



Women in Black London

Ceasefire now Gaza, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon

Escalation of war in Gaza and Lebanon: One year ago, in response to years of persecution, blockades and imprisonment within the closed confines of Gaza, Hamas attacked Israel. We remember the 1,200 who were killed on that day and those taken hostage, of whom 100 are still missing. Many communities in Northern Israel – Palestinian and Israeli, have since had to evacuate their towns and villages.

We also remember those who have died in the violence that followed and has escalated since. Iranian backed Hezbollah rockets are launched into Israel. Israel retaliates with air strikes and now a ground invasion into Lebanon. Israel is issuing warnings to the civilian populations to evacuate areas where they believe Hezbollah are operating. As in Gaza, there is nowhere to go that is safe. We are now facing an all-out war in the Middle East with the potential of nuclear and environmental disasters.

Gaza: The cycle of violence, initially unleashed on the people of Gaza, has caused more than 41,500 deaths, including 1,000 health workers. While the media has changed focus to Lebanon, military action continues in Gaza. Since 30 September the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Gaza, report that 187 Palestinians were killed and 485 were injured. 90% of the 2.3 million people who live in the Gaza Strip have been displaced from their homes, struggling to find shelter, food and safe clear water. Polio was eradicated from the Gaza Strip in 1999, but a strain was detected in routine wastewater testing in July. A second vaccination campaign is due to begin this month, integrating other health issues created by the war.

More here <https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1636-after-a-year-of-catastrophic-failure-the-international-community-must-act-urgently-to-protect-palestinian-survival-in-gaza> and here <https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1636-after-a-year-of-catastrophic-failure-the-international-community-must-act-urgently-to-protect-palestinian-survival-in-gaza>

Lebanon: Between 16 September and early October, 1,000 people were killed. A further 752 have been killed since Israel's ground invasion. At least 33 people have been killed in Israel. Following the 7 October attacks tens of thousands were displaced in South Lebanon. Now, with the spread of war into Lebanon an estimated 90,000 Lebanese have been displaced.

More here: <https://www.unocha.org/lebanon> and here <https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1634-map-expresses-grave-concern-about-escalating-israeli-military-attacks-on-civilians-in-lebanon>

The West Bank. Since 7 October 2023, 700 people have been killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, mostly by the Israeli Defence Forces and settler groups. At the same time, Israeli authorities have destroyed, demolished, confiscated, or forced the demolition of 1,478 Palestinian structures across the West Bank, displacing more than 3,477 Palestinians, including about 1,485 children. Thousands of Palestinian men and women have been detained without trial and are in Israeli prisons.

More here <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-225-west-bank-enar>

We stand in solidarity with Palestinian women in the Occupied Territories in their struggle for justice, peace, well-being and a secure, prosperous and nonviolent future for themselves and their children. We stand with Israeli partners too, such as Women in Black Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem, the Coalition of Women for Peace, Machsom Watch and other organizations in which Jewish and Palestinian Israeli women work together for a peace agreement and sustain contact with Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza. With them, we call for full equality in Israel for Jewish and non-Jewish citizens alike.

Women in Black London call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire and an end to UK arms sales to Israel. The recent Government statement that 30 export licences have been cancelled is not enough. We call especially for the cancellation of all parts for Israel's F-35 warplanes used in air attacks. Dialogue, diplomacy and nonviolent means of securing peace offer the only way forward for the people of Palestine and Israel and now Lebanon and Iran.

*Please share this leaflet with others and write to your own MP
(<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>)*



Women in Black hold vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the National Portrait Gallery, St. Martin's Place, London WC2. Our vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. We welcome all women who support our call for an end to militarism and war. *Contact us:* Twitter @WIB_London FB @womeninblack.london

Donations for leaflets most welcome

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