

Lebanon, Gaza, West Bank, Merseyside

When Israel assassinated the Iranian “supreme leader” Ali Khomeini on 28 February, the Lebanese Shia movement Hezbollah retaliated in support of Iran. Cue another Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Israel aims to control the area up to and including the Litani river, isolating the south from the rest of Lebanon. Over a million Lebanese are displaced. It's not new.

Israel invaded southern Lebanon up to the Litani in 1978, 2006, 2024. Finance Minister Smotrich, leading annexation of the West Bank, wants to annex southern Lebanon. Defence Minister Katz says “*all homes in Lebanese villages near the border will be destroyed — in accordance with the Rafah and Beit Hanoun model in Gaza.*”

Since the Gaza “ceasefire” began on 11 October, Israel has killed 680 Palestinians. Now Trump's Board of Peace demands that Hamas disarm completely in exchange for the reconstruction of Gaza, in ruins after two years of genocide. The Board of Peace civil-military coordination centre in Israel, includes a rep from the Maven AI system.

West Bank, Jerusalem

Whilst all eyes are on Iran and Lebanon, Israeli Jewish settlers have intensified attacks. From 1 March to 23 March, at least seven Palestinians were shot and killed by settlers. Another died after inhaling IDF tear gas.

Israeli forces stopped Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, and Fr Francesco Ielpo from praying at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Palm Sunday. The International Centre of Justice for Palestinians (ICJP) warned that “*the denial of entry of the official custodian of the holy site is a flagrant act of religious persecution.*” Attacks on Palestinian Christians echo persecution of Palestinian Muslims.

Closer to Home

- Tomahawk missiles which strike Iran are built by **Raytheon**, the world's 2nd biggest arms firm. The Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) invests £865k in Raytheon. The **Maven** system compiling targets in Iran involves **Palantir** and **Amazon Web Services**. The MPF invests £7.3m in **Amazon**. **It's your money**.
- **Palantir** supplies the Federated Data Platform handling NHS data in Trusts across England, including on Merseyside. **Why should patients trust Palantir?**

What You Can Do

- **Join LFoP** via our website lfop.co.uk
- **Demand the Gov't drop the proscription of Palestine Action, scrap the JR appeal and the Filton retrials.**
- **Tell Merseyside Pension Fund to divest** from Elbit, Amazon, other firms whose **weapons** are used on **Gaza** and Israeli **banks** financing **illegal settlements**: tinyurl.com/mpfform1
- **May Day Demo** Mon 4 May, 11:30 Derby Sq.
- **Boycott Israeli pharmaceutical TEVA**. Give your pharmacist a letter tinyurl.com/tevalet1 and join our leafleting sessions.
- **Boycott Barclays**. Its £ arms Israel. Join us outside the bank Mondays 1:30pm. Tell the City Council to switch its account, like LJMU
- **Tell your MP to sign EDM 2880 (Iran), call out genocide, demand full UN / aid access to Gaza, a total arms embargo on Israel**

The illegal occupation of Palestinian Territories, including the siege of Gaza, began long before 7th 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 7th October) are forbidden, but nothing that happened on 7th October justifies Israel's continued genocide of the Palestinians.



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