



Open Letter Appealing to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer to Prevent the Deaths of Prisoners for Palestine Hunger Strikers

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The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security is appealing to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer to respond immediately to the Prisoners for Palestine hunger strikers who are facing imminent death in UK prisons. We further implore the UK government to meet with the strikers, as the strikers have requested.

Due to the shameful unwillingness of traditional news media to cover this story, it is difficult to compile a complete and reliable timeline. We have been able to determine what follows: The hunger strikers are 3 of 29 imprisoned members of Palestine Action arrested over their alleged roles in different direct actions, one at Elbit Systems at Filton and the other at a Royal Air Force (RAF) base in Brize Norton in the UK. The three hunger strikers began their hunger strike on 2 November 2025 along with five others (who have since called off their hunger strikes) when their legal right to send and receive communications without restriction was being curtailed and the government was refusing to release documents crucial to their case.

31-year-old Heba Muraisi, today on day 68 of her hunger strike, continues her strike and is increasingly unable to breathe and experiencing muscle spasms. 28-year-old Kamran Ahmed, today on day 60 without food, is losing his hearing. Lewie Chiaramello, who is only 22 years old, is fasting every other day due to Type I diabetes and risks permanent damage due to his chronic illness. This week, 29-year-old Teuta Hoxha ended her hunger strike on day 58 of her strike, facing lifelong health implications due to inadequate medical care.

The Prisoners for Palestine hunger strike is the largest coordinated hunger strike in UK-run prisons since the 1981 Irish hunger strike. The ten Irish Republican Army (IRA) and Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) hunger strikers in 1981 all died between days 46 and 73.

The hunger strikers are demanding immediate bail, the right to a fair trial, a shutdown of Israeli weapons manufacturer Elbit Systems' sites in Britain, the removal of Palestine Action from the list of terrorist organizations, and for prisoners to receive mail and communications that have been withheld.

We cannot fathom that Prime Minister Starmer is willing to let the three remaining young hunger strikers die on his watch. These prisoners are held on remand, and therefore have never been put on trial nor found guilty of any crime. In the eyes of the law, they are innocent. Their five demands have been systematically ignored. They have been subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. They have been denied healthcare and further traumatised by the lack of response from Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy and the rest of his government. On 27 November, more than 800 medical professionals signed a letter to Justice Secretary David Lammy warning that the hunger striking prisoners were facing a medical emergency. UN experts have called on the UK government to respect medical ethics, expressing 'grave concern' for the prisoners' lives and fundamental rights.

Despite the efforts of the UK government to paint these young people as terrorists, they are the voices of the conscience of humanity. In their courageous and stubborn determination to fight for justice, they are fighting for millions of people the world over, including in the UK, who reject genocide and undemocratic attempts to silence dissent. They will go down in history as heroic leaders of this century's fight to salvage humanity from the grips of the present global capitulation to violence, greed and unfettered power.

Mr. Prime Minister, we humbly ask you: Why are you allowing these young British citizens to die? While you may not agree with them, certainly the UK values the lives of determined young people who are concerned with ethics and full of enough courage to risk death for what they believe in? Certainly, the UK can handle dissent in line with its own democratic values? Is this not what liberal democracy purports to stand for?

Are you letting these young people die because, in your mind, this somehow demonstrates your support for Israel, and that is more important to you than the lives of your fellow British citizens?

We at the Lemkin Institute would like to remind the Right Honourable Mr. Starmer that as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, he is answerable to the citizens of that country and has been elected to act in their best interests, not in the best interests of a foreign government.

The UK Crown Prosecution Service states that the maximum time a prisoner is able to be held on remand is 182 days, roughly six months, and yet by the time their trials take place, these young people will have been remanded for more than 18 months.

The Lemkin Institute feels deeply for the young hunger strikers and their families. The Labour Party government is accountable for their fates. The seriousness of this situation cannot be overstated, and their deaths — if you let them die — will haunt you, Mr. Prime Minister, and your government forever.

The Lemkin Institute stands alongside Amnesty International, OHCHR, Jewish Voice for Liberation, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Palestinian Forum in Britain, Friends of Al-Aqsa, Stop the War Coalition, Muslim Association of Britain, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, CAGEinternational, in calling for the UK government to act in compliance with international human rights law and standards as well as its own democratic traditions.