

29th August 2023

Statement:

British Palestinian Committee calls on parliamentarians to defend international law as the UK seeks to block ICJ

The British Palestinian Committee is alarmed by [reports](#) that the UK government is seeking to stop the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from issuing a legal opinion on Israel's occupation of Palestinian land which was requested by the UN General Assembly in a resolution passed in December 2022.

The government's opposition to the hearing and the arguments it has reportedly made against the ICJ's involvement indicate a further departure of UK foreign policy away from the mainstream of the international community and international legal consensus. This step follows a growing pattern of extreme policy positions taken by the government seeking to undermine the Palestinian people's recourse to international justice.

The Palestinian people live under the longest military occupation of the modern era and constitute the world's largest refugee population. Today, they are confronting escalating military violence and accelerating dispossession carried out by one of the most extreme Israeli governments in decades. Their inalienable rights are enshrined in international laws and conventions, which impose obligations on all states. The UK owes a particular outstanding and ongoing colonial debt to the Palestinian people. However, rather than upholding its duties, once again, it has chosen to become a party to their continued dispossession and singles out the Palestinians in its efforts to deny them access to justice.

The British Palestinian Committee calls upon parliamentarians from all parties to take urgent steps to actively protect and promote the principles of international law, justice and accountability, and work to ensure the UK fulfils its international obligations.