# Inquiry calls mount over UK military support for Israel amid Gaza crisis



The tragic deaths of Hussam, 13, and Muhammad, 14, during the 2003 Iraq war serve as haunting reminders of the catastrophic toll taken by the indiscriminate use of cluster munitions—munitions that have consistently wreaked havoc on civilian lives, as detailed in a report by Human Rights Watch. The unimaginable suffering endured by these boys, killed by a bomblet that "ripped off their legs," adds to the staggering loss of nearly 200,000 civilians during the conflict. Such past horrors starkly resonate with today's humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where over 54,000 lives have been lost due to relentless bombardments in the last 20 months.

Calls for a public inquiry into Britain's military involvement in Israel's actions in Gaza have intensified, revealing a crucial dynamic that demands scrutiny. A former Labour leader's recent remarks about the Chilcot inquiry of 2016, which exposed grave governmental failings during the Iraq war, highlight the alarming similarities to the current government's support for Israel. Under the new Labour administration, military, economic, and political backing for Israel has not only persisted but escalated. Shockingly, the Labour government has approved more arms export licenses to Israel in recent months than the previous Conservative administration did in three years—an indication of a troubling continuity that cannot go unchallenged.

Concerns are rightly mounting about British military bases, particularly those in Cyprus, playing a role in facilitating this support. When Keir Starmer visited RAF Akrotiri, his comments suggested undisclosed military activities that cast doubt on the government's transparency and accountability in these matters. The veil of secrecy surrounding these dealings raises serious questions about the UK’s complicity in actions that critics denounce as tantamount to genocide.

The British public is increasingly demanding clarity on these issues, previously viewed as meticulous government policy, now seen as necessary inquiries into the ethics of military involvement. An independent inquiry into the UK's participation in Israel's military operations in Gaza could provide vital answers regarding the nature of the arms supplied, their direct impact on Palestinian casualties, and the military intelligence exchanged between the nations. This effort seeks to strip away layers of obfuscation surrounding British military policy, revealing a stark truth that the current political leadership seems all too eager to bury.

The ongoing horror of the Gaza conflict has been likened to genocide, with reports of devastating humanitarian conditions leading to thousands of civilian deaths, predominantly affecting women and children. Recent UN assessments call attention to the indiscriminate nature of Israeli airstrikes that violate international humanitarian law. The scale of these actions has spurred calls for investigations into potential war crimes, underscoring the urgent need for accountability beyond mere rhetoric.

As history unfolds, a clear narrative demands that not only perpetrators but also enablers are held to account. If today's leaders—especially under the current Labour government—fail to recognize the severity of the crisis and their role within it, they risk being condemned by future generations for their inaction in the face of overwhelming evidence of suffering and injustice. The integrity of political leadership and humanitarian responsibility hangs precariously as the potential outcomes of the inquiry loom. Will the government choose to embrace transparency, or will it continue to obstruct truths that could radically shift public perception on this humanitarian disaster?

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jun/03/britain-gaza-inquiry-labour-iraq-war> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2003/12/11/target/conduct-war-and-civilian-casualties-iraq> - This Human Rights Watch report examines the conduct of the 2003 Iraq war, focusing on the use of cluster munitions by U.S. and U.K. forces. It details numerous incidents where these weapons caused civilian casualties, particularly in urban areas like al-Hilla and Basra. The report highlights the indiscriminate nature of cluster bombs and their disproportionate impact on civilians, urging a reevaluation of their use in populated regions.
3. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ohchr-thematic-report-indiscriminate-attacks-in-gaza-19jun24/> - A United Nations report from June 2024 assesses six significant Israeli airstrikes in Gaza between October and December 2023. The report raises serious concerns about the use of heavy bombs, such as GBU-31, GBU-32, and GBU-39, in densely populated areas, potentially violating international humanitarian law principles. It documents 218 deaths from these attacks and calls for investigations into potential breaches of the laws of war.
4. <https://explosiveweaponsmonitor.org/fragments/vol/1/issue/2/article/unprecedented-harm-to-civilians-in-gaza/> - This article discusses the unprecedented harm to civilians in Gaza due to Israeli airstrikes using large, air-dropped bombs in densely populated areas. As of December 2023, over 21,000 Palestinians were killed, including more than 5,100 women and 7,700 children. The use of such explosive weapons has resulted in high civilian casualties, drawing comparisons to previous conflicts like the battle of Mosul in Iraq.
5. <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/volume-170/issue-145/senate-section/article/S6134-1> - A U.S. Congressional Record entry from October 2023 details incidents involving Israeli forces using U.S.-made Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) and 120-mm tank rounds in Gaza and southern Lebanon. The document highlights specific attacks resulting in civilian casualties, including the deaths of journalists and healthcare workers, raising concerns about the use of these weapons in populated areas and potential violations of international law.
6. <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/volume-153/issue-67/house-section/article/H4068-1> - This Congressional Record entry from 2007 discusses Human Rights Watch's findings on the use of cluster munitions by U.S. and Israeli forces in populated areas. It emphasizes the indiscriminate nature of these weapons and their disproportionate impact on civilians, urging a reevaluation of their use in such contexts and highlighting the need for compliance with international humanitarian law.
7. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/11/10/Israel-s-use-of-high-impact-bombs-on-Gaza-must-be-investigated-UN-Rights-Chief> - In November 2023, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, called for an investigation into Israel's use of 'high-impact explosive weapons' in Gaza. He expressed serious concerns about the humanitarian and human rights impact of these attacks, particularly in densely populated areas, and suggested potential violations of international humanitarian law principles.