



Scottish Palestinian Forum

STATEMENT ON THE RULING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

We thank and applaud South Africa for bringing the case of Israel's genocide in Gaza to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The decision by the ICJ to allow the case to go forward should resonate with those, including the UK government and Labour Party, who have shown unwavering support for Israel's brutal bombing campaign in Gaza. It further reinforces the calls for a complete arms embargo on Israel - by continuing to sell arms to Israel the UK is in danger of being complicit in committing the crime of genocide¹.

Today's preliminary ruling putting in place provisional measures² is a step in the right direction and offers the hope that international law is available for Palestinians, but an immediate ceasefire is still needed. We need a ceasefire so the killing ends and hostages can return to their families. We need negotiations to deliver a lasting and just peace – not a return to the unacceptable situation prior to 7 October 2023.

Previous calls by the US, UK and European nations, as well as UN Security Council resolution 2730 that called for "*immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance*" have been ignored by Israel. Similarly, Israel has ignored calls to ensure the safety of civilians in Gaza, and the death toll among civilians continues to rise. As of 26 January, at least 26,083 Palestinians have been killed, over 10,000 of them children.

We welcome the requirement for Israel to report their compliance to the court in one month. We call on the UK government to move beyond empty words of concern and to make clear to Israel that it will take concrete steps, including imposing sanctions, if Israel fails to comply with the court's provisional measures.

1. According to Campaign Against the Arms Trade approximately 15% of components used in Israel's bombing of Gaza with F-35 aircraft are supplied by the UK, and since 2015 the UK has approved military export licenses to Israel totalling at least £474 million.

Adopted by the Committee on 27 January 2024

Statements issued by the Committee do not necessarily reflect the views of all member groups.

2. Provisional measures demanded by the court:

- a) take all measures to ensure that acts deemed genocidal under the Genocide Convention do not take place in Gaza;
- b) ensure that its military does not commit genocidal acts;
- c) prevent and punish genocide incitement and rhetoric;
- d) enable and facilitate the provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza;
- e) prevent destruction of and preserve evidence of genocide in its military operations, and
- f) report to the court within one month, informing the court of its compliance with today's preliminary measures order, and in response to South Africa's genocide complaint.