## <u>Greens condemn latest brutal</u> <u>displacement of Palestinians</u>

Responding to Israel defence minister Israel Katz's statement that the country aimed to seize large areas of the Palestinian territory and incorporate them into "security zones", (1) Ellie Chowns, MP for North Herefordshire and Green Party Foreign Affairs spokesperson, said:

"The Green Party condemns in the strongest possible terms the Israeli government's brutal decision to expand its military operations in Gaza. Seizing large areas of territory and forcibly displacing countless Gazans to create so-called "security zones" would be a further violation of international law against a population already devastated by 18 months of conflict.

"This is not security; it is domination and erasure. It would constitute ethnic cleansing and further collective punishment on a mass scale, and it would only deepen the unimaginable suffering already endured by the people of Gaza.

"More than 50,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 2023, and the humanitarian crisis could not be more dire. Israeli forces have maintained a total blockade of aid since early March, cutting off food, water, and medical supplies while bombs continue to fall. Last month, Israeli forces killed yet more medics, first responders, and a UN staff member, forcing the UN to reduce its operations.

"The UK government cannot remain silent while genocide is carried out in plain sight. We cannot be complicit in this horror by continuing to arm and support the Israeli government. There is no justification—legal, moral, or political—for aiding a state that systematically targets civilians, destroys homes and hospitals, and plans to occupy yet more Palestinian land.

"The Green Party has consistently called for the release of the hostages, an immediate ceasefire, a complete halt to arms sales to Israel, and recognition of the State of Palestine. We also urgently push for humanitarian corridors to be opened so that aid can reach those who are starving and injured. We owe it to the Palestinian people, to international justice, and to our own humanity to demand an end to this bloodshed and to take a stand against genocide.

"Our thoughts are with the civilians of Gaza, whose courage and resilience in the face of such horror move us to keep fighting for justice, peace, and accountability. We will not look away."

(1) <u>Deadly strikes in Gaza as Israel says it will seize 'large areas' — BBC</u> News

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