

# Gaza: End war crimes, lift the siege



*Displaced Palestinians after Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City, 10 Oct. Mohammed Zaanoun / ActiveStills*

Last week, Palestinian fury erupted in an armed rebellion provoked by

- 234 deaths at the hands of the Israeli military and settlers this year before 7 October,
- systematic house demolitions and land seizures that amount to ethnic cleansing,
- preparations to annex the whole of the West Bank,
- the 16-year siege of Gaza,
- seven massive Israeli military attacks on Gaza since 2004 causing thousands of Palestinian deaths and tens of thousands of injuries,
- a legal framework of systematic discrimination.

In short: Israeli apartheid.

We abhor the deaths of any civilians, Israeli or Palestinian, and we want the killing to stop immediately. The slaughter of Israeli civilians last Saturday does not justify the Israeli slaughter of Palestinian civilians from Sunday onwards. We are outraged that political leaders in Britain and the US ignored the Israeli state terror unleashed on Gaza this week in preparation for a ground invasion, with indiscriminate bombing and cutting off electricity, water, fuel, and food. These are war crimes. There are no excuses for those who endorse them, fund and supply the weapons for them, or stay silent. No more blank cheques for Israel.