

We write to you as a group of organisations from partner countries to the global F-35 jet programme, and supportive organisations, calling on our Governments to immediately halt all arms transfers to Israel, directly and indirectly, including F-35 fighter jets, components, and spare parts thereof.

After 466 days of Israel's military offensive in Gaza, we welcome the *limited* ceasefire which came into effect on 19 January, and call on our Governments to support every effort to permanently end the ongoing atrocities. The past 16 months have illustrated with devastating clarity that Israel is not committed to complying with international law. The fragility of the Gaza ceasefire underscores the risk of further violations and the need to halt arms exports to Israel, including F-35s. This is also highlighted by Israel's continued [illegal use of military fighter jets](#) in the occupied West Bank, especially Jenin.

Partners to the [F-35 programme](#) have individually and collectively failed to prevent these jets from being used to commit serious violations of international law by Israel, most obviously across the occupied Palestinian territory, including international crimes, despite overwhelming evidence in this respect. States have either been unwilling to observe their international legal obligations and/or claimed that the structure of the F-35 programme means that it is not possible to apply arms controls to any end-user, making the entire programme incompatible with international law.

Israel's unprecedented bombardment and destruction of Gaza has led to immeasurable human suffering, environmental devastation, and humanitarian catastrophe. The [International Court of Justice](#) (ICJ) ordered provisional measures on Israel to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza in January 2024. In December 2024, Amnesty International's investigation [concluded that](#) Israel has committed and is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, and Human Rights Watch [reported that](#) 'Israeli authorities are responsible for the crime against humanity of extermination and for acts of genocide'.

A temporary ceasefire does not signify an end to Israel's violations of international law or nullify the longstanding risk that arms transfers to Israel might be used to commit or facilitate such violations. This includes, but is not limited to, Israel's ongoing occupation and annexation of the Palestinian territories, which the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concluded is unlawful.

Israel has killed more than [46,707 people in Gaza](#) and the remains of an [estimated 10,000 more people](#) are still under the rubble. At least 90 percent of Palestinians in Gaza have been forcibly displaced, in conditions unfit for human survival. Israeli forces have [repeatedly attacked civilian objects](#), including aid distribution sites, tents, hospitals, schools and markets. Around 69 percent of [all structures in Gaza](#) have been destroyed or damaged by the bombardment. Despite these devastating realities and crimes on the ground, our governments have continued to supply Israel through the F-35 programme.

F-35 programme

Governments from a number of F-35 partner countries - namely Canada, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, and [the UK](#) - have restricted some arms exports to Israel due to the risk of these weapons being used by Israel to commit violations of international law in Gaza. In September 2024, the UK government found that it was “unable to conclude anything other than” that for certain UK arms exports to Israel, including F-35 jets, there is a clear risk that they might be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian law in Gaza. Alarming, despite these irrefutable admissions, there has been a concerted effort to sustain the transfer of components to the F-35 programme, allowing for ongoing direct and indirect transfer to Israel.

A number of incoherent positions have been put forward by F-35 partner countries allowing for the continued export of F-35 parts and components to Israel, including stating that arms licences to Israel have been suspended while allowing transfers under existing licences or supplying “indirectly” via the US or other F-35 partners. The UK has argued that for reasons of international peace and security it has disregarded its own arms export licensing criteria and international legal obligations to continue exporting components to the F-35 programme, allowing for onward transfer to Israel, [claiming](#) that it is a “matter of such gravity that it would have overridden any [...] further evidence of serious breaches of IHL”. Effectively, there are no circumstances in which this supply of F-35 components would be suspended.

These jets have been operating in Gaza armed with munitions, including 2,000 lb bombs - explosives with a lethal radius up to 365 m, an area the equivalent of 58 football pitches. In June 2024, a [UN report identified these bombs](#) as having been used in “emblematic” cases of indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on Gaza that “led to high numbers of civilian fatalities and widespread destruction of civilian objects”.

