

Who are the terrorists?

On 30 June, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper laid an order to proscribe Palestine Action as a “terrorist” organisation.

That same day, an Israeli airstrike destroyed the Al Baqa café on the seafront in Gaza City, killing between 24 to 36 Palestinians without warning.

The 500lb bomb was an MK-82 (General Dynamics) or an MPR500 (Elbit Systems).

“What happened was a real massacre of civilians,” said Muhammad Abu Salmiya, director of Al-Shifa Hospital. *“Bodies were thrown into the sea. The hospital is packed to bursting. Some of the wounded died after arriving because we did not have beds for them.”*

Soldiers speak out

Three days earlier, the Israeli newspaper Ha’aretz exposed how civilians seeking food from the US-Israeli “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” are killed by the Israeli military.

Officers and soldiers said they were ordered to fire at unarmed crowds. *“It’s a killing field,”* one soldier said. *“Where I was stationed, between one and five people were killed every day. There’s no crowd-control measures – just live fire. Once the centre opens, the shooting stops and they can approach. I’m not aware of a single instance of return fire. There’s no enemy, no weapons.”*



Blood, rubble, and a deck of cards lie scattered in a café after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike near the port in Gaza City 30.6.25. (AP Photo/Jehad Alshrafi)

Palestine Action

“Just a reminder we, Palestine Action, we are not the terrorists,” an activist said in a video as the UK headquarters of Israel’s biggest arms firm Elbit was blocked and covered in red paint ‘to symbolise Palestinian blood’. *“Elbit are the real terrorists”.*

Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, put a proposal before Parliament on 30 June to designate Palestine Action as a proscribed terrorist organisation under Schedule 2 of the 2000 Terrorism Act, making it illegal not only to be a member of the group but also to show support for it.

It would place Palestine Action on a par with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria under British law.

What is terrorism?

Terrorism involves violent action to maim or kill individuals, e.g.

- Shooting unarmed people queuing for aid who pose no threat
- Bombing a seafront café killing dozens, including children, elderly men and café workers
- Bombing hospitals to destroy the medical system
- Committing war crimes and genocide.

Who are not terrorists?

In 2004, Keir Starmer when representing an activist who sabotaged a military aircraft, made the case that his actions were lawful because they aimed to prevent an ‘illegal war’ (Iraq). Was Starmer an apologist for terrorism? ►