

URGENT ACTION

OVER 500 FURTHER ARRESTS AT PEACEFUL PROTESTS

On April 11, over 500 protesters were arrested for opposing the ban on the 'Palestine Action' group at a series of peaceful protests organized by grassroots campaigning group 'Defend Our Juries'. Over 3300 arrests have now been carried out across the UK since the ban came into force in early July 2025 and over 1200 protesters have been charged with terrorism-related offenses under the UK's counter terror legislation, with more charges likely to come. Amnesty International continues to call on the relevant UK authorities to drop the existing charges and take no further action against these and any other individuals arrested and charged simply for the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Fifth UA 77.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Director of Public Prosecutions of England and Wales, Steven Parkinson
Email: enquiries@cps.gov.uk
Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, Stephen Herron
Email: info@ppsni.gov.uk
The Lord Advocate, Rt Hon Dorothy Bain KC
Email: LordAdvocate@gov.scot

Send a copy of your letter to the address below
CC: United Kingdom Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Sir Christian Turner KCMG
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,
Washington DC 20008
Twitter/X: @UKinUSA

Dear Directors of Public Prosecutions for England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Lord Advocate,

On April 11, over 500 protesters were arrested for opposing the ban on the 'Palestine Action' group at a series of peaceful protests organized by grassroots campaigning group 'Defend Our Juries' (DOJ) across the UK.

Amnesty International sent observers to the DOJ protest on April 11, held in London's Trafalgar Square. At this protest, as with all previous DOJ protests, Amnesty International observed protesters holding 'I oppose Genocide, I support Palestine Action' signs to be entirely peaceful.

Under international human rights law, any restriction on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly must be lawful, necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate aim. Criminalizing speech in this context is only permitted when it incites violence, hatred, or discrimination. Expressing support for Palestine Action does not in itself meet this threshold.

I urge you to uphold UK's human rights commitments, drop the charges and not pursue prosecutions against all those who participated in peaceful protests in support of 'Palestine Action'.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

'Defend our Juries' is an activist-led, UK-based group that has made clear it neither promotes nor endorses violence. Since July 2025, they organized multiple mass actions of peaceful disobedience expressing opposition to the proscription of Palestine Action group.

Peaceful protests were organized around the start of the judicial review hearing of the UK government's proscription of 'Palestine Action' as a 'terrorist' group, which took place at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, on November 26-27, 2025 and December 2, 2025. Amnesty International intervened in the case through a legal submission, which argued that the ban is disproportionate.

The arrested protesters come from a wide range of ages, professions, and backgrounds, and include a significant number of older adults. Peaceful protesters are freely expressing their outrage at Israel's genocide against Palestinians in the Occupied Gaza Strip, which is protected expression under international human rights law. Numerous human rights groups, including Amnesty International, have extensively documented and exposed Israel's continuing genocide against Palestinians in the Occupied Gaza Strip.

Prosecutions under terrorism-related legislation, even without a conviction, can have serious and lasting consequences for individuals. These include restrictive bail conditions, surveillance, reputational damage, mental health impact, and negative consequences on employment, education, and travel. A conviction under laws like the Terrorism Act 2000 brings even more severe consequences: a lifelong criminal record, visa and immigration issues, loss of job opportunities, professional licenses, and access to services, along with long-term social stigma and psychological harm. When such prosecutions target peaceful protest and civil disobedience, they create a chilling effect—detering people from exercising their rights to free expression, protest, and political activism out of fear of being criminalized as 'terrorists'.

The arrests of peaceful protesters simply for displaying the message 'I Oppose Genocide. I Support Palestine Action' violates UK's international obligations to protect freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Under the international human rights framework to which the UK is a party, state interference with the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly must be lawful and be necessary and proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. Expressing support for a proscribed organization could only meet this threshold if that expression were likely to induce its audience to partake in violence, and to do so imminently. As part of this assessment, the particular facts of the expression, the proscription, and the nature of the organization in question must also be considered. In this instance, it cannot be justified to treat expression of support for Palestine Action as inherently and uniformly incitement. Caselaw by the European Court for Human Rights stated that placards are protected speech unless they directly and expressly constitute incitement. There is no reasonable basis to consider participants at 'Defend our Juries' actions as inciting violence, hatred or discrimination

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: November 26, 2026

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/united-kingdom-over-600-further-arrests-at-peaceful-protests/>