastrophe, the day on which the state of Israel was established on May 15, 1948. The commemoration highlights the violent campaign that led to the [expulsion](#) of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their villages.

Throughout the last seven weeks, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been protesting as part of a weeks-long movement calling for the right of return for Palestinian refugees to the areas they were forcibly expelled from in 1948. Since the protests [began](#) on March 30, Israeli forces have killed at least 109 Palestinians in the coastal enclave and wounded about 12,000 people. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on residents across the occupied West Bank to hold a general strike on Tuesday in honour of those killed in the Gaza Strip. Monday's demonstrations coincided with protests against the [opening of the US embassy](#) in Jerusalem.

Lining the corridors

On Tuesday, journalists and family members waited to honour the dead in Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital, where surgeons rushed to treat injured protesters in operating rooms, while others lined the corridors. Ayman al-Sahabani, head of the emergency department in al-Shifa, told Al Jazeera that at least 18 people died while waiting to receive medical attention on Monday evening. "At one point, we had 500 cases arrive at once," al-Sahabani said. "This is way more than what the hospital's capacity can take."

According to the department head, medical staff have responded to injuries to the best of their ability, despite the lack of medical supplies. Describing the type of injuries, al-Sahabani said most patients were hit in the lower body and limbs, while some were hit in the chest area. The most urgent cases came as a result of live ammunition and explosives, al-Sahabani noted.

National obligation

Father of two, Tamer Farouk abu-Ghaben suffered an injury to his hand when an explosive detonated near him in the border area on Monday. He is in need of immediate surgery, which has been postponed due to the hospital's lack of capacity. Originally from Yafa, he insists that it was his "ethical and national obligation" to protest Israel's occupation and the Palestinian people's forced displacement. Similarly, 26-year-old Youssef al-Maqal, who suffered head injuries, says nothing could have stopped him from his right to resist the Israeli occupation. Al-Maqal was shot in the back of the head with live ammunition, but survived despite the seriousness of his wounds. Doctors told Al Jazeera that al-Maqal would likely succumb to his injuries if he does not undergo additional surgery.

It is unclear whether [protests](#) will resume in the Gaza Strip later on Tuesday, but doctors in the hospital fear that further influx of patients may lead to a complete collapse of services at the city's main medical facility. Elsewhere in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, families were preparing to bury their loved-ones. In the Great Mosque of Gaza, Anwar al-Ghandour, 25, and Mariam al-Thaben, 18, mourn the death of their eight-month-old baby daughter. Tens of people attended the funeral of Laila al-Ghandour, who died of tear gas inhalation late on Monday. Al-Ghandour as with her mother who was participating in the sit-in east of Gaza City. They were both situated in the tents, far away from the front lines, the family told Al Jazeera. But when tear gas canisters dropped from Israeli drones, everyone in the area was affected, al-Thaben explained, who previously lost another child in 2016.

Source: Aljazeera/ EuroPal Forum, 15.05.2018

09. EU calls for 'restraint' over Gaza violence

European Union High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini issued a statement on the [Gaza violence](#) and latest developments in Israel, stating what according to her Israel must do.

"Dozens of Palestinians, including children, have been killed and hundreds injured from Israeli fire today, during ongoing mass protests near the Gaza fence," lamented Mogherini. "We expect all to act with utmost restraint to avoid further loss of life. Israel must respect the right to peaceful protest and the principle of proportionality in the use of force. Hamas and those leading the demonstrations in Gaza must ensure that they remain strictly non-violent and must not exploit them for other means."

The European Union has recently [pledged](#) its support for the vision of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. "I want to reassure President Abbas of the firm commitment of the European Union to the two-state solution with Jerusalem as the shared capital of the two states," Mogherini said during a meeting this January. Just before the meeting, Mogherini called Trump's declaration "a problem": "Clearly there is a problem with Jerusalem. That is a very diplomatic euphemism."

Mogherini's latest statement continues:

"During these days, both Israelis and Palestinians are commemorating defining moments for their nations. Each side in this conflict has legitimate claims and aspirations which need to be mutually acknowledged. "Jerusalem is a holy city for Jews, Muslims and Christians. The ties of the Jewish people to Jerusalem are irrefutable, and must not be denied. And the same is true for the ties of the Palestinian people to the city.

"Any further escalation of an already extremely tense and complex situation would cause again further unspeakable sufferings to both peoples, and will make the perspective of peace and security even more remote. In this moment, wisdom and courage would be needed to go back to negotiations for a political solution, for the sake both of the Israeli and the Palestinian people, and the entire region. Only a two state solution will realistically allow both sides to fulfil their aspirations, put an end to the conflict, and achieve the just and lasting peace that Israelis and Palestinians long for and deserve.

