

# Who disarms, who arms terror?

- In 2017 two anti-war campaigners who attempted to sabotage a fighter jet due for export to Saudi Arabia intended for use against Yemen were found not guilty of causing criminal damage. Walton and Woodhouse wanted to “save innocent lives and prevent war crimes” by disarming the Eurofighter Typhoon warplane.

- The intention to ban Palestine Action comes after activists from the group broke into RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire on 20 June. They damaged two aircraft, protesting flights to RAF Akrotiri, a base for military operations over Gaza. Was this any more ‘terrorist’ than the 2017 incident?

- The 2000 Terrorism Act’s loose definition of terrorism has already been used to arrest and harass prominent pro-Palestinian journalists.

## Opposition from lawyers

In a letter to Yvette Cooper, signed by 266 solicitors, barristers and legal academics, the Network for Police Monitoring said:

**“Proscription of a direct-action protest group is an unprecedented and extremely regressive step for civil liberties... The conflation of protest and terrorism is the hallmark of authoritarian regimes.”**

## Commons vote

Cooper’s ban bundled Palestine Action with two openly fascist groups. It sailed through the Commons on 2 July. Liverpool MPs Ian Byrne and Kim Johnson were among only 26 who voted “No”. Johnson said **“By the weekend, anyone with a branded t-shirt or bag could face a terrorism charge. Today they come for Palestine Action. If this measure is passed today, who and what will be next?”**

## US, Britain and Europe arm

The US supplies the F-35, F-16, and F-15 fighter jets and Apache helicopters which Israel uses to bomb Gaza. They use components supplied by US, UK, European and Israeli firms.

The very partial UK arms embargo is not stopping F-35 components exported to the US and then supplied to Israel. Labour Defence Sec John Healey said suspending the F-35 licences *“would undermine US confidence in the UK and NATO at a critical juncture in our collective history”*.

Apart from the F-35 components, UK military export licences for firms supplying Israel add up to at least £516m since 2014.

## What You Can Do

- Demand the proscription of Palestine Action is reversed immediately
- Tell your MP to condemn Israeli attacks on Iran and Gaza invasion, demand full access for UN and aid agencies, and a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel.
- Email David Lammy [tinyurl.com/dlammy2](mailto:tinyurl.com/dlammy2)

- Demos Sundays 2pm Catholic Cathedral.
- Tell Merseyside Pension Fund to divest from arms firms supplying Israel and Israeli banks: [tinyurl.com/mpfform1](http://tinyurl.com/mpfform1)
- Boycott Barclays. Join us outside the bank Mondays 1:30pm. Tell the City Council to switch its account, like LJMU.
- Boycott Israeli pharmaceutical TEVA. Give your pharmacist a letter [tinyurl.com/tevalet1](http://tinyurl.com/tevalet1)

**The illegal occupation of Palestinian Territories, including the siege of Gaza, began long before 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Under international law, an occupied people have the right to resist the occupation, including by the use of force. Targeted attacks on civilians (by both Palestinian and Israeli forces on 7<sup>th</sup> October) are forbidden, but nothing that happened on 7<sup>th</sup> October justifies Israel’s continued genocide of the Palestinians.**



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