



OCT
2025

South Africa Palestine Solidarity Toolkit

Challenging Israeli Genocide
and Hasbara: A Guide for
Media and Activists





CONTENTS



SECTION 1. ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

▶ Why This Toolkit Matters	2
▶ The Struggle for Palestinian Freedom Is Ours Too	2
▶ International Law & Accountability	3
▶ South Africa's Role in Solidarity & Resistance	3
▶ How to Use This Toolkit Effectively	3

SECTION 2. PALESTINE

▶ Brief History and Background of the Colonisation and Occupation of Palestine	4
▶ Myths and Lies about Israel's Claim to the Land	6
▶ The Religious Claim of the Promised Land	7
▶ The Role of Western Imperialism and US Unconditional Support for Israel	8
▶ Documented Apartheid Reports on Israel's Policies	8
▶ Catastrophic Consequences for Palestinians, Western Asia, and the World	9
▶ October 7, 2023: The Day That Changed Everything	10
▶ Timeline: Israel's attacks on Gaza since 2005	12
▶ South Africa's Legal Action at the ICJ: Evidence of Genocide	15
▶ The Role of Media in the Genocide	17

SECTION 3. KEY INSIGHTS TO GUIDE REPORTING

▶ Snapshot of the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza - Verified Facts & Figures	20
▶ What Is Genocide? The Legal Framework & Global Duty to Act	21
▶ How Media Has Covered (and Failed) the Gaza Genocide	25
▶ How the media tears up its own rulebook to hide Israel's atrocities	26
▶ The Hasbara Machinery and How to Counter It	30
▶ Headline Reframing & Communication Guidelines	30
▶ Countering Israeli Hasbara Propaganda: 36 Narrative Traps and the Truths	31

SECTION 4. RESOURCES, CONTACTS & FURTHER READING	43
--	----

SECTION 1. ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

Why This Toolkit Matters

The Palestinian struggle is a human rights issue grounded in international law. Inspired by our country's anti-apartheid legacy, we recognise the parallels between Palestinian oppression and apartheid South Africa's history. We believe South Africa has a special responsibility to tell the full truth and champion justice.

This toolkit equips South African journalists, activists, educators, and concerned citizens with knowledge, language and tools to expose the ongoing genocidal violence in Gaza and counter Israeli state propaganda (Hasbara) that distorts the war crimes being perpetrated against Palestinians. It is a response to decades of occupation, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and the latest UN-acknowledged genocide confirmed in 2025.

Combining legal analysis, communication tools, fact-checking, headline reframing, and media ethics, the toolkit is designed to empower you to report accurately and ethically, challenge misinformation confidently and advocate effectively for Palestinian rights.

The Struggle for Palestinian Freedom Is Ours Too

Our history teaches us that silence emboldens oppression. South Africans have a moral imperative to stand with Palestinians who face ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and genocide. Solidarity is rooted in shared struggles for dignity, freedom, and justice. South African grassroots movements, like the Palestine Solidarity Alliance and Palestine Solidarity Campaign are vital in amplifying Palestinian voices locally and internationally.



International Law & Accountability

- ▶ 1948 – Genocide Convention: Obligation to prevent and punish genocide
- ▶ Jan 2024 – ICJ confirms a plausible case of genocide by Israel against the native Palestinians
- ▶ Sep 2025 – UN Commission of Inquiry confirms genocide is taking place

South Africa's Role in Solidarity & Resistance

- ▶ ICJ Case
- ▶ Active engagement of South African civil society
 - Pro-Palestinian Groups leading campaigns, mobilising, demonstrations and protests:
 - ▶ SABDS Coalition
 - ▶ Palestine Solidarity Alliance (PSA)
 - ▶ Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC)
 - ▶ South Africa Palestine Movement
 - ▶ Mothers4Gaza (M4G)
 - ▶ LetGazaEat
 - ▶ Community with Conscience
- ▶ These groups arrange community mobilisation, cooperation on marches, sit-ins, protests, mail campaigns
- ▶ Support for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) echoes our anti-apartheid strategies.
- ▶ Humanitarian aid efforts, coordinated with groups like Gift of the Givers, demonstrate solidarity through concrete support.
- ▶ Calls for the South African government to take principled stances at international platforms like the UN.

How to Use This Toolkit Effectively

- ▶ Adapt modular sections for media interviews, briefing notes, social media messaging, activist workshops, and classroom discussions.
- ▶ Use narrative traps to quickly address misinformation.
- ▶ Apply headline reframing consistently in writing and social media.
- ▶ Reference South Africa's anti-apartheid history to inspire local engagement.

SECTION 2. PALESTINE

Brief History and Background of the Colonisation and Occupation of Palestine

The violent Israeli occupation in Palestine is not the result of a recent dispute but spans over a century, rooted in brutal colonisation and systematic dispossession of the indigenous Palestinian people. Prior to the late 19th century, Palestine was a multiethnic land with a majority Arab Palestinian population living under Ottoman rule. The rise of the Zionist movement in the late 1800s, spearheaded by figures like Theodor Herzl, called for the creation of a "Jewish state" in historic Palestine, a plan externally supported by colonial powers during and after World War I, notably through the 1917 Balfour Declaration by Britain. Following the British Mandate period, waves of Jewish immigration, land confiscations, and settler colonial expansion culminated in the 1948 Nakba (catastrophe), where hundreds were massacred and more than 700,000 Palestinians (over half the population at the time) were forcibly expelled or fled their homes in what became the state of Israel.

Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object. It being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Y. in
Arthur Balfour

IMAGE SOURCE: <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2025/5/15/nakba-commemorated-and-yet-repeated-redux>



Since 1948, and particularly after Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem in the 1967 war, Palestinians have endured military rule, mass displacement, systematic discrimination, and violent repression. Israeli policies — characterised by land confiscations, settlement building, movement restrictions and military operations — have continually aimed at fragmenting Palestinian society and erasing their national identity. Progressive scholars and activists assert that these policies, along with the ongoing siege and ethnic cleansing in Gaza, reveal a Zionist Israeli regime intent on a “Final Solution” aimed at the extermination of Palestinians as a people and the ethnic cleansing of their homeland, making the conflict a sustained genocide rather than a mere “territorial dispute.” This century-long fraying of Palestinian existence under settler colonialism demands recognition of the structural violence and historic injustice fuelling today's catastrophic events.

Myths and Lies about Israel's Claim to the Land

The Israeli claim to the land is often built on myths that erase the millennia-old presence and rights of Palestinians. Claims of “biblical entitlement” conveniently omit centuries of continuous Palestinian life in the region, including Muslim, Christian and Jewish Palestinians living alongside one another. The Zionist narrative, like previous European colonial lies, frames Palestine as “a land without a people for a people without a land,” erasing indigenous Palestinians and denying their right to self-determination.

PALESTINE SHRINKING EXPANDING ISRAEL



SOURCES
Yehouda Dan, 2007, *Land Ownership in Palestine/Israel 1920-2000*.
BACI, 2012, *Selling Land: Population Transfer and The Jewish Project in The Negev*.
P. Tessler, 2010, *By Hook And By Crook: Israeli Settlement Policy in The West Bank*.

Maps adapted from:
Palestine Center, 2012, *Atlas of the Conflict: Israel-Palestine*.
P. Tessler, 2014, *Map of the West Bank, Settlements and the Separation Barrier*.


Green: Palestinian Land
Yellow: Jewish Settlements

VISUALIZING PALESTINE

WWW.VISUALIZINGPALESTINE.ORG, MAY 2015.
SHARE AND DISTRIBUTE FREELY. CREATIVE COMMONS BY-NC-ND 3.0 LICENSE.

@visualizingpal
fb.com/visualizingpalestine





This narrative disregards key historical events such as the British colonial imposition, the violent dispossession during the 1948 Nakba, and ongoing ethnic cleansing through military occupation and settlement expansion. Such revisionist histories fuel continued denial of Palestinian identity and justify systematic displacement, portraying Palestinians as obstacles to a “promised land” rather than as victims of settler-colonialism. The notion of “a land without a people” is also a colonial racist one that considers native peoples as less than human or “human animals”, and thereby not recognising their existence and who can be subjected to all kinds of oppression and violent abuse since they are not entitled to “human rights”.

The Religious Claim of the Promised Land

The widely circulated Christian and Jewish religious claim that Palestine is the “Promised Land” given exclusively to the Jewish people is a contested narrative rooted in ancient biblical texts that must be understood within their historical and literary context. The concept originates mainly from the Book of Genesis, where God promises the land to Abraham and his descendants; however, this promise was conditional and did not entail unconditional ownership or immediate possession.

Importantly, the biblical narrative itself acknowledges the presence of other peoples — including Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites — who inhabited the land long before the Israelites' arrival. Abraham is portrayed as a wandering nomad among established populations rather than the uncontested owner of an empty land.

Furthermore, biblical texts frequently stress that possession of the land was contingent on obedience and justice, warning that the Israelites could be expelled for disobedience or injustice (Leviticus 25:23; Deuteronomy 16:20). The “Promised Land” in scripture is not an immutable territorial entitlement but a covenantal concept tied to religious and ethical conditions, making its literal application to modern political claims historically and theologically problematic.

Scholarly analysis highlights that the Jewish people emerged as part of a broader ancient Canaanite milieu, challenging any exclusive ancestral rights based solely on these ancient religious texts. Thus, the biblical “promised land” should not be used to justify the ethnic cleansing and dispossession of Palestinians who have deep and continuous historical ties to the land.

