



Women in Black
London

Israeli armed forces' deadly response to Palestinian protest

Israeli Defence Forces are allegedly committing a war crime by firing live ammunition at Palestinian protestors across the Gaza border, when there is no evidence that the Palestinians' actions are a threat to Israeli safety. The state has mobilized several infantry brigades and 100 sharpshooters who in six weeks have shot dead 100 + Palestinians, including several journalists, and injured 5000 unarmed protestors.

March 30 to May 15 : The Palestinian "Great Return March"

The turmoil on the border of the Gaza Strip and the Israeli state is due to many of Gaza's residents currently assembling there in what they term their "Great Return March". The action began on 'Land Day', March 30, and culminated on 'Nakba Day', May 15, when Palestinians remember and mourn the expulsion from their towns, villages and farmlands of 700,000 Palestinians during the violent establishment of a Jewish State with international support in 1948. The Palestinian marchers have established camps at a distance of a few hundred yards from the Israeli border. Emerging from their tents each day the demonstrators are clustering near the razor-wire fence, making their point by throwing stones, setting fire to Israel flags and burning tyres from which smoke blackens the skies. The protests have been further provoked by Donald Trump's relocation this week of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Many Israeli Jews also oppose their government's actions

Our organization Women in Black was founded in Israel in 1988 by Jewish and Palestinian women uniting for an end to the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Many Israeli Jews today likewise oppose their government's current policies and call for justice for Palestinians. On Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron), April 18, Israeli peace and human rights groups such as Combatants for Peace, Breaking the Silence, Bereaved Families Forum and B'Tselem gathered at 'alternative' commemorations in Tel Aviv and elsewhere. Such groups support the call of Human Rights Watch that the Israeli state should without delay be brought before the International Criminal Court for the current shootings, which they believe constitute war crime.

Meanwhile, Gaza Health Authority's Al-Shifa and Al-Aqsa Hospitals and clinics are overwhelmed by the influx of wounded, many with very serious injuries. Please help by donating to:
Medical Aid for Palestinians <<https://www.map.org.uk/donate/>>

Please sign and send to: The Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA.

With Women in Black, I call on the UK Government to:

- Condemn the continuing Israeli Occupation of Palestinian lands, the construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the blockade of the Gaza Strip and shooting of demonstrators.
- Support international status for Jerusalem as a city significant for Muslims, Jews and Christians.
- Urge a new peace initiative for the creation of a viable independent state of Palestine.
- Meanwhile join the international regime of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel.

Signature.....Name.....

Address.....

Contact Women in Black at: <wibinfo@gn.apc.org> <www.london.womeninblack.org>
<[Twitter@WIB_London](https://twitter.com/WIB_London)> <www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london>

Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday between 6 and 7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London WC2. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. **Do join us!**