

## Israel guns down unarmed Gaza protests



**Palestinian journalist Yasser Murtaja shot and killed 6.4.18 while wearing flak jacket and press markings 350m from Gaza border**

Last month, Palestinians mounted a huge peaceful demonstration along Gaza's borders with Israel, which holds the territory under siege.

Palestinians ethnically cleansed in 1948, and their descendants, seek the rights enshrined in UN General Assembly Resolution 194, that "refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date," with compensation for those choosing not to return.

## Don't Bank on Bloodshed!

**HSBC** helps to arm Israel, through investments and loans to industries which supply its military. **BAE** (£189m from HSBC) supplies components for F-16 jets which bomb Gaza, and artillery shells. **Caterpillar** (£99.5m) makes militarized D9 bulldozers which demolish Palestinian homes and clear the ground for tank invasions. **Boeing** (£102m) sends Apache helicopters and Hellfire missiles. **General Dynamics** (£94.7m) supplies shells, bombs, and gun systems for F-16s. **United Technologies** (£71.8m) supplies engines for F-15s and F-16s...

Their non-violent civil action was met with shoot-to-kill by 100 Israeli snipers. 18 Palestinians died, including a farmer harvesting his field before the protest.

Britain and the US blocked calls for a UN Security Council investigation.

On 6 April, a Palestinian journalist was killed doing his job, along with two minors and six other adults.

**All this breaks international law.** B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights, called on soldiers to refuse to obey illegal orders.

## March of Return

The demonstrations in Gaza are a mass movement, including many young people with no political affiliation, as well as all the Palestinian parties. One group describes it like this:

*"It is a nonviolent movement strictly committed to non-violent means of struggle, which aims to enable Palestinian refugees to return to their original homes and land, which they were forced to leave in 1948 because of the Israeli occupation. It is an independent popular movement..."*

Israel has reacted with brutal force, yet again. In the summer of 2014, Israel carried out a massive attack on Gaza for the fifth time in a decade. During "Operation Protective Edge" there were 2220 Palestinian deaths, of whom 1492 were civilians including 551 children, while Israel suffered 71 fatalities, of whom 4 were civilians.

Israel is not the only country whose military commits such crimes. But it was founded through ethnic cleansing and its legal framework systematically discriminates directly or indirectly against Palestinians. Israel occupies the

Sorry Sir,

**I Cannot Shoot.**

Soldier, the command to use lethal force against civilians who do not pose mortal danger is patently illegal. Using lethal force is only allowed when an actual, immediate threat to human life exists, and when there is no other option.

The responsibility for issuing these unlawful orders rests first and foremost with the policy makers, including the prime minister, defence minister, and the chief of staff. Yet obeying to patently illegal orders is a criminal offence and you are duty-bound to refuse to comply to them.

*Israeli newspaper ad by B'Tselem*

West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights and the (illegally annexed) East Jerusalem in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, maintains the Wall in violation of the 4th Geneva Convention, tortures detainees including children. This system – rightly called apartheid and relying on US and UK government support – has led Palestinians to call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions until Israel complies with international law and honours human rights.

## What you can do

**Demand that your MP condemns the shooting of unarmed protestors in Gaza**

**If you bank with HSBC: write to the bank, ask to see the manager, and consider switching (but not to Barclays – they arm Israel too!).**

<https://palestinecampaign.iparlsetup.com/lobby/HSBC-StopArmingIsrael>

**Join the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Liverpool Friends of Palestine:** <http://liverpoolfriendsofpalestine.co.uk/>