Moreover, it is Ashkenazi European Jews that colonised Palestine in the 20th century. They had no historical or ethnic links to Palestine or the Middle East and whose ancestors, the Khazars, are said to have converted to Judaism during the 9th century. Today, the Ashkenazi Jews of European descent form the Israeli ruling class and are the most privileged, while other Jews of Middle Eastern and African descent are also racially discriminated against.

The Role of Western Imperialism and the US Unconditional Support for Israel

Western imperialism, particularly that of the United States, has played a central role in sustaining Israel's settler-colonial project. The US has provided unconditional military, economic, and diplomatic support to Israel since its founding, motivated by geopolitical interests during the Cold War, strategic dominance in the Western Asia, and domestic political alliances, including powerful pro-Israel lobby groups like AIPAC. This unwavering backing includes consistent use of the UN Security Council veto to block resolutions condemning Israeli human rights abuses, massive military aid packages, and political support for settlement policies. The US frames Israel as a critical ally in fighting terrorism and as a stabilising regional power, often at the expense of Palestinian rights and peace prospects. This imperial alliance enables ongoing apartheid, occupation and violence, shielded from international accountability.

Documented Apartheid Reports on Israel's Policies

Multiple authoritative human rights organisations and legal experts have documented and confirmed that Israel practices apartheid both within its own borders and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. A comprehensive 2025 report analysing over 25 human rights investigations and judicial opinions conclusively finds that Israel's system of laws, policies and military practices meet the legal definition of apartheid under the 1973 UN Apartheid Convention. This regime grants institutionalised preferential rights and privileges to Israeli Jews while systematically oppressing Palestinians through extensive restrictions on movement, political expression, residency rights and access to resources. The report highlights how the apartheid system severely violates Palestinians' rights to self-determination, freedom of association, due process and protection from cruel treatment, while being enforced and expanded in the wake of the October 7, 2023 conflict. Such structural discrimination creates a legal framework for understanding Israel's ethnic cleansing, demolition of homes, forced displacements and massive civilian casualties as crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Human Rights Watch's 2025 World Report further documents ongoing persecution and apartheid as core features of Israeli rule, noting the unprecedented scale of killings, starvation and forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza following the escalation of hostilities. The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Israeli leaders on charges including crimes against humanity, specifically targeting their roles in enforcing apartheid policies. Reports from 2024 and 2025 also chronicle the widespread detention, torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners, highlighting the regime's systematic suppression of dissent and dehumanisation practices inherent to apartheid. These findings emphasise not only the historical continuities from South African apartheid but also the unique modern mechanisms of surveillance, administrative detention and legal exclusion that entrench Israeli domination over Palestinians.



International recognition of Israel's apartheid status has grown, with a coalition of UN member states, civil society organisations, and legal scholars demanding urgent action to end ethnic cleansing, dismantle apartheid systems, and prosecute ongoing violations. Formal letters from the State of Palestine and prominent UN human rights bodies call for the international community to hold Israel accountable and reaffirm Palestinians' inherent rights under international law. These documented apartheid reports form a foundation for global advocacy efforts seeking justice, reparations, and the establishment of a Palestinian state free from systemic oppression and racial domination.

Catastrophic Consequences for Palestinians, Western Asia, and the World

The failure to stop the Israeli regime and dismantle Zionism carries devastating consequences for Palestinians, the wider Western Asia, and global stability. Palestinians endure genocide, ethnic cleansing, mass displacement, and denial of fundamental rights under Israeli apartheid and siege. Regionally, the conflict fuels instability, war, and deepens sectarian divides, undermining prospects for peace across West Asia. Globally, it exacerbates geopolitical tensions and destabilises alliances, while provoking widespread anti-war and justice movements. International inertia and complicity allow Israel to perpetuate systemic violation of international law, embedding a cycle of violence that threatens human rights and undermines norms designed to prevent mass atrocities. Meaningful change requires dismantling settler-colonial systems, upholding Palestinian liberation, and ending imperial enablers to avert ongoing catastrophe.



- ▶ October 7 was a flashpoint in over a century of settler-colonial violence and systematic Palestinian dispossession.
- ▶ Israeli Hasbara media blitz framed it as the start of the conflict, erasing decades of occupation, siege, and apartheid realities.
- ▶ Disproven atrocity claims (e.g. 40 beheaded babies, babies in ovens and mass rape of women) and misrepresentation of Palestinian actions fuel unjustified genocidal retaliation.
- ▶ Eyewitness and other accounts of IDF responsibility for many casualties - invoking the Hannibal Directive and killing Israeli hostages, having foreknowledge of the attack, and withdrawing security from Kibbutz's closest to Gaza.
- ▶ The US's unwavering support sustains Israeli military superiority; however, shifting American public opinion and youth activism increasingly challenge this.
- ▶ True peace demands dismantling apartheid and occupation, not supporting genocidal policies.

The events of 7 October 2023 were an inflection point in Israel's occupation of Palestine, the results of decades of violent oppression and apartheid that laid bare the occupying state's systemic violence, occupation and ethnic erasure.

The attack by Hamas militants on Israeli military targets near Gaza, including Kibbutz Be'eri, resulted in the hostage-taking of military personnel and civilians. The Israeli military's initial response employed the Hannibal Directive, leading to the killing of some Israeli hostages by the IDF and bombing of Kibbutz's. These events must be understood within a broader context of apartheid, siege, and denial of Palestinian existence — symbolised chillingly by Netanyahu's September 2023 presentation at UNGA of a map that erased Palestine altogether





What Happened on October 7?

Hamas launched "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood," involving thousands of rockets and a ground invasion through dozens of infiltration points. Kibbutz Be'eri, with its military infrastructure near Gaza, was attacked.

The Hannibal Directive and Killing of Israeli Hostages

In response, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) invoked the secretive Hannibal Directive, which sanctioned the use of lethal force to prevent hostage captures, even if hostages would be killed in the process. Despite its official rescission in 2016, it was employed, leading to Israeli tanks, helicopters and infantry firing on vehicles and buildings known to contain hostages. Families have testified that some hostages died because of this IDF policy, revealing a harsh military logic where hostage lives were expendable.

The Role of Israeli Intelligence and Leadership

Investigations, including by The New York Times, found that Israeli intelligence had detailed knowledge of Hamas's plans more than a year prior. Despite this, political leaders and military officials failed to act. On the morning of the attack, many IDF units were reportedly ordered to restrict action in the crucial early hours, worsening the devastation.

Living Under Siege Before October 7

Long before the assault on 7 October 2023, Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied territories lived under an intensifying and often brutal Israeli occupation marked by severe restrictions on their freedom of movement, access to medical care, and adequate nutrition. The Israeli military and settler violence inflicted vast suffering and deaths. Unprovoked attacks on Palestinian civilians, including children, were common at checkpoints, roadblocks, and through military and settler-led assaults. Movement was heavily controlled by Israel via restrictions by sea, air and land. Palestinians in Gaza were confined behind a land, sea, and air blockade that isolated them completely, while in the West Bank, roadblocks and "illegal" settlements fragmented Palestinian communities, severely hampering their daily lives and emergency medical access.

Israeli settler violence frequently targeted Palestinian homes, olive groves and villages, resulting in numerous injuries and fatalities, including children caught in indiscriminate attacks. Palestinian civilians were routinely killed or injured at Israeli military checkpoints, where delays and denials of passage had life-threatening consequences. The system of checkpoints and the "permit regime" severely restricted Palestinian movement between cities and to hospitals, costing lives even before the outbreak of war.



According to United Nations and humanitarian reports, the blockade of Gaza reduced the average daily caloric intake of Palestinians to only 67-72% of the minimum required to survive, with Israel imposing sweeping bans on the import of essential foods like proteins, dairy, cooking oils, fruits, and vegetables under the guise of dual-use military controls. This blockade created a slow genocide through starvation and malnutrition, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, including children and pregnant women. Journalist Anthony Lowenstein illuminates these policies as a deliberate strategy of economic and nutritional strangulation that laid the groundwork for the humanitarian collapse preceding October 7.

In 2023 alone, thousands of Palestinians had been killed due to Israeli military operations and settler violence. The United Nations and independent monitors recorded a sharp increase in civilian deaths in Gaza and the West Bank, with hundreds of fatalities involving children. The daily realities of restricted movement, constant threat of violence, and denial of essential services created conditions of extreme vulnerability and suffering, setting a grim context for the escalation that would follow.

Timeline: Israel's attacks on Gaza since 2005 [Al Jazeera]





Netanyahu's Chilling 2023 UNGA Map

In September 2023, at the United Nations General Assembly, Netanyahu presented a map of "Greater Israel" that completely erased Palestine's presence. This symbolic act underscored Israel's intent to deny Palestinian nationhood and expand its territory unilaterally, a declaration of intent toward ethnic cleansing and apartheid.

Israel's Crimes Against Humanity

October 7 was followed by an extreme and brutal Israeli military response, extending long-standing violent occupation policies. To understand the complex truths of that day, it is essential to move beyond official propaganda and contextualise the events within a broader history of oppression, siege, and misinformation.

Hasbara and Propaganda Exposed

Israeli government propaganda (Hasbara) immediately sought to frame the October 7 attacks as monstrous terrorism and justify retaliatory military actions. Fabricated claims of atrocities, including sexual violence and infant beheadings, were widely circulated but later debunked by independent assessments. Progressive media outlets like Breakthrough News and Consortium News, along with commentators such as Chris Hedges, have exposed these lies, emphasizing the asymmetry of violence and the role of Israeli apartheid policies in fomenting the conflict. These commentators call for recognising Palestinian suffering and ending the militarised siege that fuels cycles of violence.

