

# Atrocities without limit

There are no limits to Israeli atrocities against Palestinians.

At least 92 were killed when the so-called safe 'evacuation zone' Al-Mawasi near Khan Younis was hit with US-supplied massive payload bombs on 13 July.

UN schools and even the Gaza HQ of UNRWA – the only competent relief agency in Gaza and the West Bank – are destroyed.

There is no control over acts of cruelty. 24-year-old Muhammed Bhar, who had Downs Syndrome, was mauled to death by an Israeli attack dog and left to die while his family were shut out of their home.

Vigilante attacks and racist court processes drive Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem and West Bank farms.

Over 40,000 Palestinians lie dead. *The Lancet* puts the 'direct and indirect' death toll at 186,000, as famine and the destruction of hospitals will kill in future. Lack of food makes 76% of pregnant women in Gaza anaemic and children are dying of malnutrition.

The US holds Israel's purse-strings and could stop the killing any time. They choose instead to prop up an increasingly unstable regime.

## Labour's challenge

If Keir Starmer actually wanted to reset policy rather than posture on Palestine, he could:

- Respect the rulings of the International Court of Justice, avoid complicity in genocide
- Restore funding for UNRWA



Nuseirat 14 July 2024 airstrike on UN school (Ramadan Abed/Reuters)

- Stop arming Israel directly or via the US, and publish the legal advice as Labour demanded before the election
  - Stop obstructing International Criminal Court warrants
- Starmer knows that continuing Sunak's challenge to the ICC's right to prosecute Netanyahu and Gallant for war crimes is legal nonsense. It comes from Tel Aviv via Washington. Labour could have dropped it two weeks ago.

## Why we still march

The Israeli regime is under pressure. 46,000 businesses have shut down. The Red Sea port of Eilat has been idle for 8 months and is insolvent. International companies are growing wary. Pret a Manger has abandoned its plan to open 40 Israeli outlets. Intel has 'paused' its \$25bn plan to build a microchip plant in southern Israel.

The US Presbyterian church (1.2M members) voted to divest from Israeli bonds. Norway's biggest pension fund divested from 16 companies involved in West Bank settlements, citing '*an unacceptable risk that the excluded companies are contributing to the abuse of human rights.*'

Prime Minister Netanyahu is clearly prolonging the assault on Gaza to avoid his corruption trial. But the protests in Tel-Aviv are getting louder. Thousands of Israelis have emigrated to avoid military service, while plans to conscript the ultra-Orthodox threaten to split the government. How much longer before Israeli society falls apart?

Protests and boycott actions around the world are making a difference. We owe it to the Palestinians to keep up our support for their cause.