On 2 September 2024, the very day the UK Government announced an exemption for F-35 components, Danish NGO Danwatch revealed that an F-35 was used in July to drop three [2,000 lb bombs in an attack on a so-called “safe zone”](#) on Al-Mawasi in Khan Younis, killing 90 Palestinians. This bombardment follows the pattern of Israeli attacks in Gaza in violation of international humanitarian law.

Legal obligations and developments

All partners to the F-35 programme are States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), with the exception of the United States, which is a signatory. State Parties to the ATT are required to prevent both direct and indirect transfers of military equipment and technology, including parts and components, where there is an overriding risk that such equipment and technology could be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian law (IHL) or international human rights law.

These and other binding obligations are contained within [Articles 6 and 7 of the ATT](#). States are also bound by the obligation to ensure respect for IHL under Common Article 1 to the Geneva Convention and customary IHL, which [requires](#) states “to refrain from transferring weapons if there is an expectation, based on facts or knowledge of past patterns, that such weapons would be used to violate the Conventions”.

All F-35 partners have additional legislation reinforcing these international obligations at either national or European level. Continued arms transfers to the Israeli government are contrary to US law, which for example, prohibits the transfer of military aid to governments that restrict the delivery of US humanitarian assistance. Additionally, all F-35 partners have ratified or acceded to the Genocide Convention, and have committed to “prevent and punish” the crime of genocide.

These obligations are reinforced by pronouncements of the ICJ, including where the Court reminded States Parties to the Genocide Convention of their international obligations regarding the transfer of arms to parties to an armed conflict, to avoid the risk that such arms might be used to violate the Convention in April 2024 ([para 24](#)). In [July 2024](#), the ICJ clarified that states must not aid or assist Israel in its unlawful occupation of occupied Palestinian territory, including through economic or trade dealings. The International Criminal Court (ICC) [issued arrest warrants](#) for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defence Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in November 2024.

Legal and political responses

Across the jurisdictions of F-35 partner countries legal and political interventions have sought to enforce governments’ national and international legal obligations to halt arms exports to Israel, including parts for the F-35 jets. Legal cases have been undertaken in Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK, and the US.

In the UK, Al-Haq and Global Legal Action Network are [taking the UK government to the High Court](#) in a Judicial Review challenging the decision to exclude components for the global F-35 programme from the September 2024 suspension of around 30 arms licences to Israel. In November 2024, the Dutch Supreme Court of the Netherlands was advised by its advocate general to uphold the ruling by the Hague Court of Appeal [ordering the Dutch Government](#) to block the export of F-35 parts from the Netherlands to Israel. It followed litigation brought by Oxfam Novib, PAX and The Rights Forum.

In Australia, Al Haq, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, represented by the Australian Centre for International Justice, made submissions requesting the Defence Minister revoke all current or extant export permits to Israel including via this US. As a result, the Government undertook a review which revealed that Australia had [‘lapsed’ or ‘amended’ 16 export](#) licences to Israel. The groups remain concerned that no transparency exists in relation to this review, including whether F-35 parts were in consideration. Further cases are ongoing in F-35 partner countries Canada and Denmark, as well as [Germany](#) and [Belgium](#).

Conclusion

The failure by all F-35 partner nations to apply their domestic, regional or international legal obligations by halting the supply of F-35 parts and components to Israel has led to devastating and irreparable harm to Palestinians in Gaza. This failure indicates that partner nations are effectively either unable or unwilling to implement their purported arms export control regimes, or that they chose to apply the law selectively, excluding Palestinians from

its protection. We call on all F-35 partners to do everything in their power to bring the F-35 programme in line with their legal obligations and immediately halt the direct and indirect transfer of F-35 parts and components to Israel.