<https://www.newarab.com/news/understanding-hasbara-israels-propaganda-machine>

Inside The Israel Lobby's \$90 Million War Chest

<https://israelpalestineneeds.org/inside-the-israel-lobby-war-chest/>

Zionist supporters of Israel are gearing up to take over TikTok

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbeswealthteam/2025/09/25/the-web-of-billionaire-pals-partners-and-trump-supporters-taking-control-of-tiktok-us/>

Worth noting is that Israel's support and propaganda network extends globally, including South Africa, with the majority of SA Jews and Christian Zionists unconditionally supporting Israel. Jewish institutions like the SA Zionist Federation (SAZF) and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) as well as influential businessmen like Philip Krawitz, the owner of Cape Union Mart, are part of this Zionist network in the country.



Findings from Human Rights Organisations and Scholars

A range of human rights organisations including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and independent UN commissions, as well as Israeli human rights NGO, B'Tselem, have documented serious violations in Israel's disproportionate military response and blockade. Amnesty has concluded that Israel's actions in Gaza since October 7 constitute genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. These findings are echoed by analysts who argue that the repeated use of collective punishment, forced

displacement, and siege represents a structural violence of Israel's colonial genocide of the native Palestinian people, not only in Gaza but including the West Bank which is not under the control of Hamas.

Progressive voices highlight the militarised occupation's roots in settler colonialism and apartheid, linking Israel's policies to global patterns of racialized repression. They argue that the massacre on October 7 and the Israeli retaliation are part of ongoing cycles fueled by systemic injustice. Consortium News and Breakthrough News provide in-depth investigative reporting that counters mainstream narratives, centring Palestinian voices and emphasizing urgent calls for international accountability and humanitarian intervention.

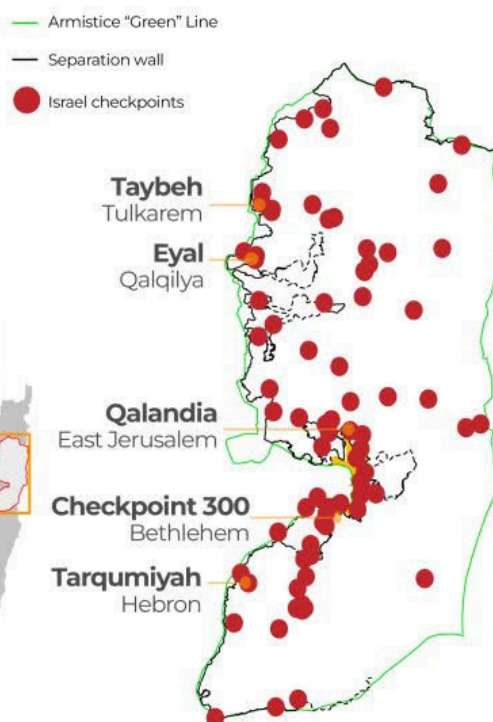
ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Israeli checkpoints in occupied West Bank

There are at least **645 fixed physical obstacles**, **49 checkpoints constantly staffed** by Israeli companies and **139 occasionally staffed checkpoints**. In 2022, Israeli forces also deployed an average of four ad hoc, "flying" checkpoints each week in the occupied West Bank.



Eyal Checkpoint, 2018 [Activestills]



Source: OCHA (2023)

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA



South Africa's Legal Action at the ICJ: Evidence of Genocide

South Africa made what is considered the strongest international legal indictment of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza when it filed a Memorandum to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 28 October 2024 against Israel. The Memorandum presented evidence of mass killings, destruction of infrastructure, blockade-induced starvation, and forced displacement as acts intended to physically destroy the Palestinian people in part or whole, violating the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

South African officials have argued that Israeli statements and actions, including public calls for Gaza's depopulation and territorial annexation, demonstrate genocidal intent. The case is historically significant for alleging genocide while atrocities are ongoing, rather than retrospectively. The ICJ has acknowledged the plausibility of Israeli violations under the Genocide Convention and ordered provisional protective measures, though Israel has not fully complied. South Africa's case is considered the leading systematic legal challenge to Israeli conduct, holding Israel accountable under international law for its longstanding apartheid policies and the escalated genocidal war crimes since October 2023.

The Dubious Role of AIPAC, the US, and Western Support

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is among the most influential pro-Israel lobbying organisations in the United States, vigorously shaping Congressional and executive branch policies to bolster Israel's military and political agenda through massive bribes to politicians. Since the 1980s, AIPAC has successfully pushed for billions in US military aid annually – around \$4 billion per year – ensuring Israel maintains a qualitative military edge in the region. Its political contributions strategically support candidates who align with pro-Israel legislation, further entrenching this influence. The US government, reflecting this lobby's influence along with broader geopolitical interests, has repeatedly used its Security Council veto to block resolutions condemning Israeli human rights abuses, essentially enabling the continuation of Israel's blockade and attacks on Gaza with impunity. Western governments similarly provide diplomatic cover and substantial financial aid, obscuring accountability and facilitating what critics increasingly define as genocide and apartheid.



Global Pro-Palestinian Protests and Growing Sanctions


In response to Israel's violence and siege, millions of citizens worldwide have organised sustained pro-Palestinian protests, expressing horror at Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe and condemning ongoing genocide. From major cities in Europe, North America, Asia, Africa, and beyond, protestors demand immediate ceasefires, humanitarian aid access, and accountability for war crimes. These movements gained momentum amid widespread media coverage of civilian suffering, especially children, and the blocking of aid supplies. Countries across the Global South, led by activists and civil society, have initiated targeted sanctions against Israeli military suppliers, companies complicit in settlement construction, and some banks facilitating financial flows supporting occupation. These sanctions, while still emerging, reflect escalating global pressure to challenge Israeli impunity and assert Palestinian rights. International solidarity signals a growing recognition that the status quo is untenable and that meaningful political change is imperative.

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian led movement that campaigns for non-violent resistance against Israel's colonial genocide and oppression of the Palestinian people through global boycotts, divestment and sanctions in all spheres of life against Israel. It is based on the success of the international Anti-Apartheid movement against South Africa during the 1970's and 80's. Its South African affiliate is the SABDS Coalition.

"Prisoners" and Hostages

As of mid-2025, there are over 21,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees held across Israeli prisons and military facilities, including the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thousands more, including children, women, and political activists, are held under administrative detention without charge or trial, a practice condemned internationally. Since the outbreak of war on 7 October 2023, Israeli authorities have arrested around 17,000 Palestinians, with a sharp increase in mass detentions and enforced disappearances.

Palestinian prisoners face harsh conditions, solitary confinement, denial of family and lawyer visits, physical abuse, torture (including sexual violence and rape of female and male political prisoners) and limited access to medical care. Many detainees are classified as "unlawful combatants," stripping them of protections under international law. The expansive imprisonment serves both as collective punishment and a means to suppress Palestinian resistance and voices.



Regarding the hostages captured by Hamas on 7 October 2023, it is important to clarify that many were Israeli soldiers, alongside civilians, taken during the surprise attack on Israeli communities near Gaza. The distinction between soldier prisoners of war and civilian hostages is often blurred in media coverage, fuelling misinformation. While some civilians were abducted, a significant portion were military personnel captured during combat operations. The Israeli government's responses have framed all abductees as innocent hostages. This nuance is critical for truthful discourse and humanitarian negotiations.

Overall, the ongoing mass arrests and imprisonment of Palestinians, alongside the complex status of captured individuals, underscore the severe human rights crisis and the broader systemic use of incarceration as a tool of occupation. The plight of Palestinian prisoners remains largely invisible in mainstream reporting, demanding urgent international attention and advocacy for their rights and release.

The Role of Media in the Genocide

The mainstream and Western media's role in the Gaza genocide has been deeply problematic, with widespread complicity of corporate media in obscuring the realities of the genocide. Palestinian journalists have faced extraordinary dangers, with over 270 Palestinian media workers killed by Israeli strikes since October 7, 2023—a death toll unprecedented in modern conflict history. These journalists have been targeted not only by bombardments of media offices and hospital compounds but also by consistent vilification and smears labelling them as terrorists without credible evidence, effectively silencing crucial voices reporting on the ground realities. Despite these dangers, Palestinian journalists have shown remarkable courage in exposing the humanitarian disaster. However, international media coverage often lacks depth or fails to adequately amplify Palestinian voices, contributing to global misinformation and narrative bias.

A forthcoming report by UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese is awaited with anticipation; it is expected to provide a comprehensive examination of media complicity and the systematic failure to protect journalists, documenting how this enables the perpetuation of violence against Palestinians with impunity. The report promises to highlight the obstructive role of misinformation, underreporting, and biased framing by major outlets in the global discourse on Gaza's genocide.

Israel has always targeted Palestinian journalists for detention, torture and/or assassination. Al Jazeera offices in Gaza City were bombed several times and banned in Israel and occupied Palestinian territories. Recently, thirty-one journalists and media staff were killed by Israeli strikes on newspaper offices in Yemen.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/sep/20/israeli-attack-on-yemeni-newspaper-complex-kills-media-workers>



American Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, was assassinated by the Israeli regime on 11 May 2022.

The narrative of 7 October 2023 is inseparable from the structural power dynamics enforced by the US and Western governments through AIPAC and diplomatic backing that enable ongoing Israeli military aggression and blockade policies. Simultaneously, a rising tide of global pro-Palestinian activism and state-level sanctions reveals a shifting international landscape demanding justice and an end to occupation and siege. These dynamics underscore the undeniable need for redefining accountability and human rights protections in the face of systematic violence.