"The EU remains firmly committed to continue working with both parties and with its partners in the international community towards a resumption of meaningful negotiations aimed at a two-state solution, based on the 4 June 1967 lines and with Jerusalem as capital of both. "The European Union has a clear, consolidated position on Jerusalem, which was reaffirmed in numerous Foreign Affairs Council conclusions: the EU will continue to respect the international consensus on Jerusalem embodied in, inter alia, UN Security Council Resolution 478, including on the location of diplomatic representations until the final status of Jerusalem is resolved."

Source: [Google News/EuroPal Forum](#), 14.05.2018

10. Israel's blurred red line of self-defence

Following his May 9 Kremlin meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Israeli Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) told reporters he had explained to his host that "it is the right of every state, certainly it is Israel's right, to take such steps as are necessary to defend itself against this aggression." At almost the same time, Transportation and Intelligence Minister [Yisrael Katz](#) was explaining, "Only offensives now, today, can prevent violence and war tomorrow." Education Minister and defense Cabinet member [Naftali Bennett](#) bolstered their remarks, telling a gathering of young Israelis, "If I had to summarize the policies of the Israeli government and the security establishment in this era, I would say, 'If one rises up to kill you, kill him first.'"

Obviously, Iran did not deploy missile launchers throughout Syria out of any peaceful goals. However, where is the famous "red line" — those hostile military actions unacceptable by Israel? What turns a series of (allegedly Israeli) strikes in the sovereign territory of a neighbouring state into "self-defence"? If, as Katz argued, offensives today can avert war tomorrow, a responsible (Israeli) government must also bomb the missiles deployed by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militia in southern Lebanon. And what about the long-range missiles Iran can launch from the outskirts of Tehran at Israel's nuclear facility near the town of Dimona?

If the name of the game is "self-defence," then Iran, too, might have good reasons to attack Israel. It is no secret that had it not been for the [strenuous objections](#) by the heads of Israel's defence agencies and late President Shimon Peres, Netanyahu and his former Minister of Defense Ehud Barak would have probably bombed Iran's nuclear facilities. At this point, we should also remember that the government of Israel — not of Iran — was the one that [thwarted a conference](#) planned in Helsinki for 2012 on a nuclear-free Middle East, supported by former US President Barack Obama. Not only that, according to foreign media reports, Israel is the only country in the Middle East equipped with dozens of nuclear bombs, and the only one consistently refusing to sign the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). Israel is also a [leading weapons exporter](#) to murderous regimes in Africa and elsewhere. All, of course, for the sake of self-defence.

However, one can discern a different motivation for Israel's actions against Iran between the lines of the boastful chatter by members of the defence Cabinet. Katz said the government's strategy was to "act to remove Iran from Syria." Bennett went a step further, suggesting the Iranian people emulate the grassroots [Israeli protest movement](#) called Four Mothers, whose pressure is credited with Israel's decision to pull its forces out of Lebanon 18 years ago. "If you do a Four Mothers and get out of Syria, you might somehow survive as a regime," the minister promised. On the other hand, "If you keep wasting billions and impose sanctions on yourselves because of a country located dozens of kilometres from you, the regime will be replaced."

In the milieu of Jerusalem's celebrated champion US President Donald Trump, this policy is known as "regime change." Prior to becoming Trump's national security adviser, [John Bolton](#) said in July 2017 that the United States must work to ensure a change of regime in Iran "so that the Islamic Republic will not last till its 40th birthday" next year. Bolton and Trump's attorney Rudolph Giuliani are both supporters of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, a main Iranian opposition group operating abroad. As a member of Congress, current Secretary of State [Mike Pompeo](#) suggested in 2014 that the United States mobilize an international coalition to strike Iran's nuclear facilities. He even mentioned the number of aerial sorties that would be required to destroy them (under 2,000).

In a May 10 Washington Post [opinion piece](#), senior analyst Fareed Zakaria wrote, "Three of Trump's closest advisers have views on Iran that are so extreme that it is hard to think of anyone outside of Saudi Arabia or Israel who shares them." Netanyahu feels at home with the members of Trump's aggressive, perhaps even verging on the megalomaniacal, inner

circle. For the past year, the prime minister has repeatedly crowned Israel “a [rising world power](#),” a comment reminiscent of the [dream espoused](#) by Israel’s first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, borne on the euphoria of Israel’s 1956 conquest of the Sinai Peninsula, about “the Third Kingdom of Israel.”

