# ICC Seeks Arrest Warrants for Israeli and Hamas Leaders, UK Government Apologizes for Infected Blood Scandal



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The International Criminal Court (ICC) is pursuing arrest warrants for five prominent figures in connection with alleged war crimes during the conflict that began on October 7, 2023. The ICC's Chief Prosecutor, Karim Khan, announced on May 20, 2024, that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant are among those being sought. The warrants also target Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, and Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas.

The alleged crimes include extermination, murder, hostage-taking, rape, sexual assault, and torture. The ICC's statement highlights the rapid development of its investigation, which was initiated within eight months after the conflict's onset. The ICC has a mandate to investigate events dating back to 2014, despite Israel not recognizing its authority.

Israel faces additional international legal scrutiny, including a case filed by South Africa at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding alleged violations of the UN’s genocide convention. Responses from Israeli officials have been critical, stressing the nation’s ability to self-investigate. Hamas has also condemned ICC’s actions, claiming bias.

### UK Government Apologizes for Infected Blood Scandal

On May 20, 2024, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak addressed Parliament regarding the findings of an inquiry into the infected blood scandal, calling it a “day of national shame.” The report revealed that the NHS and successive governments were complicit in a cover-up that resulted in the infection of tens of thousands with HIV and hepatitis during the 1970s and 1980s, leading to around 3,000 deaths. Sir Brian Langstaff, chair of the investigation, called for victims to be compensated.

The inquiry highlighted a systemic failure to protect patients, with doctors and ministers allegedly hiding the truth. The government faces pressure to act on the report’s recommendations promptly, aiming to offer reparations and ensure public health safety.

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