Signatories

Australia (F-35 Programme Partner)

1. Amnesty International Australia
2. AusRelief
3. Australian Centre for International Justice
4. Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN)
5. Australian Social Workers for Palestine
6. Canberra Palestine and Climate Justice
7. Central West New South Wales for Palestine & We Vote for Palestine
8. Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine
9. Disrupt Wars
10. Free Gaza Australia
11. Free Palestine Melbourne
12. Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)
13. Independent & Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) Geelong & Vic Southwest
14. Inner West for Palestine
15. Institute of non-violence
16. Jewish Council of Australia
17. Jews Against the Occupation '48
18. Just Peace
19. Knitting Nannas, Central Coast and Midcoast
20. Medical Association for Prevention of War
21. Mums for Palestine
22. Neptune's Pirates
23. No Weapons for Genocide
24. Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine
25. Palestine Action Group Muloobinba
26. Palestine Network Shining Waters Region (PalNet SW), The United Church of Canada
27. People's Climate Assembly
28. Rising Tide
29. Settlement Services Australia
30. Social and Ecological Justice Commission (United Church of Canada)
31. Sydney Peace Foundation
32. Quakers Australia
33. Wage Peace

Austria

34. Yante - Youth, Art, and Levante

Belgium

35. Al-Haq Europe

36. Vredesactie

Canada (F-35 Programme Partner)

37. Al Huda Institute Canada
38. Amnesty International Canadian Section
39. Arab Left Forum
40. Bathurst Street United Church
41. The Canadian BDS Coalition & International BDS Allies
42. Canadian Foreign Policy Institute
43. Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights
44. Canadian Muslim Healthcare Network
45. Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East
46. Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East Saskatoon Chapter (CJPME Sask chapter)
47. Collectif de Québec pour la paix / Quebec City Collective for Peace
48. Health Workers Alliance for Palestine
49. Independent Jewish Voices Canada
50. IslamicFamily
51. Just Peace Advocates/Mouvement Pour Une Paix Juste
52. Justice For All Canada
53. Labour Against the Arms Trade
54. Manitoba Healthcare Workers for Palestine
55. Mennonite Church Manitoba Palestine Israel Network
56. Ontario Palestinian Rights Association (OPRA)
57. Oxfam-Québec
58. Palestinian and Jewish Unity (PAJU)
59. Project of Heart
60. Project Ploughshares
61. Solidarité Sherbrooke-Gaza
62. RightonCanada
63. United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI)

Denmark (F-35 Programme Partner)

64. ActionAid Denmark
65. Amnesty International Danmark
66. Oxfam Denmark

France

67. Amnesty International France

Italy (F-35 Programme Partner)

68. Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo
69. Accademia Apuana della Pace
70. Amnesty International Italia
71. ARCI-Italy
72. Ass. Adl Zavidovici
73. Associazione Percorsi di pace
74. Associazioni Cristiane Lavoratori Italiani aps

75. AssoPacePalestina
76. Beati i costruttori di pace (Blessed Are the Peacemakers)
77. Center for Research and Elaboration on Democracy (CRED)
78. Centro Studi Sereno Regis
79. CIPAX Centro interconfessionale per la pace
80. Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità Accoglienti (CNCA)
81. COSPE NGO
82. Diritto Diretto
83. Emmaus Italia
84. Fondazione Finanza Etica
85. Istituto di Ricerche Internazionali Archivio Disarmo
86. MIR (Movimento internazionale della Riconciliazione)
87. Movimento Nonviolento
88. Scuola di Pace del Comune di Senigallia
89. Un Ponte Per

India

90. Gig Worker Association

Iraq

91. Al-Taqwa Association for Women and Children's Rights

Ireland

92. Anti Racism World Cup

Jamaica

93. Kingston and St Andrew Action Forum

Jordan

94. Campaign Against Gaza Genocide

Lebanon

95. Al-Jana Center
96. KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation
97. Permanent Peace Movement
98. WILPF Lebanon

Morocco

99. Association Mains Libres

México

100. Centro de Estudios Ecuménicos

Nepal

101. Path
102. Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal (WPD Nepal)

The Netherlands (F-35 Programme Partner)

103. Amnesty International Netherlands
104. Feminists of Maastricht
105. Oxfam Novib
106. PAX
107. The Rights Forum
108. Stop Wapenhandel
109. Transnational Institute

Norway (F-35 Programme Partner)

