

Gaza: Starmer's empty words

On 29 July, Keir Starmer threatened to recognise the State of Palestine in September unless Israel *"takes substantive steps to end the appalling situation in Gaza, reaches a ceasefire, makes clear there will be no annexation in the West Bank, and commits to a long-term peace process that delivers a Two State Solution."* What's wrong with that? Everything.

Starmer did not say who is responsible for the appalling situation. He knows the 19th January agreement with Israel for a ceasefire and negotiations for a full withdrawal and end to the conflict, was signed by Hamas on behalf of all Palestinian factions, backed by Qatar and Egypt as mediators and 'guaranteed' by the US.

Israel tore up the agreement on 2 March and imposed a total blockade on Gaza, with full scale bombing two weeks later. It aimed to force Hamas to surrender. Starvation was a weapon of war, as reported in the mainstream media.

Genocide

Israeli human rights organisation B'tselem now says Israel is committing genocide, as does a growing international chorus. Starmer refuses to use the word.

He later said Israel must allow the UN to restart aid, but didn't say the UN would be in control.



photo: Anadolu via Getty Images

Why are Palestinians still starving in Gaza?

- Israel blocked all food, medicine, water and fuel from entering Gaza from 2 March until late May
- Israel and the US bypassed the UN to set up the 'Gaza Humanitarian Foundation', with 4 GHF sites replacing 400 UN
- 1000+ have been killed seeking food, mainly at GHF sites
- Israel refuses to disband the GHF
- Desperate people storm aid lorries now entering Gaza
- 154 Gazans have died of malnutrition, including 89 children
- Children cry themselves to sleep with hunger, doctors are fainting. Gaza reached famine thresholds – it's not over yet.

The Prime Minister's words won't stop the Israeli military shooting, bombing or forcing people to move, before a ceasefire. They could end up in the "concentration camp" promoted by Israeli cabinet ministers Smotrich and Ben-Gvir.

Starmer rules out West Bank annexation but says nothing on the ethnic cleansing that is going on there even now.

His proposal is tied to a "Two State Solution". But self-determination for the Palestinian people means that THEY must decide if a "Two State Solution" meets their demands to **End the Occupation**, achieve **Full Equality** throughout historic Palestine and the **Right of Return** for Palestinian refugees.

Finally, the talk of recognising Palestine is not going to be enough to stop the genocide here and now. There are real actions that Britain could take which Starmer does not mention:

comprehensive sanctions including a full arms embargo on direct and indirect supplies, spy flights and Israeli contracts with the UK. **Starmer hopes no-one will notice. But they will.**