



Member's Business: Ongoing Crisis in Gaza

Overview

Amnesty calls on the Scottish Government to ensure the ICJ's Advisory Opinion on the unlawfulness of Israel's occupation is adhered to within devolved functions including by:

- Ensuring no public money is awarded to companies manufacturing and supplying arms and their components fuelling Israel's genocide in Gaza
- Requiring public bodies to conduct strict due diligence with the aim of ensuring they do not procure from companies doing business with illegal Israeli settlements

Amnesty urges all parliamentarians to call on the UK Government to:

- Immediately suspend all UK arms exports to Israel
- Implement a ban on trade with illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
- Comply with international legal rulings, including those of the ICJ and ICC

Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza

Article 1 of the Genocide Convention places an obligation on the UK to act to prevent genocide and to end impunity.

In December 2024 Amnesty International published [research](#) concluding that Israel has and continues to commit genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Our report demonstrates that Israel has carried out acts prohibited under the Genocide Convention, with the specific intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza. These acts include killings, causing serious bodily or mental harm and deliberately inflicting on Palestinians in Gaza conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction.

Since 2 March 2025 Israel has completely cut off the supply of humanitarian aid and other items indispensable to the survival of civilians in a clear and calculated effort to collectively punish over two million civilians and to make Gaza unliveable.

By blocking the entry of supplies critical for the survival of the population, Israel continues its policy of deliberately imposing conditions of life on Palestinians in Gaza calculated to bring about their physical destruction; this is Genocide.

International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice

If the UK does not take urgent steps to end Israel's violations of international law as directed by the ICJ, the UK risks complicity in those crimes.

In January 2024 the ICJ ordered Israel to comply with provisional measures to avoid inflicting genocide on Palestinians, yet Israel has ignored these binding orders, along with the Court's further measured ordered in May 2024 to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe in Rafah.

In July 2024 the ICJ set out in an advisory opinion that Israel's occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory is unlawful and its policies and practices breach the prohibition on racial segregation and apartheid. The ICJ directed Israel to dismantle its settlements, evacuate its settler population and reverse the occupation. Israel has not only ignored this direction but high-level officials have stated their intention to expand annexation. The ICJ also clearly directed all States to take action to bring Israel's occupation to an end and to cease any aid or assistance that enables Israel to maintain it.

In November 2024 the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for the war crimes of starvation as a method of warfare and intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population; and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts.

Has the UK done all it could to prevent Genocide in Gaza?

The UK must immediately stop all arms transfers to Israel, including components for F-35 fighter jets currently decimating Gaza. It should also ban investment in companies and banks that maintain Israel's unlawful occupation and apartheid system and prohibit imports from illegal settlements.

In September 2024, the UK Government suspended 30 arms export licences to Israel, but the F-35 fighter jet programme licenses were exempted and continue to remain open now. Amnesty International is supporting an ongoing Judicial review¹ of the decision and has called on the UK Government to immediately and fully publish all relevant risk assessments. In May [65 signatories](#) from nine different political parties and independent UK parliamentarians signed an open letter demanding transparency amid escalating mass atrocities in Gaza.

¹ Al-Haq v Secretary of State

The letter challenged the UK Government to explain why, despite this worsening crisis, it has not revised its previous conclusion. It called for the immediate release of:

- The findings of all genocide risk assessments conducted since March 2025
- The criteria, methodology, and evidence used in making those assessments
- The most recent assessment date and outcome
- A clear statement on whether the UK now recognises a serious risk of genocide in Gaza

The letter also expresses alarm at the UK Government's position in *Al-Haq v Secretary of State* defending the continued supply of F35 fighter jet components to Israel. UK Parliamentarians state in the letter: "it appears that the position of the UK government is that it is legitimate to provide weapons to states committing genocide if the assessment is that the impact of doing so would be minor. That is an abhorrent position to hold."

Scottish Government funding for arms companies

The Scottish Government must ensure an independent and transparent review of Scottish Enterprise's human rights checks takes place.

Amnesty has grave concerns about financial support being awarded to companies manufacturing weapons and their components via Scottish Enterprise. Past beneficiaries include companies known to manufacture F35 components.

As of May this year, no company has failed the due diligence process currently in place at Scottish Enterprise, despite some having known links to states such as Israel. In February the Scottish Government announced a review of the current human rights checks, however the lack of transparency surrounding that process is deeply concerning. The review is currently being conducted by Scottish Enterprise in-house; raising serious questions around its robustness and credibility.

Amnesty [wrote](#) to the Cabinet Secretary last week calling on her to urgently update the Scottish Parliament on the review prior to summer recess:

"[We have] made clear Amnesty's opposition to Scottish Enterprise being permitted to undertake an in-house review of the process in place. The question of whether Scottish public money is supporting companies linked to violations of international law, including genocide, is an extremely serious one. It demands a credible process which is independent, transparent and accountable."

Scottish ministers are correct to highlight to the UK Government its own risk of complicity in war crimes by Israel if it continues to permit the export of weapons. However, it is entirely inconsistent to ignore the possibility that the Scottish Government's own financial support for arms companies may be involved, whether directly or indirectly, in manufacture and supply chains.

Questions for the Scottish Government

- Will the Scottish Government provide an update to Parliament on the framework and progress of the review of Scottish Enterprise's human rights checks prior to the summer recess?
- Will the Scottish Government accept that the current review lacks credibility and establish an independent review of Scottish Enterprise's human rights checks which invites input from human rights experts?
- What specific action has the Scottish Government taken to stop procurement from companies linked to illegal Israeli settlements since the ICJ published its July 2024 Advisory Opinion?

