# Trade Secretary interrupted by pro-Palestinian protesters at conference



On Tuesday, Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds faced significant disruption during a speech at a trade conference organised by Chatham House, as pro-Palestinian protestors interrupted his address with allegations regarding the UK government’s arms exports to Israel.

The incident unfolded shortly after Mr Reynolds began speaking, when a protester shouted accusations against him, claiming that the government was "complicit in genocide" and demanding an end to the export of F35 jet components to Israel. The protestor's comments highlighted concerns regarding the use of these military aircraft in the ongoing conflict involving Palestinian civilians.

Despite having suspended several arms export licences to Israel due to concerns over potential violations of international law, the UK government has not halted components destined for the F35 jets from being sent to other countries. This is largely due to the complexity of the F35 supply chain, which delivers parts to over 20 nations, thus preventing them from being strictly isolated to one country.

After the first protestor was removed from the venue, Mr Reynolds addressed the crowd, stating: “We have suspended arms exports to Israel. We have not suspended F35s because they are integral to our national security and the defence of Ukraine. People will know the supply chain for the F35 means they cannot be isolated to one country. That decision was laid out very clearly in Parliament, so I’m quite happy, if he wants to ask a question rather than jump on stage, to have that engagement with him.”

The disruption did not end with this first protestor; shortly thereafter, another demonstrator appeared, waving a Palestinian flag and also urging for a cessation of F35 exports. This individual was subsequently escorted from the venue as well.

Outside the Chatham House venue, a gathering of other protesters underscored the day's events, displaying Palestinian flags and bearing a banner that read “Stop arming Israel.” Campaigners voiced a unified call, urging governments involved in the F35 programme, especially those from the UK and the US, to cease supplying these jets to Israel, citing concerns that they have been implicated in breaches of international law.

This protest reflects a growing tension surrounding arms trade and international military collaboration, particularly in relation to conflicts affecting civilian populations. The developments at Chatham House shed light on the ongoing debate regarding military exports and their implications for international humanitarian standards.

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

## References

* <https://caat.org.uk/events/reynoldschatham/> - This URL discusses the campaign urging Jonathan Reynolds to stop arms exports to Israel, corroborating the claims about protesters accusing the UK government of complicity in genocide and demanding an end to F35 jet exports.
* <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/jonathan-reynolds-israel-government-chatham-house-campaigners-b1219213.html> - This article reports on the disruption caused by pro-Palestinian protesters during Jonathan Reynolds' speech, supporting the claims regarding the allegations made against the UK government's arms exports to Israel.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/mar/27/pro-palestinian-protesters-disrupt-jonathan-reynolds-speech> - The Guardian's coverage of the protest details the accusations made by demonstrators against Reynolds, emphasizing the context of arms exports and the associated humanitarian concerns.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/arms-export-israel-protests-reynolds-b2312345.html> - This report highlights the ongoing protests against UK arms exports to Israel, including the voices and messages of the demonstrators, thus corroborating the confrontation during Reynolds' speech.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65002355> - BBC News provides coverage on the suspension of arms export licenses to Israel, further elaborating on the UK government's stance and the complexities of the F35 supply chain mentioned by Reynolds.
* <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/3/27/protesters-disrupt-johnathan-reynolds-chatham-house-speech> - This article outlines the protests at the Chatham House event, detailing the protesters' demands and reinforcing the narrative of opposition to the UK government's arms dealings with Israel.
* <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/pro-palestine-protesters-disrupt-reynolds-speech-with-call-for-f35-export-ban-YGIAEVJL2RI2HIVTLAUABG2UDU/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data