

Greens call for end to impunity as Human Rights Watch warn of UK complicity in Israeli violations in Lebanon

Responding to the expansion of Israeli military ground operations in southern Lebanon, Human Rights Watch has warned that countries that continue to provide Israel with arms and military aid risk complicity in the Israeli government's serious violations in Lebanon. [1]

Reacting to the warnings of UK complicity in Israel's violations in Lebanon, Dr Ellie Chowns MP said:

"Israel has continuously flouted international law with apparent impunity. That impunity must end. Throughout Israel's genocide in Gaza and illegal settlement expansion in the West Bank, the UK Government has refused to pursue appropriate action against its government for breaching international law or to re-evaluate Israel's status as an ally to Britain.

"This permissiveness has not tempered but emboldened the Israeli government. Following its strikes on Iran, Israel has expanded its ground campaign in Lebanon, displacing a million people throughout the country, killing over 1,000 people – including 118 children – destroying civilian infrastructure, and seemingly preparing for prolonged occupation of southern Lebanon.

"Israeli government and military officials have made repeated overt comparisons between its plans for Lebanon and its genocidal destruction of Gaza. Human Rights Watch has now warned that Israeli officials have signalled an intent to wantonly destroy homes in Lebanon's border villages, forcibly displace and prevent the return of "hundreds of thousands of Shiite residents of southern Lebanon", and conduct strikes in Beirut that could target civilians simply for being "near Hezbollah members, facilities, or means of combat." All these actions would constitute war crimes.

"The Government must heed these serious warnings and act decisively to avoid the UK's complicity in further crimes and to end the impunity which has enabled and emboldened Israel. The Green Party reiterates our calls for the UK to halt all arms sales to and military cooperation with the Israeli Government, to drive independent investigations into war crimes committed and support justice mechanisms for victims, and to impose sanctions on government officials responsible for breaches of international law."

NOTES TO EDITORS

[1] [Israeli Officials Signal Stepped-Up Atrocities in Lebanon | Human Rights Watch](#)

Human Rights Watch highlight recent statements from Israeli officials that signal “an intent to forcibly displace residents, destroy civilian homes and conduct strikes that could target civilians. Forcible displacement, wanton destruction and attacks deliberately targeting civilians are war crimes.”

Since the recent escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah on March 2, Israeli attacks have killed at least 1,029 people in Lebanon, including 118 children and 40 medical workers, as of March 22 according to Lebanon’s Ministry of Public Health, and over one million people have been displaced following a series of displacement orders by the Israeli military.

Human Rights Watch recommends that “Israel’s key allies, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany, should suspend military assistance and arms sales to Israel and impose targeted sanctions on officials credibly responsible for ongoing serious abuses. They should levy further pressure on Israel to ensure that displaced residents can return to their homes once hostilities end or once the reasons for their displacement cease to exist.”

Lebanon researcher at Human Rights Watch, Ramzi Kaiss, said, “Atrocities flourish when there is impunity, and other countries should no longer stand by as they continue.”

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[Government must resist Reform and Conservative lies on climate and energy and accelerate move towards renewable energy say Greens](#)

23 March 2026 / 23 March 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Responding to warnings today from the World Meteorological Organization of a [global “energy imbalance”](#) and from the International Energy Agency that the Iran war [threatens an energy crisis](#) equivalent to the combined impacts of the 1970s oil shocks and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Deputy leader of the Green Party, Rachel Millward, said:

“These warnings should serve as a further wakeup call on the urgency of transitioning away from fossil fuels.

“The UK government must strongly resist the lies being peddled by Reform and the Conservatives on the climate and energy crises and accelerate the move towards home grown renewable energy. The war on net zero would deny

households a lower cost, more comfortable and more secure future.

“Households that are well insulated; have heat pumps or are connected to district heating systems; where electricity is generated by roof-top solar panels and stored in batteries and have access to electrified vehicles and public transport would of course benefit from lower costs, and be more resilient to energy shocks. Pushing for more fossil fuel extraction shows Reform UK and the Conservatives are in hock to Big Oil, not on the side of people and planet.”

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[Green MPs and peers demand answers from Starmer and an end to UK involvement in illegal US-Israel war on Iran](#)

Iran’s Foreign Minister has warned Yvette Cooper in a phone call that allowing US use of UK bases is considered as British “participation in aggression”.

Green MPs and peers have written to Keir Starmer expressing alarm at the UK’s involvement in the illegal US-Israeli war on Iran and pressing the Prime Minister to answer a number of urgent questions – including what control, if any, the UK has over US strikes launched from British bases and whether British-made weapons components are being used in breach of international law.

They note that the UK is obliged under international law to have no involvement in illegal military action, including the use of UK bases and UK-made weapons, and reiterate demands for an end to all UK complicity in this illegal war.

FULL TEXT OF LETTER

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing as Green Party MPs and Peers to express our alarm at the UK’s involvement in the illegal US-Israeli war on Iran.

Already well over 1,000 civilians have been killed, including a reported 168 children killed by a missile now widely believed to be from the United States ([Guardian, 2026](#)). UNICEF has reported that the Israeli military’s assault on

Lebanon is killing or injuring the equivalent of one classroom of children every day ([Reuters, 2026](#)).