References:

- Human Rights Watch, "Hopeless, Starving, and Besieged: Israel's Forced Displacement of Palestinians in Gaza," November 13, 2024
- Amnesty International Report, "Israel committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza," December 4, 2024
- UN Human Rights Council Independent Commission Reports, July 2025
- New York Times Intelligence Investigations on Foreknowledge of Attacks
- BBC News, "Hannibal Directive" and eyewitness testimonies
- BBC News & Aljazeera coverage of attack and humanitarian impact
- UN and WHO reports on Gaza food insecurity and blockade impacts
- Scholarly legal analysis and crisis management perspectives from the Israel Law Review and Wiley Online Library
- Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), South Africa, "South Africa Delivers Evidence of Israel Genocide to ICJ," February 2025
- Al Jazeera, "South Africa's ICJ Legal Team says Intent 'Clear' in Israel's Gaza Genocide," October 2024
- Human Rights Watch, "Hopeless, Starving, and Besieged," November 2024
- Amnesty International, "Israel Committing Genocide in Gaza," December 2024
- Anthony Lowenstein commentary and investigative reporting
- New York Times investigatory report on Israeli intelligence prior knowledge
- UN and WHO reports on Gaza food insecurity and blockade.
- Progressive media coverage (Breakthrough News, Consortium News, Chris Hedges) contextualizing Israeli apartheid and genocide [verified progressive summaries].
- Netanyahu's 2023 UNGA map analysis by progressive commentators (contextualized).

SECTION 3. KEY INSIGHTS TO GUIDE REPORTING

Snapshot of the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza - Verified Facts & Figures

(Current UN data and facts updated, including casualty numbers, infrastructure damage, displacement, and aid blockades.)

- Gaza Population: Before 2023 there were 2.3 million people in Gaza, the majority civilians, half of whom are children
- 1.9 million displaced since Oct. 2023, NATO-style air assault (UN OCHA)
- 70,000+ killed or missing, majority women and children (UN & WHO)
- 94% (34 out of 36) of hospitals damaged or destroyed (WHO/OCHA)
- 72.5% (518 out of 564) of schools damaged and destroyed by bombing, require reconstruction (UNRWA)
- Gaza suffers from critical shortages of water, food, fuel, and medical supplies
- (Credible sources: UN OCHA, WHO, UNICEF, Amnesty, B'Tselem)
- 80% – Gaza's population reliant on humanitarian aid
- Safe Drinking Water: 5% (UNICEF)
- Food, water, fuel shortages severe; humanitarian aid regularly delayed or blocked
- Checkpoints/Blockades: 645+ in West Bank, total Gaza siege (land, sea, air) since 2007
- 700,000+ settlers – Living illegally on Palestinian land (Article 49(6), Fourth Geneva Convention)
- Continuous settlement expansion fragments Palestinian land into disconnected enclaves



**UN COMMISSION:
LEGAL ANALYSIS
FINDS GENOCIDAL
CONDUCT IN GAZA**

#letgazaeat #letgazaeat #letgazaeat



UN COMMISSION: LEGAL ANALYSIS

According to WHO, there have been more than 498 attacks on healthcare facilities.

60,199 Palestinians killed (7 Oct 2023–31 July 2025), including 18,430 children and 9,735 women

At least 1,373 Palestinians have been killed while seeking food since the GHF began operations: 859 near GHF sites and 514 along convoy routes. Nowhere is safe.

#letgazaeat #letgazaeat #letgazaeat

What Is Genocide? The Legal Framework & Global Duty to Act

- ▶ The 1948 UN Genocide Convention defines genocide as acts committed with the intent to destroy, wholly or partly, a group defined by nationality, ethnicity, race, or religion.
- ▶ This is a peremptory norm in international law (*jus cogens*), imposing an unconditional duty on all states to prevent and punish genocide anywhere.
- ▶ The 2025 UN Commission confirmed Israel's genocidal acts in Gaza, including killing, destruction of living conditions, and birth prevention.
- ▶ South Africa has lodged a case in the International Court of Justice concerning Gaza's genocide risk.
- ▶ States, media, and civil society all play roles in meeting this legal and moral duty.

(For detailed legal references, see Appendix A.

FOOD IS WEAPONISED

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation has become a target of Israel's attacks, harming innocent Palestinian civilians seeking food and shelter. **"The Israeli authorities intended to kill as many Palestinians as possible through its military operation"** (UN Commission intent finding). Israeli authorities and security forces have had and continue to have the genocidal intent to destroy the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

#letgazaeat #letgazaeat #letgazaeat





DEFINING GENOCIDE

The authoritative legal definition of genocide is found in the **1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG)**. This treaty is part of international law and has been ratified by most of the world's countries.

Article II of the Convention defines genocide as:

...any of the following acts committed with **intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:**

- (a) Killing members of the group.
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group.
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

[Source: United Nations. (1948). *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*. Article II.]

Key Legal Elements:

1. The Mens Rea (Mental Element): The "specific intent" (dolus specialis) to destroy a group in whole or in part. This is the most difficult element to prove, as it requires evidence that the perpetrator's goal was the destruction of the group, not just the commission of atrocities.

2. The Actus Reus (Physical Acts): The five prohibited acts listed from (a) to (e). These acts are broad and include not only mass killing but also causing serious harm, imposing conditions leading to destruction (e.g., through starvation or disease), imposing measures to prevent births, and forcibly transferring children.

3. Protected Groups: The definition is limited to four types of stable groups: national, ethnical, racial, or religious. It does not include political or social groups, a conscious decision made during the drafting of the Convention.

This definition has been incorporated into the statutes of international criminal tribunals, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) in its Rome Statute (Article 6).

[Source: International Criminal Court. (1998). *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*. Article 6.]



For a scholarly definition, Dr Gregory Stanton's framework as presented by **Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security**, outlines that Genocide is a process that develops in ten stages that are predictable but not inexorable. At each stage, preventive measures can stop it. There is a clear symmetry when relating this to the realities in Gaza and Palestine generally.

1. Classification & Symbolization: A rigid "us vs. them" classification has been entrenched, with dehumanizing language used by some Israeli officials and public figures, who have referred to Palestinians as "human animals" and collectively as a threat. This rhetoric serves to assign a negative symbolic identity to the entire population.

2. Discrimination: Palestinians in Gaza have lived under a 16-year blockade, described by many as an open-air prison, which severely restricts their rights, movement, and access to resources, creating a condition of systemic discrimination and disempowerment long before the current conflict. Reports pre- dating October 7, 2023, by Amnesty International, B'Tselem and Human Rights Watch have all found that Israel is an apartheid state that unfairly discriminates against Palestinians in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza as well as in the lands of historic Palestine that was colonised in 1948.

3. Dehumanization: Widespread dehumanizing propaganda has been a feature of the war, with public figures and media outlets sometimes describing Gazans as "Nazis," "terrorists," or "two-legged beasts," stripping them of their humanity to overcome the moral revulsion against mass violence. There is a prevalent view that all Palestinians are 'terrorists' and thus deserve to be attacked and killed. The use of "Amalek" by the Israeli military and political leadership, in the current context, it is a form of genocidal incitement. It moves the conflict from a political or military sphere into a religious one, where the enemy is portrayed as an absolute evil that must be eradicated. This fits the legal and scholarly definition of genocide, which includes "direct and public incitement to commit genocide" and acts committed with "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." By dehumanizing an entire population through this biblical lens, it lays the ideological groundwork for, and seeks to justify, their mass destruction. This is why references to Amalek by those in power are taken with the utmost seriousness by scholars of genocide and international legal experts.

4. Organization & Preparation: The genocide is organized by the state of Israel, which possesses a modern military. Preparation included the public call for a "complete siege," the mass mobilization of troops and equipment, and the use of euphemisms like "eradicating the cancer" to describe military aims against Gaza. From early on the President of Israel Netanyahu called for Amalek.

5. Polarization: Extremist rhetoric has sought to polarize societies, both within Israel and internationally. Critics of the Israeli military's conduct, including Jewish peace activists, are often silenced or labelled as antisemitic, intimidating the moderate centre and preventing a balanced debate.



6. Persecution: This stage is evident in the forced displacement of over 80% of Gaza's population, the systematic destruction of civilian infrastructure (homes, hospitals, universities), and the imposition of a famine-level siege, cutting off food, water, and medicine. These acts intentionally cause conditions leading to the group's destruction.

7. Extermination: The stage of mass killing is underway, with over 37,000 Palestinians killed, a significant majority being women and children, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health. The scale and nature of the bombing in densely populated areas, along with the high death toll, meets the legal definition of mass extermination.

8. Denial: Despite the evidence, Israeli authorities and allies consistently deny allegations of genocide, often blaming civilian casualties on Hamas and rejecting rulings from international bodies like the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which has found it plausible that Israel is committing acts of genocide in Gaza.

There is a clear symmetry when relating both the authentic legal and scholarly definitions to the realities in Gaza and Palestine generally. Propagandist for the Zionist state will argue that we should leave it to the courts to decide. We argue that referencing the courts when in suits them is disingenuous as they have also discredited whenever there is a call for accountability for the crimes of genocide or when warrants are issued for war criminals. This is just deflection as Genocide is the rational deduction of any reasonable person and clear for all to see.





