

Palestinian civil society support call on Liverpool City Council to cancel the Arms Fair

We, as Palestinian civil society groups in Gaza, support the call on Liverpool City Council to demand that the Liverpool Convention centre cancel the Electronic Arms Fair AOC Europe, to take place in a council-owned venue, effectively owned by the people of Liverpool.

We in Gaza, a population of mostly children, in one of the most crowded places on the planet, have suffered enough. The arms trade, and Israel's especially, prospers the more horrifying the destruction of Israel's bombs and the death of so many of us.

There is nowhere to recover in Gaza, most of us cannot leave and we are still recovering from the bombing of Gaza in 2014 that killed 2,220 Palestinians in 51 days - including 551 children.[1] Or the Great Return march where 217 unarmed protesters were shot dead in 2018-19 and another 14,500 wounded with live ammunition, rubber-coated bullets and gas canisters.[2] So many will never walk again.

So when will a city like Liverpool that has always stood against such injustice, stand up against our suffering and stand against the arms trade that profits from it? The last bombing last month levelled 155 houses and residential blocks, killed another 66 children and among the 247 dead,[3] wiped out huge entire families. The tempo and intensity of the airstrikes was much worse this time, so when will our population in Gaza stop being used as a human laboratory to develop these weapons?

We support all of the terrific campaigns to end Israel's arms trade and arms production in the UK and we ask again that Liverpool stand on the right side of history by cancelling the AOC Europe Arms Fair.

Signed by Palestinian civil sectors in Gaza:

- Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU)
- PNGO (Palestinian NGOs Network)
- General Union of Palestinian Women
- General Union of Palestine Workers
- PSCABI (Palestinian Students Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel)

Casualty figures:

1)

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/annual_humanitarian_overview_2014_english_final.pdf

2) <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/2nd-anniversary-of-the-great-march-of-return-impunity-continues-to-prevail/>

3) <https://www.pchrgaza.org/en/weekly-report-on-israeli-human-rights-violations-in-the-occupied-palestinian-territory-11-19-may-2021/>