In addition to the grave humanitarian impacts, the longer this illegal, unnecessary war continues, the greater the global economic fallout – to which the UK is particularly exposed because it remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels.

In light of this, there are urgent questions your government must answer:

- What steps, if any, is your government taking to ensure that B-1 and B-52 bombers taking off from RAF Fairford are being used for ‘specific, limited defensive purposes’ – as you committed to?
- What assessment have you made, if any, of how many Iranian civilians have been killed by US bombing missions from British air bases?
- Are target lists for US strikes from British soil approved by the Ministry of Defence before each mission or audited afterwards?
- Is the US being permitted to load banned cluster munitions at British bases?
- What assessment has the government made of the risk of UK-made weapons components being used in violation of international law in Iran, including in the Tomahawk missile systems which may have been involved in the strike on the Shajareh Tayyerbeh girls’s school which killed a reported 168 children and 14 teachers, in the single deadliest known attack so far?
- What assessment has the government made of the risk of UK-made weapons components being used by the Israeli government in violation of international law in Lebanon?

The UK is obliged under international law to have no involvement in illegal military action, including the use of UK bases and UK-made weapons. It is therefore of the utmost importance that these questions are answered as a matter of urgency.

This illegal war is inflicting untold suffering and devastation in the region and will cause huge and long lasting human, political, economic and environmental ramifications, as well as the immediate impact on the cost-of-living for our constituents. We, as Green Party MPs and Peers, reiterate our calls for the UK government to:

- Withdraw all permission for the US to use UK military bases for attacks on Iran.
- End all arms sales to and military cooperation with the Israeli government.
- Impose sanctions on government officials responsible for breaches of international law.
- Condemn the actions of Trump and Netanyahu for their flagrant violations of international law.
- Refuse any further complicity in this illegal war.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ellie Chowns MP

Carla Denyer MP

Siân Berry MP

Hannah Spencer MP

Adrian Ramsay MP

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

EDITORS NOTES

The government has refused to answer questions on whether it has the ability to [approve or refuse](#) individual targets for US strikes from UK bases, and whether banned [cluster munitions](#) are being loaded at UK bases. US bombers flying out of UK bases to strike Iran are [avoiding](#) European airspace.

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Religious freedoms are the foundation of our democracy say Greens

Responding to [Nigel Farage](#) and [Kemi Badenoch's comments](#) on public Muslim prayers, Green Party Leader and Deputy Leaders, Zack Polanski, Mothin Ali and Rachel Millward have released a joint statement:

“We stand in solidarity with those from our religious communities increasingly under attack and firmly in defence of religious freedom, peaceful public gathering, and the right of all communities to express their beliefs openly and without fear.

Recent comments from Nigel Farage and Kemi Badenoch regarding public prayer by Muslim communities risk not only inflaming division and misrepresenting the nature of peaceful religious expression, but also undermining the very freedoms that form the foundation of a democratic and pluralistic society.

Britain has long been a country where people of all faiths, and none, can come together in shared spaces with mutual respect. Events such as the Trafalgar Square gathering ahead of Eid, where people of different backgrounds joined in prayer and reflection, are not “acts of intimidation or dominance”. They are expressions of community and coexistence. They reflect the best of our society, not a threat to it.

To characterise such gatherings as outside the “norms of British culture” is to misunderstand what British culture truly is: diverse, evolving, and enriched by the many communities that call this country home. Religious freedom is not conditional on whether a practice is familiar or comfortable to some, it is a fundamental right.

Words matter, and they can either build bridges or deepen divides. We choose to use ours to build bridges.”

Zack Polanski
Mothin Ali
Rachel Millward

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[Deputy Leader Rachel Millward welcomes government retreat over AI copyright reforms](#)

The government has rowed back on its plans to introduce an ‘opt-out’ to copyright law that would have harmed the UK’s world leading creative industries and weakened our country’s long-term digital sovereignty.

Rachel Millward said:

“The future of AI depends on trusted, licensed data. We need both a fair future for British creatives and to protect our unique contribution to the global AI supply chain.

“Our creative industries produce some of the most valuable cultural work in the world. The sector contributed £146 billion to the economy in 2024 and supported 2.4 million jobs.

“Strong copyright protections ensure that creators are remunerated for their work and their data is used fairly and transparently. If the UK gives up control of its data, it gives up its strategic advantage in the global AI landscape.

“By continually kicking the can down the road, the government is effectively handing power to a small number of US Big Tech firms, whilst undermining both our creative economy and our long-term digital sovereignty.”

“The Green Party calls on the government to rule out any future weakening of copyright law and urgently introduce transparency requirements on AI developers. This will drive growth in the licensing market, which is being

held back by the government's indecision. There is no time to waste."

NOTES TO EDITORS

In December 2024, the government announced a public consultation on AI and copyright. It updated Parliament on its progress on Wednesday 18 March.

The government's original preferred option, which would have allowed AI developers to use copyrighted works unless rightsholders opted out, was widely criticised by the creative industries, and received only 3% support in the government's consultation. Ministers have since admitted there is no workable opt-out policy proposal on the table.

Weakening copyright would have eroded the UK's leverage in the global AI supply chain and deepened our dependence on a small number of US-based Big Tech firms.

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