

US/UK let Israel defy World Court

In January the International Court of Justice (ICJ, World Court) gave an interim ruling that there was a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza and called on Israel to “take all measures within its power” to prevent violations of articles of the Genocide Convention.

In March it called on Israel to allow “the unhindered provision at scale ... of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance.”

On 24 May, facing the Rafah invasion which the UK and US had previously said they opposed, the ICJ instructed Israel to:

- end immediately its military offensive and any other action in Rafah “which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.”
- open the Rafah crossing on the Gaza-Egypt border.
- allow United Nations missions unimpeded access to Gaza.

Israel rejected the court’s judgement claiming that its military operations were consistent with international law and designed to avoid risk to civilians.

Tal as-Sultan

Two days later missiles with US-made GBU-39 bombs hit a tent city in Tal as-Sultan, an area of Rafah which Israel designated as a “safe zone” for displaced Palestinians.

Over 45 civilians were killed. Prime Minister Netanyahu called it a ‘tragic mistake’. This adds to the



Palestinians flee Tal-as-Sultan after Israeli masscre kills 45, defying World Court

36,000 other ‘tragic mistakes’ since October 7 and the 800,000 who fled from Rafah before the strike!

After the strike, the US said the Rafah operation does not cross any “red lines” — so arms shipments continue.

Algeria and France sought a Security Council resolution ordering Israel to halt its Rafah offensive, demanding a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all captives held by Hamas. The US called it “not helpful”. The UK told Hamas, not Israel, to lay down its arms and release the hostages.

Silent on defiance

Britain made no comment on Israel’s contempt for the ICJ. Sir Keir Starmer, formerly a human rights lawyer, stayed silent on defiance of the court.

Please send this message to all candidates in the coming General election.

“We are writing to urge you, as one of our current and prospective political representatives, to state publicly your support for the recent International Court of Justice ruling that Israel must cease its assault on Rafah. In the light of this ruling we also urge you to call for a two-way arms embargo on Israel.

“Given the horrendous and unacceptable death toll in Gaza it is vital that you make your voice heard without delay, in support of an immediate ceasefire and an end to the Israeli occupation.”

Put politicians on the spot, as we impose Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions on Israeli apartheid!