

The UK Announces Theatrical Sanctions Against the Jewish Entity

News:

On 8 September 2026, Britain announced a ban on goods and services linked to the Jewish entity's settlements in the occupied West Bank, joined by France and Canada, while presenting the measure as a defence of the two-state solution.

Comment:

The material effect of Britain's measures is extremely limited. Settlement exports constitute only a small part of the Jewish entity's overall economy.

Settlement expansion has for decades been a mechanism for progressively transforming the West Bank, and the new E1 project with its tenders for more than 1,200 housing units threatens to sever the northern and southern West Bank and destroy its territorial continuity and with it systematic displacement, demolition and settlement expansion, including the forced displacement of more than 33,000 Palestinians from three northern West Bank refugee camps is documented by the UN. But already there are 146 officially recognised settlements across the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, alongside roughly 340 outposts awaiting authorization by the occupation entity.

All while the violent settlement expansion and the genocide in Gaza has been ongoing the UK maintained extensive military, intelligence and defence cooperation with it. Human-rights organisations have continued to document British military components reaching the genocide machine, including components supplied through the US-led F-35 programme. British imports of military goods that have been tested against Palestinians has also reportedly increased dramatically between 2023 and 2025. Sanctioning settlement businesses while maintaining this wider strategic relationship therefore amounts to a symbolic gesture for domestic consumption against a relationship that Britain has fundamentally chosen to preserve.

While the UK government now presents itself as willing to punish people involved in settlement expansion, Britain has subjected sections of its own pro-Palestinian movement to exceptionally severe legal treatment. The Court of Appeal upheld the proscription of Palestine Action in June 2026, and more than 700 people had been charged under terrorism legislation in connection with the organisation by that point. Activists opposing weapons production to assist genocide in Gaza have consequently encountered a British state willing to deploy counter-terrorism powers against them and sentenced four of them to a total of 22 years imprisonment. The UK seeks only to appease the tens of thousands of its own dissenters who refused to be silent even in the face of harsh political repression. Whether this will be enough to calm down British opponents of the Jewish entity's genocide remains to be seen.

**Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by
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