# BBC under scrutiny over Gaza documentary narrated by Hamas official's son



The BBC is facing increasing scrutiny over its Gaza documentary, "Gaza: How to Survive a Warzone," particularly due to the revelation that it was narrated by the son of a Hamas official. The situation has led to calls for the dismissal of senior staff responsible for the documentary's production, following the BBC's admission of 'serious flaws' in the programme.

Key figures under investigation include Joanna Carr, head of BBC Current Affairs; commissioning editors Gian Quaglieni and Sarah Waldron; and Deborah Turness, the chief executive of BBC News and Current Affairs. Their involvement in the controversial project is now a focal point of criticism from politicians and advocacy groups.

Former Labour MP Lord Austin, now an independent peer, expressed that those overseeing the documentary should face termination, citing "very serious professional and moral failings." The Campaign Against Antisemitism also weighed in, stating that the BBC's internal review process cannot substitute for an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the documentary and its production.

An insider from the BBC remarked on the situation, saying, "Given the nature of the story and the pressure the BBC is under, everyone in a senior position should have been on high alert." They further indicated that oversight failures on such a sensitive project should prompt serious consequences for those in charge.

Amid the controversy, several BBC stars, including Gary Lineker, who is the broadcaster's highest-paid presenter, defended the documentary in an open letter signed by over 850 media professionals. The letter argued against calls for its removal from platforms like iPlayer, asserting that such actions could jeopardise editorial independence. The signees described the suppression of narratives from conflict zones as an erosion of Palestinian suffering, arguing that the BBC must resist political pressure.

As a result of the backlash, the documentary has been removed from BBC iPlayer. The BBC confirmed that its independent production partner, Hoyo Films, had compensated the wife of a Hamas government minister during the documentary’s production, adding to the scrutiny of their operational ethics.

The incident has prompted significant discussion regarding the ability of BBC staff to maintain impartiality in ongoing reporting on the Middle East conflict. The implications of this situation extend beyond individual accountability, raising broader questions about the BBC's editorial policies and the influence of external pressures on journalistic integrity.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.timesofisrael.com/uk-government-calls-urgent-meeting-with-bbc-over-gaza-documentary-scandal/> - This article corroborates the controversy surrounding the BBC's Gaza documentary, including the revelation about the narrator's connection to Hamas and the subsequent removal of the documentary from BBC platforms.
* <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-bbcs-gaza-documentary-controversy-a-dangerous-precedent-for-journalism/> - This blog post discusses the implications of the BBC's decision to remove the documentary, raising questions about journalistic integrity and the precedent set by censoring narratives based on familial affiliations.
* <https://www.euronews.com/culture/2025/02/27/celebrities-and-media-figures-criticise-bbc-for-pulling-documentary-gaza-how-to-survive-a> - This article highlights the criticism from celebrities and media figures, including Gary Lineker, who signed an open letter condemning the BBC's decision to pull the documentary as politically motivated censorship.
* <https://www.timesofisrael.com/uk-government-calls-urgent-meeting-with-bbc-over-gaza-documentary-scandal/> - This article also mentions the involvement of the UK government in calling for an urgent meeting with the BBC over the documentary scandal, reflecting the political pressure faced by the broadcaster.
* <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-bbcs-gaza-documentary-controversy-a-dangerous-precedent-for-journalism/> - The blog further explores the potential chilling effect on war journalism and the need for transparency in the BBC's editorial decisions, especially regarding the handling of sensitive narratives.