Israel’s record in terms of Middle East regime change is hardly stellar. Israel is still paying the price of “the [new order](#)” then-Defence Minister Ariel Sharon sought to instil with his military invasion of Lebanon in 1982 in order to hand the regime to the country’s Maronite Christians. It ended with the expulsion of the PLO from southern Lebanon under the leadership of Yasser Arafat. Instead, we got the Iranian-backed Hezbollah on our northern border. To dislodge the Palestinian Fatah movement from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the unity government of Yitzhak Shamir, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin encouraged Muslim clerics to establish Hamas in the 1980s and 1990s, which has since turned into a terror organization. Defence Minister Avigdor Liberman from the West Bank settlement of Nokdim speaks openly about his aspirations to replace Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas with a more suitable — for Israel, of course — figure. Israel’s cruel Gaza siege policy, just like decades of international sanctions on Iran, did not give rise to regimes that were any friendlier to the United States or Israel. There is no indication this could happen in the foreseeable future.

Obviously, the restraint displayed by Iran’s rulers vis-a-vis Israel’s recent attacks on Iranian forces in Syria does not stem from recognition of Israel’s right to self-defence. The Iranians are letting Netanyahu celebrate Trump’s decision to violate the Iranian nuclear deal. The other five partners to the deal are watching from the sidelines as Netanyahu cheers on the American president as he displays his contempt for the United Nations’ resolutions on Jerusalem and pulls the United States out of the consensus enjoyed thus far by the Middle East Quartet (composed of the United States, Russia, the UN and the European Union).

On these two critical issues — the clash with Iran and the conflict with the Palestinians — Netanyahu, under criminal investigation by police, is betting on volatile Trump. However, even their mutual patron, casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, cannot promise them that their gamble on a regime change in Tehran, Ramallah and Gaza will succeed. And, as always, their subjects will pay the price once they lose.

Source: Akiva Eldar, Al Monitor, 16.05.2018

Akiva Eldar is a columnist for Al-Monitor’s Israel Pulse. He was formerly a senior columnist and editorial writer for Haaretz and also served as the Hebrew daily’s US bureau chief and diplomatic correspondent. His most recent book (with Idith Zertal), *Lords of the Land, on the Jewish settlements*, was on the best-seller list in Israel and has been translated into English, French, German and Arabic.

11. Will Hamas resume war against Israel?

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/05/israel-hamas-palestinians-gaza-strip-demonstrations-hudna.html#ixzz5HNHEawot>

Source: Shlomi Eldar, Al Monitor, 16.05.2018

Shlomi Eldar is a columnist for Al-Monitor’s Israel Pulse. For the past two decades, he has covered the Palestinian Authority and especially the Gaza Strip for Israel’s Channels 1 and 10, reporting on the emergence of Hamas.

12. Labour Friends of Israel following a Gaza tweet.

<https://www.change.org/p/john-cryer-mp-parliament-uk-all-labour-personnel-to-publicly-end-any-association-with-labour-friends-of-israel>

13. Turkish-Israeli gap widens with bitter exchanges

Turkey’s ties with Israel could be heading for a historic breakdown as tensions with the United States groan under ever greater weight.

Source: Semih Idiz, Al Monitor, 18.05.2018

Semih Idiz is a columnist for Al-Monitor’s Turkey Pulse. He is a journalist who has been covering diplomacy and foreign policy issues for major Turkish newspapers for 30 years. His opinion pieces can be followed in the English-language Hurriyet Daily News. His articles have also been published in The Financial Times, The Times of London, Mediterranean Quarterly and Foreign Policy magazine.

Read more:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/05/turkey-usa-israel-how-will-ankara-washington-ties-survive.html#ixzz5I1zKXrIY>

14. Israeli art students protest Gaza killing

Israeli Science Minister Ofir Akunis, displeased with artwork by students at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design commemorating the 62 Palestinians recently killed by the IDF in Gaza, is denying all students from the school the opportunity to present artworks at an upcoming conference.

Source: Mazal Mualem, Al Monitor, 18.05.2018

Mazal Mualem is a columnist for Al-Monitor’s Israel Pulse and formerly the senior political correspondent for Maariv and Haaretz. She also presents a weekly TV show covering social issues on the Knesset channel. On Twitter: [@mazalm3](#)

Read more:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/05/israel-gaza-killings-bezalel-beaux-arts-freedom-expression.html#ixzz5I23nynnI>

**Media Group, Haringey Justice for Palestinians
06.06.2018**

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