How Media Has Covered (and Failed) the Gaza Genocide

- ▶ Many SA and global media continued the pattern of euphemisms, false equivalences and poor contextualisation.
- ▶ Our press must uphold its duty as guardians of truth and accountability, particularly given our own history with censorship and propaganda.
- ▶ Journalists face challenges accessing Gaza; Palestinian media workers face intimidation – this restricted access threatens comprehensive coverage.
- ▶ South African reporters and activists have spoken out about media bias; the toolkit offers tools to disrupt misinformation actively.

Media Ethics, Legal Obligations & Consequences of Silence

- ▶ Journalists are obliged to report truthfully, impartially and with respect for human dignity.
- ▶ International law and South African press codes imply legal and ethical consequences for genocide denial or propaganda amplification.
- ▶ Silence or distortion may entail complicity charges in international contexts.
- ▶ The role of media is vital in protecting human rights, ensuring accountability, and empowering informed public debate.



How the media tears up its own rulebook to hide Israel's atrocities

The news cycle has rules every rookie journalist understands. When the media choose to break them, you can be sure it is for entirely non-journalistic reasons

By Jonathan Cook, 29 Sep 2025
Substack



You can tell much from how the media choose to cover a news story – and from the facts they decide to emphasise in a headline. And you can tell even more from the fact that, on certain subjects, the media uniformly choose to break the most basic rules of news gathering taught to every young journalist.

Typically in journalism, reporters try to extract as much news “value” from a story as they can. That means there is often a formula hiding behind the coverage.

When the news first hits, it is handled as what we call a “breaking story”. It is the first draft of the event, containing essential information as it is best understood at the time of the report.

Here’s an example of a possible headline on a breaking news story: “Two dead, over 40 injured as London-to-Brighton train derails.” Later the same news event is repackaged in what is called a “follow-up” – once more information is available and errors can be corrected, or because, with more time to talk to those directly involved, there is the chance to present a different, or more interesting, angle on the same story.

Here’s the headline on a possible follow-up: “Train driver reportedly had heart attack before fatal train derailment.” But there are cases where the natural order of the news cycle gets disrupted – and when it does, there are invariably likely to be non-journalistic reasons in play.

Israel is an example of when the news-gathering rulebook often gets torn up.

The first lesson taught to every rookie journalist is this: wherever possible, you must supply the reader with the “who, what, when, where, why and how” of the story.

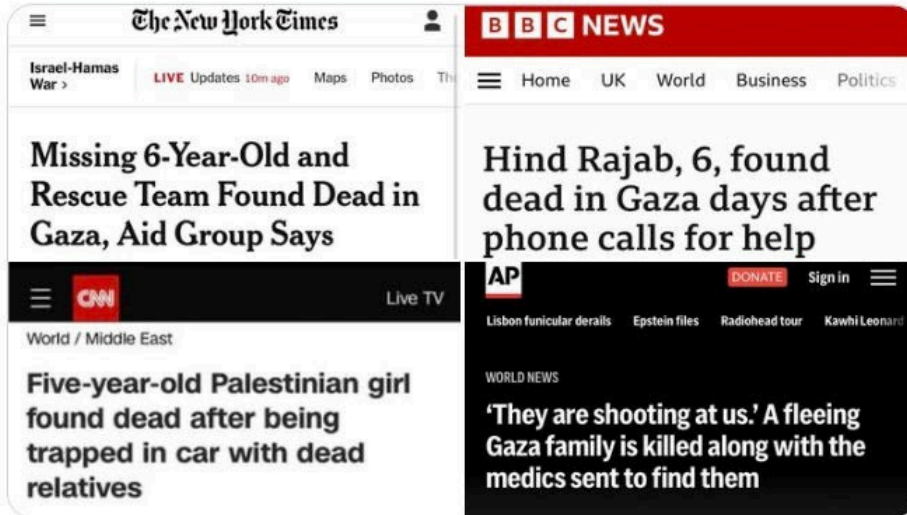
I would not be the first to note how often news media forget in headlines – the only part of a story most readers see – to mention the first of those points, “Who?”, if the responsible party is Israel and it is committing indisputable war crimes. We have had two years filled with this kind of rogue reporting, designed to obscure Israel’s role in systematically perpetrating atrocities that amount to genocide:



Assal Rad ✓
@AssalRad



Also, never forget how the media covered the killing of 6-year old Hind Rajab, her family, and the medics who tried to save her, without naming their killer.



6:20 AM · Sep 4, 2025 · 188K Views

But I want to highlight a less noticed element to the media's perverse coverage of Israel. And that is the regular skewing of the traditional news cycle. Too often the media simply skip the breaking stage of a news story and head straight to the follow-up.

By now, you might be able to guess why. Because a breaking story presents only the essential facts, and those facts cannot disguise the nature of Israel's crimes.

By moving straight to the follow-up, the media get to muddy the water with Israel's rationale, however preposterous, for its war crimes at the very moment those crimes first come to public attention.

Let us take as an example Israel's strike last month on Nasser hospital in Khan Younis, the only hospital still functioning, partially, in Gaza after Israel put out of action dozens of others. The strike killed scores of journalists and rescue workers.

The atrocity news treadmill makes sure western media are so busy chasing after Israel's latest crime in Gaza they never pause long enough to piece together the bigger story of genocide. Read my latest article here: <https://jonathancook.substack.com/p/even-the-medias-gaza-investigations>

The media uniformly framed Israel's attack on a protected building – a hospital – and its murder of civilians there as potentially warranted by amplifying an Israeli claim that was patently ridiculous on at least three levels.



First, Israel claimed that it was targeting a camera on an outside balcony – and that the camera was such a threat, and an immediate one, that it needed to hit Nasser hospital with missiles to destroy it.

Second, Israel claimed that the camera was being used by Hamas, even though it belonged to a Reuters journalist and was actually being used by Reuters for a live feed at the time it and the hospital were hit.

And third, Israel claimed that the only way the camera could be disabled was by hitting the hospital with a series of missile strikes that killed journalists and emergency workers who went to assist those killed and injured in the initial strike that had destroyed the camera.

The problem with the coverage ran much deeper than the astounding levels of gullibility demonstrated by the entire press corps in reporting Israel's "camera" claim.

The media also had to pervert the normal news cycle by failing to report the attack on the hospital as a breaking story. Instead the media moved straight to the follow-up, in which Israel was allowed to foreground its atrocity "denial" with the camera story.

In large part, the media could do this only because Israel – which understands how to manipulate the news cycle, especially when the media are so ready to spread its disinformation – had its excuses ready from the outset of the attack. That alone should have rung alarm bells with any real journalists.

But further, major media outlets all chose as their follow-up Israel's ludicrous rationale for an illegal attack on the hospital: the red herring of the camera. Were they doing their jobs properly, these outlets could have chosen an entirely different follow-up. They could have taken testimony from experts and witnesses on the ground to tear apart Israel's tissue of lies. The goal here, of course, was to distort the audience's understanding of a simple news event – Israel's attack on a hospital in violation of international law to kill journalists and emergency workers – to ensure any loss of sympathy with Israel was kept to a minimum.

The media's role in artificially sustaining support for Israel, in the face of all the evidence of its crimes, has been absolutely essential to smoothing the path, over the past two years, to genocide.

Once you understand how the media pervert the normal news cycle when it serves larger political purposes, the strange presentation of other events starts to make more sense. Such as the minimal coverage of police detaining George Galloway, a former MP and leader of a UK political party, at Gatwick airport at the weekend under draconian terrorism laws. Galloway also had his electronic devices seized. His detention alone should have been a big news story. But there was also plenty of extra news "value" that could have been extracted from it.

The story was more than ripe for follow-ups, given Galloway's outspokenness about Israel and its genocide in Gaza; the Starmer government's efforts to silence dissent on Gaza; and the government's abuses of the terrorism laws to proscribe for the first time in British history the direct-action group Palestine Action, which has been targeting weapons factories in the UK, like the Israeli firm Elbit's, supplying Israel with the tools to carry out the Gaza genocide.

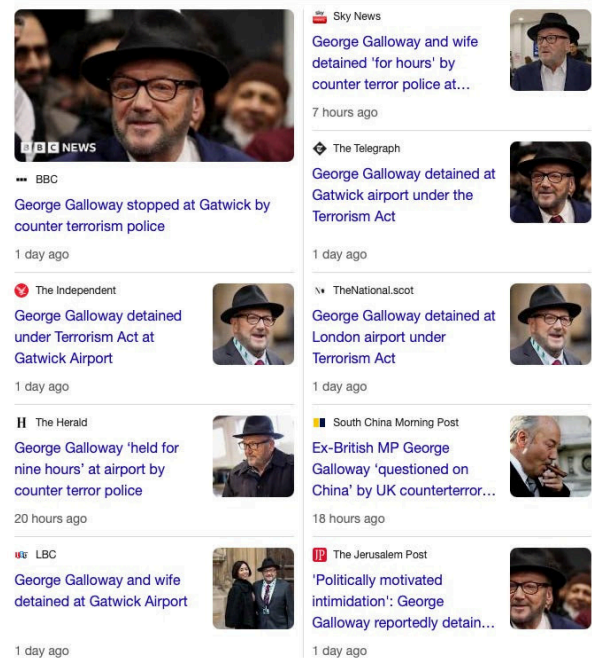
Were the Russian government to detain and seize the electronic devices of a former MP critical of Putin's policies in Ukraine, we all know how that the British media would cover that story. There would be endless follow-ups of Putin's growing and ruthless authoritarianism, of the struggle of critics to speak openly about events in Ukraine, of the need for more sanctions on Russia, and so on.

