# Tensions rise as Israel denies entry to British lawmakers visiting West Bank



Tensions between Britain and Israel escalated over the weekend after Israeli authorities denied entry to two British lawmakers, Abtisam Mohamed and Yuan Yang, who aimed to visit the occupied West Bank. The lawmakers expressed their astonishment at this unprecedented decision while criticising the Israeli government for preventing parliamentarians from witnessing the realities on the ground in Palestinian territories.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, voiced his concern over the incident. In remarks made late Saturday, he described the treatment of the British parliamentarians as “unacceptable, counterproductive and deeply concerning.” Lammy stated, “I have made clear to my counterparts in the Israeli government that this is no way to treat British parliamentarians." The lawmakers had intended to engage with humanitarian aid projects and local communities during their visit.

The visit was facilitated by Medical Aid for Palestinians, a charity that sought to showcase the conditions within the occupied territories. However, upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport, both MPs were questioned and subsequently deported by the Israeli authorities. An official statement from Israel indicated that the lawmakers had endorsed boycotts against the country and that their visit was not part of an official delegation. Israeli law prohibits the entry of non-citizens who support the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which aims to protest against Israeli practices in Palestinian territories. While supporters of BDS view it as a nonviolent stance akin to the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, Israel considers it an attack on its legitimacy and accuses certain proponents of antisemitism.

In a parallel development, violence in the West Bank continues to rise, underscored by the tragic death of 14-year-old Omar Mohammad Rabea, who was shot by an Israeli settler in Turmus Ayya. Palestinian officials confirmed that Rabea, along with two other teenagers, was targeted at the town's entrance. The town's mayor, Adeeb Lafi, reported that two of the wounded teens were taken to a medical centre and later to a hospital, while the third, also aged 14 and a US citizen, was detained by Israeli forces. Unfortunately, Rabea succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter.

The escalation of violence has been linked to increased confrontations between Israeli settlers and Palestinians, especially following the conflict that erupted in Gaza in October 2023. The Palestinian health ministry referred to Rabea’s death as a consequence of "occupation forces," while there was no immediate response from the Israeli military regarding the incident.

Historically, international responses to settler violence have varied. In the past, European nations and the Biden administration had initiated sanctions against violent Israeli settlers, which were repealed during Donald Trump's presidency. As the situation in the region continues to develop, the tension surrounding both British lawmakers' denied entry and the ongoing violence in the West Bank remains critical points of contention.

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