



Call on Andy Burnham: end arms sales to Israel; stop the import of goods from illegal settlements!

Gaza

90% of the Gaza Strip has been reduced to contaminated rubble, with Israel now in control of 80% of its territory. At least 77,000 Palestinians have been killed, of whom 21,500 were children. The UN says around two thirds of Gaza's two million people are living in tents or makeshift shelters. There are also reports that Israel is blocking access to medical care for Palestinians.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/7/7/palestine-weekly-one-thousand-days-of-genocide-in-gaza>

Moreover, 98.5 percent of cropland and water sources in the Gaza Strip are either damaged, degraded, contaminated or simply inaccessible (due to imposed 'no-go' zones).

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/fao-press-release-09aug25/>

And of course international journalists are still not allowed independent access to Gaza.

Attempts to bring peace remain deadlocked because Israel refuses to consider any plan for Gaza unless Hamas completely disarms, while Hamas says it will not disarm until Israel ends 'all forms of aggression' and withdraws its forces from Gaza. <https://theowp.org/netanyahu-rejects-gaza-peace-plan-further-stalling-peace-efforts/> Meanwhile Israeli attacks on Gaza currently appear to be escalating.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/8/29/israeli-attacks-across-gaza-kill-two-people-hit-hospital-supply-warehouse>

Palestine

Israel continues to expand settlements in the West Bank, strategically placed to increase its control and to further isolate East Jerusalem, intended as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

<https://www.icjpalastine.com/2026/07/03/israels-approval-of-new-illegal-settlements-will-further-isolate-east-jerusalem-and-deepen-its-unlawful-occupation/> The Israeli government has just invited bids for the

construction of the E1 (East 1) settlement in the occupied West Bank. This would link other illegal Israeli settlements to occupied East Jerusalem, effectively severing the West Bank in two. Both supporters and critics agree that its construction would end the possibility of a Palestinian state. Now settlers are targeting Palestinian Industry and agriculture as well as homes across the occupied West Bank, with the intention of destroying the local economy and forcing further displacement.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2026/8/27/israeli-settlers-targeting-palestinian-factories-to-force-workers-off-land> As the West Bank Protection Consortium (WBPC) reports, 'Displacement means families

can no longer farm their land, graze their livestock or earn the income they need to survive.'

<https://www.nrc.no/news/2026/west-bank-settler-violence-forces-palestinians-from-their-homes-into-worsening-conditions> There have been minor protests by former Israeli prime ministers and other important figures, for example a letter to Netanyahu and the military notes: "The crimes of Jewish terrorism in the territories are reminiscent of similar crimes and pogroms committed against our people by other nations in eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries." <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jun/24/israeli-former-leaders-security-chiefs-legal-action-jewish-terrorism-west-bank> However, it seems that such protests have no effect.

Women in Black London stand in solidarity with women in Gaza, Palestine and Israel, in their struggle for justice, peace, well-being and a secure, prosperous and nonviolent future for themselves and their children. We believe that it is now urgent to pressurise Andy Burnham to take real action to end UK arms sales to Israel and approve a ban on goods linked to illegal Israeli settlements



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. Women in Black also hold a vigil on Saturday from 12-1pm on Euston Road outside Friends House. 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.

Facebook: [@womeninblack.london](https://www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london)

Donations for leaflets welcome

Website: london.womeninblack.org

September 2026