Contrast that to the coverage of Galloway's persecution – which comes in the wake, also largely unreported, of a growing number of arrests and investigations of journalists and lawyers under the same terrorism laws after they have criticised the Starmer government's complicity in the Gaza genocide. Notice that two days later the lack of follow-ups in the British media on Galloway's detention. Outlets have reported the breaking story – one in which headlines connect Galloway to “terrorism” – but not issued follow-ups whose headlines might push back against the authoritarian over-reach of the British security state overseen by Starmer

In this case, the breaking story serves the British establishment's interests in implicitly vilifying Galloway far better than any follow-up. A follow-up would either have to “put up” – that is, provide a rationale for detaining Galloway under terrorism laws that, we can infer, doesn't exist – or interrogate the narrative the government has been manufacturing to justify its persecution of regime dissidents.

Paradoxically, the only outlet that has offered a follow-up – as shown in the screenshot above of a Google search late this afternoon – was from the rightwing Israeli outlet The Jerusalem Post. Uniquely, its headline “‘Politically motivated intimidation’: George Galloway reportedly detained at Gatwick airport” captures the story the British media is carefully avoiding. The media aren't reporting the news. They are shaping the news to shape our minds, our perceptions, our sympathies. Until we grasp that simple fact, we will continue cheering those whose only goal is to keep oppressing us and enriching themselves.

George Galloway detained at Gatwick Airport



Public Broadcasting is a public good: Fund a public broadcaster

We believe that public broadcasting is a public good but if under-resourced undermines the achievement of the SABC's charter, the values of the constitution and independence from outside influences.

<https://www.sabc.co.za/sabc/charter/>

We need the SABC to truly hold the powerful to account it must be funded through parliament, after a fully independent public body has determined the appropriate funding levels that will strive to achieve the goals of the broadcaster.

To maintain independence, media integrity and sustainability we need an Independent Assessment of the funding needs be determined; An independent, expert body (e.g., a panel including the Auditor-General, civil society, and finance experts) must determine the SABC's full operational funding requirements to achieve the goals of its Charter, the Constitution and the Broadcasting Act, as well as ICASA licensing conditions.

Full democratic parliamentary approval: Following this independent assessment, a multi-year (8 years) funding allocation must be approved by a parliamentary majority. This will ensure broad political buy-in and removes the funding decision making and undue influence from the executive branch of government.

The reliance on advertising is counterproductive to meeting the goals that the SABC has set itself.

Long term sustained funding approved by a parliamentary majority will go a long way to avoid the influences of the market and the SABC becoming a state broadcaster.





The Hasbara Machinery and How to Counter It

- ▶ Explained with a South African lens on propaganda tactics, parallels to apartheid-era disinformation.
- ▶ Activists and media are encouraged to use empathy and verifiable evidence to challenge these narratives.
- ▶ South African social media movements are uniquely positioned to challenge official state narratives domestically and globally.

Common Hasbara Narrative Traps & How to Respond

Hasbara employs misinformation, weaponised antisemitism accusations, selective reporting, and false equivalences. South African media and activists must recognise and expose this machinery. Use evidence, empathy, and consistency to engage audiences. Avoid alienation; frame Palestinian rights as universal human rights.

Key examples include:

- ▶ “It started on October 7.” → Historical occupation and siege are the real context.
- ▶ “Israel targets Hamas, not civilians.” → Over 99% deaths are civilians, including children.
- ▶ “This is a war.” → One-sided military violence amounting to genocide.
- ▶ “Criticism of Israel is antisemitic.” → Supporting human rights is not antisemitism

Hasbara Claims vs. Reality

Hasbara Claim	Verified Fact
The crisis began on October 7 2023	It stems from continuous occupation, blockade, and apartheid since 1948
Israel targets only Hamas	99% of Gaza casualties are civilians, including children
Israel acts in self-defence.	International law denies self-defence claims by occupying powers; Palestinians have the right to resist
Israel has a right to defend itself.	Occupying states do not have the right to defend themselves in occupied territory.
This is a war	Israel's overpowering military superiority vs. a blockaded civilian population is state violence and genocide.
Criticism of Israel is antisemitic.	Critique opposes apartheid and occupation, supported by Jewish human rights groups globally.



Headline Reframing & Communication Guidelines

Communication Rules:

- ▶ Express empathy
- ▶ Use verifiable facts
- ▶ Stay calm, patient, and consistent
- ▶ Advocate peace and justice
- ▶ Frame Palestinian freedom as universal human rights
- ▶ Use truthful language that highlights culpability and power imbalances. For example, see table below:

Problematic Headlines

Clashes erupt in Gaza
Both sides suffer casualties
Gaza violence flares
Israel Responds to Hamas Attacks
Civilian Deaths Mount
Both Sides Suffer Casualties
Hamas Militants Die in Raid
West Bank Unrest
Gaza Violence Flares
Israel Under Threat
Airstrikes Hit Hamas Targets
Humanitarian Crisis Worsens

Effective Reframing

Israeli forces raid Gaza, killing hundreds of civilians
Palestinians bear overwhelming casualties in genocide
Israeli bombing escalates humanitarian crisis
Israel Bombards Gaza After October 7, Killing Thousands
Israeli Strikes Kill 200 Civilians in Gaza
Majority of Dead Are Palestinians
Israeli Forces Kill Palestinian Fighters
Armed Israeli Settlers Attack Palestinian Towns in West Bank
Israeli Bombing Campaign Escalates in Gaza
Israel Bombards Gaza, Killing Civilians After Rocket Fire
Israeli Strikes Flatten Residential Buildings in Gaza
Israeli Blockade Starves Gaza and Blocks Aid

Countering Israeli Hasbara Propaganda: 36 Narrative Traps and the Truths

Language shapes how the world understands Palestine. For decades, Israeli state messaging, often called Hasbara (public diplomacy or propaganda), has worked to control the story and frame Palestinians as aggressors and occupiers as victims. These narratives are repeated in newsrooms, classrooms, and conversations around the world until they sound like common sense.

This section exposes 36 of the most common narrative traps and gives you the truth behind them. Each trap is a phrase, headline, or talking point designed to mislead, distract, or justify violence against Palestinians. By naming the trap and offering a clear, factual counter-frame, you reclaim the conversation.

These truths are not just about winning arguments. They are about restoring dignity, centering Palestinian voices, and building public understanding of the real issues: land theft, apartheid, siege, and genocide. Share them in conversations, media interviews, op-eds, and community workshops. Consistency matters! The more often we repeat the truth, the harder it becomes for propaganda to stick.



1. It started on October 7th.

Counter: October 7 was not a beginning - it was a response to decades of occupation, blockade and ethnic cleansing. Justice cannot start from the middle of the story.

Proof: Gaza has been under siege since 2007, bombed every 1-2 years, and the West Bank has been under military occupation since 1967. Israel has violated over 45 UN resolutions with impunity.

Citations and source links:

UN Commission on Gaza Genocide 2025: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/israel-has-committed-genocide-gaza-strip-un-commission-finds>

B'Tselem reports on occupation: <https://www.btselem.org/publications>

UN Security Council resolutions: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

2. Before October 7, it was peaceful.

Counter: "Peace" under siege is not peace. It is slow violence. Removing the siege and occupation is the only path to real peace.

Proof: Thousands of Palestinians were killed or imprisoned in the years before October 7. Gaza's unemployment rate was over 45%, with 97% of water undrinkable due to the blockade.

Truth: Gaza endured siege, blockades, and high unemployment.

Citations and source links:

UNICEF Gaza water report: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/what-we-do/gaza>

Human Rights Watch Gaza reports: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/israel-and-palestine>

Amnesty International reports: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>

3. Hamas beheaded babies or put babies in ovens.

Counter: This claim is classic "atrocities propaganda". It was picked up as a rumour by a CNN reporter and parroted by mainstream media and heads of state alike, before being roundly debunked.

Truth: No credible evidence; debunked by investigations.

Proof: There is no evidence that babies were beheaded or put in ovens. The classic line "40 beheaded babies" is suspicious on its face, since the number is so well-rounded. No family members ever came forward with evidence and no memorial was ever held. Israeli newspaper Haaretz conducted an investigation on both claims and found them to be false.

Citations and source links:

Haaretz investigative report: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-10-20/ty-article-magazine/.highlight/fake-baby-atrocities-in-gaza/0000018a-8e22-d245-a5da-8ffe69360000>

Al Jazeera fact check: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/14/analysis-propaganda-deception-fake-news-and-psychological-warfare>



4. There were mass-rapes on October 7th.

Counter:

This is another example of atrocity propaganda designed to create maximum outrage against the people of Palestine and justify their annihilation. Israeli authorities in and around November 2023 claimed there were "dozens" of rape victims on October 7th. However, they later clarified they could not provide a number. While sexual violence is commonplace in conflict areas, the claim that these were widespread and systemic are false.

Proof: In January 2024, it was reported that several victims of sexual violence from 7 October and captivity in Gaza had come forward, but a number of these were later discredited. A UN report was "unable to establish the prevalence of sexual violence", and "did not gather information and/or draw conclusions on attribution of alleged violations to specific armed groups".

Truth: UN unable to confirm widespread allegations.

Citations and source links:

UN Human Rights report 2024: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/01/examining-allegations-sexual-violence-conflict-gaza>

Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/02/14/report-sexual-violence-conflict-gaza>

5. This is a war.

Counter: This is not a war - it's state violence against civilians. Calling it a "war" hides the power imbalance and makes genocide sound like a battle.

