

South Africa ignites Palestine solidarity

South Africa has Israel up before the International Court of Justice on a charge of genocide. It has

- put evidence of Israeli genocidal acts and genocidal intent on the public record at the highest level;
- forced the Palestinian narrative and Israeli 'genocide' into media reports;
- stimulated charges of 'complicity with genocide' against the US gov't; the Met are looking at possible complicity of four UK politicians.
- triggered action in California, which shut the Port of Oakland for 24 hours as longshore workers refused to cross a mass community picket line.

Genocidal acts in Gaza

The South African team gave the ICJ irrefutable evidence from Gaza.

More than 130 staff of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) were killed in bombardments, most with their families. The head of UNRWA told the UN *"In my 35 years working in complex emergencies, I have never written such a letter – predicting the killing of my staff and the collapse of the mandate I am expected to fulfil."*

Israel has killed over 311 doctors, nurses and other health workers, including doctors and ambulance drivers while on duty. Before he was killed in a hospital strike, Dr Mahmoud Abu Nujaila wrote on a Gaza hospital whiteboard, *"We did what we could. Remember us."*

Unarmed people – including Israeli hostages – were shot dead on sight, despite posing no threat, even while waving white flags. Hundreds of entire Palestinian families were wiped out, with no survivors.



Genocidal intent in Israel

Prime Minister Netanyahu had invoked the Biblical story of the total destruction of Amalek by the Israelites, killing all the men, women, children and infants. South Africa showed the ICJ a video of Israeli soldiers singing in echo of Netanyahu, promising vengeance against all of Gaza.

When Israel imposed a complete siege, Defense Minister Gallant declared *"We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly."* He told troops he had *"released all the restraints"*. His advisor declared *"The people should be told that they have two choices; to stay and to starve, or to leave... severe epidemics in the south of the Gaza Strip will bring victory closer."*

What next?

In the next few weeks, the ICJ may declare "provisional measures" ordering Israel to stop all or part of its military activity, and/or to prosecute those inciting genocide. Israel will probably ignore the order. A full hearing will take years. Nevertheless, the cat is out of the bag.

Over 60 countries are supporting South Africa. It's up to all of us to end Israeli impunity and hold our government accountable for this nightmare. Some details of UK diplomatic, economic and military involvement and the Merseyside role are on the back. ➔