

## Before 7 October

When armed Palestinians crossed into Israel on 7 Oct, their attack was not unprovoked. By then, there were ● 240 Palestinians killed this year by the Israeli military and settlers, ● systematic house demolitions and land seizures that amount to ethnic cleansing, ● preparations to annex the whole of the West Bank, ● repeated invasions of the al Aqsa mosque by ultranationalist religious settlers cheered on by the National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, ● the prospect of Israeli normalisation with Saudi Arabia, ● the 16-year siege of Gaza, ● seven massive Israeli attacks on Gaza since 2004 causing thousands of Palestinian deaths and tens of thousands of injuries, ● the ongoing legacy of 1948, when Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from villages now in Israel.

Israeli politicians called months ago for Gaza to be attacked and re-occupied. In May, the Finance Minister Belazel Smotrich, a self-declared fascist homophobe, stated *"The time will probably come to return to Gaza, disassemble Hamas and demilitarize Gaza. I believe the moment will come when there won't be a choice but to reconquer Gaza. [But] at the moment it is not relevant."*

## West Bank

While the slaughter continues in Gaza, 61 people have been killed and 1,250 injured in the occupied West Bank since October 7. As protests erupted across the territory, Palestinian Authority security forces fired tear gas and stun grenades in Ramallah. The PA coordinates with Israel on security.

The Palestinian movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions was inspired by South Africa. Its founder Omar Barghouti wrote in The Guardian, *"Those who have failed to condemn the original and ongoing violence of oppression have no moral standing to condemn illegal or immoral acts of violence committed by the oppressed."*

**We abhor all attacks on civilians. The Hamas slaughter of Israeli civilians on 7 October does not justify the massive ongoing Israeli slaughter of Palestinian civilians.**



## Merseyside

What's it got to do with us? Our communities are affected by the slaughter in Gaza. The Tory government and Labour leadership gave the green light to Israel. Local government pension funds on Merseyside are invested in arms firms which supply components for jets, tanks and bombs used on Gaza, and in Israeli banks which fund the illegal settlements. Arms firms supplying Israel fund research at the University of Liverpool. Israeli firms participated in the Arms Fair sponsored by Liverpool City Council in 2021. We will not be silenced.

**Break the links with Israeli apartheid!**