110. Amnesty International Norway
111. The Association of Norwegian NGOs for Palestine
112. Changemaker
113. Fagforbundet - Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees
114. Jødiske Stemmer for Rettferdig Fred (Jewish Voices. - Norway)
115. NTL OsloMet Metropolitan University (trade union)
116. The Palestine Committee of Norway
117. Palestinas Venner OsloMert
118. Sosialistisk Venstreparti

Palestine

119. Al-Haq
120. Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
121. International Committee to Support the Rights of the Palestinian People
122. The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy-MIFTAH
123. Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development PWWSD

Switzerland

124. Control Arms

Sri Lanka

125. Forum on Disarmament and Development

Turkiye

126. Worldwide Lawyers Association

United Kingdom (F-35 Programme Partner)

127. ActionAid UK
128. Action For Humanity
129. Action on Armed Violence
130. Amnesty International UK
131. Anglican Pacifist Fellowship
132. Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD)
133. Bank Better
134. Boycott Bloody Insurance
135. British Arab Nursing and Midwifery Association
136. British Palestinian Committee
137. Cambridge Branch - Communist Party of Britain

138. Cambridge Stop the War Coalition
139. Cambridgeshire Keep Our NHS Public
140. Campaign Against Arms Trade
141. Campaign against Misrepresentation in Public Affairs, Information and the News
(CAMPAIN)
142. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
143. Coal Action Network
144. Common Wealth
145. Conflict and Environment Observatory
146. Council for Arab-British Understanding
147. Cuba Solidarity Campaign
148. Embrace the Middle East
149. FairSquare
150. ForcesWatch
151. Gaza Genocide Emergency Committee (Glasgow)
152. Glasgow Palestine Human Rights Campaign
153. Global Justice Now
154. Global Legal Action Network
155. Health Workers 4 Palestine
156. Independent Catholic News
157. International Centre for Justice for Palestinians
158. International Solidarity Movement Scotland
159. The Iona Community
160. Jewish Network for Palestine
161. Merseyside Pax Christi
162. National Justice and Peace Network, England and Wales
163. Omega Research Foundation
164. Palestine Action
165. Palestine House
166. Palestine Solidarity Campaign
167. Pax Christi England and Wales
168. The Peace and Justice Project
169. Richmond & Kingston Palestine Solidarity Campaign
170. Sabeel-Kairos UK
171. Saferworld
172. Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR)
173. Scotland Against Criminalising Communities
174. Shadow World Investigations
175. Thanet 4 Palestine
176. Tipping Point UK
177. United Tech and Allied Workers
178. War on Want
179. Women in Black Edinburgh
180. Women in Black London
181. Workers for a Free Palestine

United States (F-35 Programme Lead Partner)

182. Action Corps

183. American Friends Service Committee
184. Amnesty International USA
185. Art Forces
186. Association for Investment in Popular Action Committees
187. Austin For Palestine Coalition
188. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
189. Center for Constitutional Rights
190. Doctors Against Genocide
191. Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel Network
192. Fellowship of Reconciliation
193. Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
194. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P)
195. Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
196. Green Mountain Solidarity With Palestine
197. Green Mountain Veterans For Peace
198. Honor the Earth
199. Indiana Center for Middle East Peace
200. KinderUSA
201. Madison-Rafah Sister City Project
202. The Middle East Children's Alliance for Peace
203. National Lawyers Guild- Palestine Sub Committee
204. New Mexico Jews for a Free Palestine
205. A New Policy
206. Nonviolence International
207. Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
208. Palestinian Youth Movement
209. Peace Action
210. People's Arms Embargo
211. RepresentUS New Mexico
212. Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin
213. Santa Fe Democratic Socialists of America
214. Security in Context
215. Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Northern New Mexico chapter
216. Tech Justice Law Project
217. USA Palestine Mental Health Network
218. Vermont and New Hampshire Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild
219. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series
220. WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

International

221. Al-Haq Europe
222. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
223. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
224. Emergent Justice Collective
225. Human Rights Watch
226. International Coalition to Stop Genocide in Palestine
227. Oxfam International

228. Pax Christi International
229. United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
230. War Resisters' International
231. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
232. World BEYOND War

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