# British nationals face war crimes allegations linked to Israeli military service



Ten British nationals who have served with the Israeli military in Gaza are now embroiled in serious allegations that could implicate them in war crimes, according to a report by the Daily Mail. Prominent human rights lawyer Michael Mansfield KC is set to submit a comprehensive 240-page dossier to the Metropolitan Police's war crimes unit, detailing accusations that these individuals engaged in egregious acts such as the targeted killing of civilians and aid workers, coupled with indiscriminate attacks on civilian sites like hospitals. This dossier even includes allegations of coordinated assaults on protected religious and historical landmarks and the forced displacement of local populations.

Mansfield, notable for his involvement in high-profile cases such as the Grenfell Tower Fire and the Hillsborough disaster, has collaborated with a team of lawyers and researchers to compile this extensive document. This horrifying conduct, reportedly occurring between October 2023 and May 2024, is said to be carried out by British nationals, including those who have held officer ranks within the Israeli military.

He stressed the legal obligations of British nationals, declaring, "If one of our nationals is committing ​an offence, we ought to be doing something about it. Even if we can't stop the government of foreign countries behaving badly, we can at least stop our nationals from behaving badly." This stark reminder emphasizes the urgent need for accountability, especially now that the UK government, under new leadership, has shown a troubling propensity to sidestep critical international issues while focusing on its domestic agenda.

The allegations being raised are profoundly serious, with possible classifications as war crimes or crimes against humanity. Witness testimonies from medical facilities provide shocking accounts, such as discovering corpses strewn about and buried in mass graves, and even witnessing a bulldozer desecrating a body. The intention behind the dossier is clear: the evidence presented is expected to unsettle the public and challenge the newly-established government's stance on accountability for British nationals involved in foreign military conduct.

Sean Summerfield, a barrister involved in the case, stated that the evidence would likely provoke public outrage, pushing for individuals to be held responsible at the Old Bailey for what he described as 'atrocity crimes.' The dossier has been submitted on behalf of the Gaza-based Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and the British-based Public Interest Law Centre, further informing the public that the UK has a legal obligation to investigate and prosecute such crimes wherever they may have occurred.

Raji Sourani, director of the Gaza-based organisation, echoed the moral imperative to respond, asserting, "This is illegal, this is inhuman and enough is enough." The legal director of the PILC reinforced this urgency, stating, "We're filing our report to make clear these war crimes are not in our name." His words resonate particularly in today's political climate, where the newly installed Labour government has yet to take a firm stance on such international crises, diverting attention to internal matters while ignoring the moral responsibilities that lay at the UK's doorstep.

Moreover, the recent revelations compound the existing complexity surrounding the legality of British nationals joining foreign forces, with references to the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870 that bars enlistment in militaries of nations engaged in conflict against those with which the UK is at peace. Strikingly, recent clarifications from former Conservative Minister Lord Ahmad suggested that dual nationals may serve in the forces of their other nationalities, including the Israeli Defence Force, which raises even more questions about the current government's commitment to uphold international law.

As British authorities grapple with these allegations, the potential implications for war crimes accountability and British participation in international military conflicts have never been more urgent. The growing calls for accountability could collide with the new Labour government's ambitions, challenging their ability to sidestep issues of legality and morality while emphasizing the need for decisive action in response to these serious allegations.

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

## References

* <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2025/04/07/745711/Ten-Britons-accused-of-war-crime-against-Palestinians-while-fighting-for-Israel-in-Gaza> - This article supports the claim that ten British nationals are accused of committing war crimes while serving with the Israeli military in Gaza. It details the submission of a 240-page dossier to the Metropolitan Police's war crimes unit, highlighting alleged crimes such as killing civilians and attacking hospitals.
* <https://www.pilc.org.uk/war-crimes-complaint/> - This link corroborates the involvement of the Public Interest Law Centre in submitting a war crimes complaint against British nationals who served in Gaza. It highlights the legal obligations of the UK to investigate such allegations.
* <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/406511> - This article confirms that human rights lawyers are filing complaints against ten British IDF soldiers accused of war crimes in Gaza, emphasizing the legal action being taken.
* <https://www.publicinterestlawcentre.org/> - Although not directly cited, this link would provide information on the Public Interest Law Centre's activities, including their role in the Gaza war crimes complaint. It underlines the centre's involvement in high-profile cases.
* <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/greater-london-authority/governance/london-metropolitan-police> - This link supports the role of the Metropolitan Police in handling serious allegations such as war crimes, as they have a dedicated unit for such investigations.
* <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-enlistment-act-1870> - This URL references the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870, which bars British nationals from enlisting in foreign militaries engaged in conflict against nations with which the UK is at peace, relevant to the discussions about dual nationals serving in foreign forces.