

Massacring Palestinians since 1948

We are witnessing the largest massacre of Palestinians since 1948. By late April nearly 35,000 Palestinians had been killed in Gaza, of whom 70% were women or children. This is fifteen times more deaths than the previous highest massacre in 2014. Over 10,000 more are missing, probably buried under the building rubble.

The displacement south of Palestinians on the orders of the Israeli military, has left Rafah with nearly 1.5 million inhabitants. Netanyahu warned that Rafah will be invaded, whether or not a hostage exchange is agreed.

On Monday May 6 the Israeli army ordered tens of thousands of Palestinians to evacuate the East of Rafah, threatening destruction.

Hamas then accepted an Egyptian-Qatari ceasefire proposal, including a hostage exchange, little different from one previously agreed by Israel. But the army escalated bombardment.

On May 7 Israel defied the world and invaded Rafah.

Seizing control of the main crossing for humanitarian aid immediately put hundreds of thousands of Palestinians at risk, as forewarned by the UN.

The destruction of hospitals, mosques, schools, refugee camps and homes has left Gaza almost uninhabitable, tent cities with no heating, water or sanitation.

Mass graves uncovered in the ruins of Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis and al-Shifa in Gaza City



Liverpool Lime St 7 May emergency demo as Israel invades Rafah

contained nearly 700 corpses, some with hands bound, suggesting executions.

Famine and UNWRA

For years, Israel has planned to get rid of UNRWA, established in 1950 specifically to support Palestinian refugees. In January Israel claimed that UNRWA staff were involved in the October 7 Hamas attack, but gave no evidence. The UK government, with the US and others, immediately ended financial support.

A recent UN sponsored review said that Israel has provided no evidence that UNRWA violates the principle of neutrality. It called UNRWA a "humanitarian lifeline".

UNRWA is the only agency able to deliver enough food and fuel to avert the threatened famine. We demand the restoration of UK funding and that UNRWA can operate without restriction in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Demand for arms embargo on Israel

After the assassination of aid workers, 600 lawyers and some MPs called for an end to military exports to Israel.

On May Day, pro-Palestine activists and trade unions demonstrated outside the UK Department of Business and Trade, in solidarity with civil servants (PCS members) refusing to work or deal with export licences for Israel due to concerns over the arms' use in the genocide in Gaza.

Elbit has had 95 UK licences for military exports since 2008. BAE, which supplies 15% of each F-35, is active at the University of Liverpool, and has £8.8m from the Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF). Raytheon sells bunker buster bombs, sidewinder missiles, F-35 components, is active at the University and has £628k from the MPF.