Proof: Gaza has no army, navy, air force, or defense system. Israel has one of the most advanced militaries on earth, backed by billions in U.S. military aid.

Truth: A one-sided state violence/genocide, not a war between equals.

Citations and source links:

ICJ Advisory Opinion: <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/131>

UN Genocide Convention Summary:

<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/Genocide%20Convention-FactSheet-ENG.pdf>

6. Israel is targeting Hamas, not civilians.

Counter: You cannot claim to target fighters when entire families are wiped off the civil registry. This is collective punishment - illegal under international law.

Proof: UN data shows over 99% of those killed are civilians, including thousands of children. Homes, hospitals, and schools have been deliberately targeted.

Truth: Over 99% civilians killed, including children; collective punishment.

Citations and source links:

UN OCHA Gaza civilian casualty data: <https://www.ochaopt.org/data/civilian-casualties>

WHO Health Facilities Report: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240049510>



7. Israel has the right to self-defence.

Counter: Israel's claim of self-defence is invalid under international law. Palestinians, by contrast, have a legally recognized right to resist occupation and seek self-determination. Palestinians, not Israel, have the legal right to resist foreign domination - including through armed struggle (UNGA Res. 37/43).

Proof: Under international law, an occupying power cannot claim self-defense against a population it occupies (ICJ Advisory Opinion, 2004). UNGA Resolutions 3314 (1974) and 37/43 (1982) affirm that peoples under colonial domination have the right to resist, including armed struggle. **Truth:** Occupying powers cannot claim self-defence against occupied peoples. **Citations and source links:**

UNGA Resolution 3314 (1974): <https://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/34/a34r3314.htm>

ICJ Advisory Opinion (2004): <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/131>

8. Palestinians are free in Gaza - Israel left in 2005.

Counter: Gaza is still occupied under international law. It is one of the most densely populated and surveilled places on earth - effectively a walled prison.

Proof: Israel controls Gaza's borders, sea, airspace, population registry, and imports/exports. Nothing enters or leaves without Israeli approval.

Truth: Full Israeli control of borders, airspace, imports/exports continues occupation.

Citations and source links:

B'Tselem report on Gaza siege: https://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip

UN Human Rights reports: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc>

9. Hamas hides behind civilians.

Counter: Even if it were true, bombing civilians remains illegal. Israel also places military sites in civilian areas - yet no one calls that "using human shields."

Proof: No independent investigation has found evidence of systematic human shield use. Gaza officials repeatedly invited international bodies to inspect hospitals, which Israel refused. **Truth:** No independent proof of systematic use of human shields; bombing civilians illegal.

Citations and source links:

Al-Haq Report: <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16704.html>

UN OCHA on civilian protection: <https://www.ochaopt.org/themes/protection>

10. Israel made the desert bloom.

Counter: This is a colonial myth that erases indigenous history and frames Palestinians as primitive. **Proof:** Palestine had thriving agriculture and exports before 1948, including citrus groves, olives, and grain. **Truth:** Palestine had thriving agriculture; this is a colonial myth. **Citations and source links:** UNESCO cultural heritage reports:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6094/>

Historical analysis of Palestinian agriculture: <https://africanarguments.org/2023/11/the-colonisation-of-palestine-exhuming-a-british-imperial-crime/>



11. Palestinians teach their kids to hate.

Counter: The environment of violence is created by occupation. Children are reacting to trauma - not indoctrination.

Proof: UNICEF reports show children suffer from PTSD due to bombings and siege, not propaganda. Most Palestinian art by children calls for freedom, not revenge.

Truth: Children suffer trauma due to violence; most art calls for freedom, not hate.

Citations and source links:

UNICEF reports on Palestinian children: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/gaza-strip>

Human Rights Watch child trauma reports: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/israel-and-palestine>

12. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East.

Counter: A democracy that rules millions of people without representation is an apartheid state, not a true democracy.

Proof: 5 million Palestinians live under Israeli rule but cannot vote. Two separate legal systems exist - civil law for settlers, military law for Palestinians. Israel is better described as an apartheid regime. Examples: Absentees' Property Law (1950): Legalized confiscation of land from expelled Palestinians.

Truth: Palestinians lack voting rights; apartheid system enforced.

Citations and source links:

ICJ Apartheid ruling 2024: <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/adv>

Amnesty International apartheid report: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/07/israel-apartheid/>

13. Settlements are legal.

Counter: Settlements are a war crime. Even the UN Security Council has condemned them repeatedly. **Proof:** Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly forbids transferring civilian populations into occupied territory.

Truth: Settlements violate Article 49 of Fourth Geneva Convention.

Citations and source links:

Fourth Geneva Convention text: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949/article-49>

UN Security Council Resolution 2334: <https://undocs.org/S/RES/2334> (2016)

14. Palestinians are special refugees.

Counter: Denying them the right of return is discrimination, not law. **Proof:** UNHCR applies the right of return to all refugees worldwide – Palestinians are the only group denied this right due to political pressure. **Truth:** UNHCR applies the right of return to all; Palestinians uniquely denied. **Citations and source links:**

UNHCR on refugee rights: <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-rights.html>

Al-Haq legal analysis: <https://www.alhaq.org/legal-analysis/16127.html>



15. This is a religious conflict.

Counter: This is about settler-colonialism and ethnic cleansing - not faith.

Proof: Palestinians include Muslims, Christians, Druze, and secular citizens. Early resistance movements were largely secular. **Truth:** Palestinians are diverse; struggle is settler-colonial.

Citations and source links:

Historical overviews: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Palestine

UN Reports on religious diversity: <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/religious-diversity-palestine>

16. Israel withdrew from Gaza to seek peace.

Counter: It was not a gift - it turned Gaza into a besieged enclave rather than a free state.

Proof: Withdrawal was accompanied by a blockade, heavy bombardment, and destruction of infrastructure. **Truth:** Withdrawal replaced by blockade and destruction.

Citations and source links:

Human Rights Watch Gaza siege report: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/10/gaza-siege-expansion>

UN OCHA humanitarian reports: <https://www.ochaopt.org/humanitarian-situation-gaza>

17. Palestinians could live in peace if they accepted Israel.

Counter: Acceptance did not equal equality. Freedom requires dismantling apartheid, not merely recognising the state.

Proof: Even Palestinians with Israeli citizenship face over 65 discriminatory laws (e.g., Absentees' Property Law, Nation-State Law). Land confiscation laws: Continually expropriate Palestinian land. Birthright citizenship: Global Jews can immigrate, but expelled Palestinians cannot return. Other violations include denial of movement, torture, administrative detention, separate legal systems, and even bans on rainwater collection. Reports from Amnesty, B'Tselem, and HRW confirm apartheid practices.

Truth: Apartheid laws and discrimination prevent equality.

Citations and source links:

Amnesty reports on discriminatory laws: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/02/israel-institutionalized-discrimination/>

B'Tselem reports: <https://www.btselem.org/publications>

18. Israel warns civilians before bombing.

Counter: Giving a warning doesn't legalize a war crime. It just documents intent.

Proof: People were bombed while evacuating and in "safe zones." Entire neighborhoods were erased after "roof knocking." **Truth:** Warnings do not protect civilians from war crimes.

Citations and source links: ICRC on protection of civilians: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/protection-civilians-international-humanitarian-law>

Al Jazeera analysis: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/14/analysis-propaganda-deception-fake-news-and-psychological-warfare>



19. Casualties are exaggerated.

Counter: Dismissing Palestinian death tolls is dehumanization - their lives count just as much as anyone else's.

Proof: Even U.S. intelligence and WHO confirm Gaza's Ministry of Health figures are historically accurate.

Truth: WHO and Palestinian Ministry data are reliable and verified.

Citations and source links:

WHO on Gaza casualties: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240049510>

Reuters casualty methodology: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/how-many-palestinians-as-israels-gaza-offensive-killed-2025-03-24/>

20. If Hamas disarmed, there would be peace.

Counter: The problem is not resistance - it's occupation. Disarming without ending apartheid just makes Palestinians more vulnerable.

Proof: Nonviolent protestors during the 2018 Great March of Return were shot, blinded, and killed by snipers. It is not a symmetrical war but genocide. Hamas, founded in 1987 during the first Intifada, is a resistance movement, not a state army. Gaza has no army, navy, or air force, while Israel is a nuclear power. IOF systematically targets civilians, hospitals, schools, and infrastructure. Death tolls overwhelmingly consist of civilians (over 20,000 killed in the first seven weeks of 2023). Israeli leaders openly cite biblical verses calling for extermination, demonstrating genocidal intent/ Dehumanization rhetoric ("human animals," "children of darkness") echoes Nazi propaganda.

Truth: Resistance is lawful against occupation; disarming without ending apartheid increases vulnerability.

Citations and source links:

UNGA Resolution 37/43: https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/37/43

Human Rights Watch reports: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/israel-and-palestine>

21. Israel allows humanitarian aid.

Counter: Starving a civilian population is a war crime, not a security measure.

Proof: Aid trucks are regularly blocked or delayed. Water, fuel, and electricity are cut as collective punishment.

Truth: Aid is blocked or delayed; collective punishment continues.

Citations and source links:

UN OCHA reports: <https://www.ochaopt.org/humanitarian-access>

Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/05/israel-humanitarian-blockade-hurts-civilians/>



22. Israel is defending Western values.

Counter: Justice for Palestine is a defense of universal values, not an attack on them.

Proof: Universal human rights - freedom of movement, equality before the law -are Western values. Israel is violating them daily.

Truth: Israel violates human rights daily; Palestinian rights protect universal values.

Citations and source links:

ICJ ruling summary: <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/adv>

UN Human Rights Council: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc>

23. A two-state solution will solve everything.

Counter: Without equal rights and dismantling apartheid laws, a “state” in name only is not freedom.

Proof: Current maps leave Palestinians with disconnected bantustans under Israeli control.

Truth: Current plans leave Palestinians confined to disconnected enclaves.

Citations and source links:

B'Tselem: https://www.btselem.org/planning_and_building

UN Reports on West Bank: <https://www.ochaopt.org/theme/area-c>

24. Pro-Palestine protests are antisemitic.

Counter: Criticising a government is not hatred of a people. Standing for human rights protects everyone.

Proof: Thousands of Jewish groups and rabbis march in pro-Palestinian protests worldwide.

Truth: Jewish groups globally support pro-Palestinian human rights.

Citations and source links:

Jewish Voice for Peace: <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>

Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/israel-and-palestine>

25. From the River to the Sea is genocidal.

Counter: It means freedom across all of historic Palestine - for everyone, including Jews who wish to live there peacefully.

Proof: The phrase has been used for decades as a call for decolonization and equality, not genocide.

Truth: The Phrase calls for freedom and equality for all in historic Palestine.

Citations and source links:

Palestinian civil society statements: <https://www.alhaq.org/>

BDS Movement: <https://bdsmovement.net/code-of-conduct>



26. There is no occupation - Palestinians control their land.

Counter: True sovereignty means control over your borders, trade, and security - Palestinians have none.

Proof: Israel controls 60% of the West Bank (Area C) and all borders, resources, and airspace.

Truth: Israel controls most of the West Bank (Area C) and the borders.

Citations and source links:

UN OCHA reports on Area C: <https://www.ochaopt.org/theme/area-c>

B'Tselem overview: https://www.btselem.org/area_c

27. International law is on Israel's side.

Counter: International law supports Palestinian rights to return, resist occupation, and live freely.

Proof: The ICJ, UN, and major human rights organizations repeatedly find Israel in violation of international law (occupation, settlements, apartheid).

Truth: UN, ICJ, and human rights groups find Israel in violation of international law.

Citations and source links:

ICJ rulings: <https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/adv>

Amnesty and HRW: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/>

28. Critics of Israel are terrorists or supporters of terror.

Counter: Calling advocacy terrorism is a tactic to silence dissent - just as it was used against anti-apartheid activists in South Africa.

Proof: Human rights defenders, journalists, and lawyers are regularly targeted with spyware, arrests, and travel bans by Israel.

Truth: Advocacy is silenced through false terror accusations.

Citations and source links:

Amnesty report on Israel's repression: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/2025/en/>

29. Israel is fighting for survival.

Counter: It is not survival when you control every aspect of another people's life - it is domination.

Proof: Israel has nuclear weapons, U.S. backing, and one of the most powerful militaries in the world.

Truth: Israel's power, nuclear arsenal, and US aid negate survival claims.

Citations and source links:

UN Security Council records: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025>



30. Palestinians sell their land willingly.

Counter: Isolated cases of sale cannot justify ethnic cleansing or apartheid.

Proof: Most land was taken through force, expulsions (Nakba), and discriminatory laws.

Truth: Most land was taken through force, illegal laws, and expulsions.

Citations and source links:

UN OCHA land confiscation reports: <https://www.ochaopt.org/theme/land>

B'Tselem: https://www.btselem.org/land_and_property

31. Western media is balanced.

Counter: Media bias is real and shapes public opinion — that's why we must share uncensored facts. **Proof:** Studies show Israeli deaths are mentioned far more frequently in Western coverage, and Palestinian deaths are often reported passively ("died" vs "killed"). **Truth:** Media coverage disproportionately focuses on Israeli casualties.

Citations and source links:

Media bias study: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/5/failing-gaza-pro-israel-bias-uncovered>

BBC overview of misinformation: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/ztfwtcw>

32. This will never be solved - it's too complicated.

Counter: It's not complicated - it's politically inconvenient. Justice and equality are the only sustainable solutions. **Proof:** Solutions exist - equal rights for all, dismantling apartheid laws, and upholding refugee rights.

Truth: Equal rights and refugee return are achievable and just.

Citations and source links:

UN recommendations: <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/Genocide%20Convention-FactSheet-ENG.pdf>

33. Criticism of Israel is antisemitic.

Counter: Opposing genocide, apartheid, and occupation is not antisemitism. It is a human rights position. One can respect Judaism, reject antisemitism, and still demand that Israel be held accountable for violations of international law.

Proof: Palestinians are Semites too. They speak a Semitic language and are indigenous to the region. Criticising the policies of a state is not the same as hating a religion or a group of people. Zionism was originally promoted by European Christian antisemites who wanted Jews expelled from Europe. Many Jewish communities today, including Jewish Voice for Peace and Neturei Karta, publicly oppose Israel's actions and say Not in Our Name. **Truth:** Palestinians are indigenous Semites; opposing occupation is not antisemitism.

Citations and source links:

Jewish Voice for Peace: <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>

Al-Haq legal statements: <https://www.alhaq.org/>



34. Jews are the indigenous people of the land.

Counter: Palestinians are the indigenous people of historic Palestine. Zionist settlement is a 20th-century colonial project that displaced the native population. It is not a return of an indigenous people but a takeover of their land.

Proof: Judaism is a religion, not an ethnicity. Genetic studies show that most modern Israelis descend from European or other migrant populations. Palestinians, on the other hand, have genetic continuity with the ancient Canaanites and have lived on the land for centuries. **Truth:** Palestinians have genetic and historical continuity; Zionism is a colonial migration. **Citations and source links:**

Genetic studies summary: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Palestine

Historical anthropology: <https://africanarguments.org/2023/11/the-colonisation-of-palestine-exhuming-a-british-imperial-crime/>

35. Bring the hostages home.

Proof: Israel rejected multiple early hostage exchange proposals during the first 47 days of the war. At the same time, it holds more than 8,600 Palestinian prisoners, including women and children, many under administrative detention without charge or trial.

Currently, 48 Israeli hostages remain in Gaza. In addition, 1.9 million Gazans have been displaced and are living under siege conditions, with little access to food, water, or medical care. **Counter:** All hostages must be freed. This includes the 48 Israelis still held in Gaza, the thousands of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, and the 1.9 million Gazans trapped under blockade and bombardment.

Truth: Israel holds thousands of Palestinians in administrative detention, many without trial. **Citations and source links:**

Human Rights Watch on detention: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/02/10/israeli-administrative-detention>

UN reports on hostages: <https://www.ohchr.org/en>

36. Israel created safe zones for civilians.

Counter: There are no safe zones in Gaza. Forcing civilians to move within occupied territory is illegal under international humanitarian law according to Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Proof: Israel has bombed evacuation routes, UN shelters, and areas in southern Gaza after instructing civilians to move there. The population of 2.3 million is being pushed into less than 40 percent of Gaza's land, without food, water, fuel, or electricity.

Truth: Safe zones are bombed; forced displacement is illegal under international law.

Citations and source links:

ICRC on illegal forced displacement: <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/illegal-forced-displacement.pdf>

UN OCHA humanitarian updates: <https://www.ochaopt.org/humanitarian-situation-gaza>



بمناسبة شهر رمضان المبارك
نتمنى لكم صيفا مبهجا وخطرا هنيئا
لما دله عليكم واثم وعنا لكم بكل
خير وصحة وسعادة.
رمضان الكريم

SECTION 4. RESOURCES, CONTACTS & FURTHER READING

- ▶ Palestine Solidarity Campaign Cape Town South Africa: <https://psc-ct.org.za>
- ▶ Palestine Solidarity Alliance South Africa: <https://palestinesa.co.za>
- ▶ South Africa Palestine Movement: www.southafricapalestinemovement.org ; info@southafricapalestinemovement.org
- ▶ Gift of the Givers humanitarian work: <https://giftofthegivers.org>
- ▶ Amnesty International Israel/Palestine Reports: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories>
- ▶ B'Tselem Israel Information Centre: <https://www.btselem.org>
- ▶ UN OHCHR Genocide and Israel reports: <https://www.ohchr.org>
- ▶ South African Press Council: <https://www.presscouncil.org.za>
- ▶ Workers World Solidarity with Palestine: <https://wwmp.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/Solidarity-Palestine.pdf>
(See Appendix D for a list of media, legal, and solidarity organisations)
- ▶ KwaZulu-Natal Palestine Solidarity Forum: kznpsf@gmail.com
- ▶ KZN PALART: kznpalart@gmail.com





Essential Links for Further Reference

1. UN Genocide Convention and definitions: <https://www.un.org/en/genocide-prevention/definition>
2. UN Commission on Gaza Genocide Report 2025: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/israel-has-committed-genocide-gaza-strip-un-commission-finds>
3. ICJ Cases including South Africa v. Israel: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Court_of_Justice_cases
4. B'Tselem reports on apartheid & occupation: <https://www.btselem.org/publications>
5. Amnesty International: Israel/Gaza human rights reports: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>
6. Human Rights Watch on settlements: <https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/n-africa/israel/palestine>
7. South African Press Code: <https://www.presscouncil.org.za/>
8. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in occupied Palestinian territory: <https://www.ochaopt.org/>
9. UNICEF Gaza water and children's rights: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/what-we-do/gaza>
10. Media Ethics and Reporting Guidelines: <https://bdsmovement.net/7-points-ethical-and-professional-journalistic-principles>



ENDORSEMENTS



