



FM Sa'ar announces closure of British consulate in Jerusalem and countermeasures against UK sanctions

The closure of the British Consulate in Jerusalem is part of a series of Israeli countermeasures in response to the new sanctions announced by the British Foreign Secretary of the Labour Government and following a series of anti-Israel decisions by the Labour Government.

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Minister of Foreign Affairs Gideon Sa'ar, with the agreement of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, today announced the closure of the British Consulate in Jerusalem as part of a series of Israeli countermeasures in response to the new sanctions announced by the British Foreign Secretary of the Labour Government and following a series of anti-Israel decisions by the Labour Government.

The measures are:

1. The closure of the British Consulate in Jerusalem.
2. The removal of British representatives from the International Gaza Support Center in Kiryat Gat.
3. The termination of British activities to train Palestinian Authority forces in Judea and Samaria under the "British Support Team in Ramallah."
4. The denial of entry to Israel to 12 British elected representatives and other British nationals involved in antisemitic and anti-Israel activity, as well as those who deny the very existence of the State of Israel.

Foreign Minister Sa'ar made the following statement:

"Today, with the agreement of Prime Minister Netanyahu, I decided on a series of Israeli countermeasures in response to the series of new sanctions announced today by the British Foreign Secretary of the Labour Government and following a series of anti-Israel decisions by the Labour Government.

The accusations made today by the Foreign Secretary of the Labour Government in the British Parliament were outrageous lies.

Let me make this clear from the outset: we have nothing against the British people. We know that we have many friends in Britain.

Unfortunately, a hostile Labour Government is in office, systematically acting against the State of Israel, and it has left us with no choice but to finally respond to its hostile actions.

The decision by the Labour Government in Britain to initiate a series of severe sanctions against the communities in Judea and Samaria, as well as additional sanctions concerning arms, was announced by Mr. Miliband immediately after he spoke about Israel's right to defend itself. A bit of a self-contradiction.

They chose to do this, on the eve of the holiest days in the Jewish calendar, for domestic political reasons, ahead of the Labour Party Conference taking place this month.

The British move is morally distorted and constitutes blatant interference in the affairs of a sovereign state and in its electoral process.

The attempt by the British Labour Government to impose measures in the style of the "White Paper" carries echoes of the antisemitic words of British Lieutenant-General Barker, commander of British forces in the Land of Israel during the Mandate, who said: "punish the Jews by striking at their pockets."

The Jewish people have the right to live throughout the Land of Israel. The connection and right of the Jewish people to this land are documented more extensively than those of any other people in human history.

The move by the Labour Government in Britain is particularly absurd given that, more than a century ago, it was the Balfour Declaration of the British Government that formally recognised the historic right of the Jewish people to re-establish their national home in the Land of Israel, including in Judea and Samaria.

This declaration served as the foundation for the British Mandate, was recognised by the League of Nations, and was subsequently incorporated into Article 80 of the United Nations Charter.

A boycott of goods from Judea and Samaria is a despicable practice that harms hard-working, law-abiding citizens. The Labour Government has decided to employ this practice of boycotts and BDS only against the Jewish state.

Contrary to the false claims of the Labour Government, no new decisions have been made regarding development in E1. The decision was taken more than a year ago, and the tender process has been underway for many months.

The claims regarding the severing of potential Palestinian territorial contiguity are also baseless. The decision of the Government of Israel, taken more than a year ago, stipulated that two roads would be built: the first, Road 80, which will serve as a major transportation route from the Bethlehem area to the Ramallah area; the second, known as the "Fabric of Life" Road, between a-Za'im and al-Ezariya.

The claim of harm to “Palestinian territorial contiguity” sounds particularly ridiculous coming from those who insist on defining Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip as “one territorial unit.”

The decision of the Labour Government also constitutes a gross interference in the electoral process of a sovereign state. This is a blatant and completely unacceptable attempt by a foreign government to exert external influence in the midst of an election campaign.

However, the Israeli public overwhelmingly supports the communities in Judea and Samaria, and overwhelmingly opposes the establishment of a Palestinian terror state in the heart of our land. This is something that the Labour Government is attempting, through measures that are doomed to fail, to force upon Israel. It will not work.

After everything we have seen, after the Israeli concessions in the Oslo Accords and the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, the Second Intifada and October 7, the Israeli public utterly rejects the establishment of a jihadist terror state in the heart of our land.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an age-old conflict. Unfortunately, the Palestinians have always rejected proposals to resolve it and have never abandoned terrorism and incitement.

This conflict will not be resolved through declarations from London or Paris, and a one-sided, anti-Israel approach only pushes the possibility of reaching a solution further away rather than bringing it closer.

It is particularly astonishing that governments such as the Labour Government do not even consider imposing sanctions on the Palestinian Authority for its systematic financial support for terrorism through the notorious payment mechanism known as “Pay For Slay.”

This one-sided approach also ignores the continuing Palestinian terrorism against Israeli civilians, which we saw in action again this week.

I say to the Labour Government and to every government in the world that thinks it can force Israel to act against our national and security interests: You have no chance of succeeding.

We did not return to our land after 2,000 years only to lose it under pressure from jihadists, Islamists, antisemites, far-leftists and wokes. Not only will you fail to harm us. You will harm yourselves and your own influence.

And take note: the Palestinians will also be directly harmed by your measures. There are tens of thousands of Palestinian workers employed in our communities, and these sanctions will harm them.

Nor will the Palestinian Authority, which stands behind various such moves, be immune.

The latest decision by the Labour Government joins an increasingly escalating series of unilateral measures against Israel adopted by the hostile Labour Government since it took office in July 2024.

These measures have included, among other things, recognition of a virtual “Palestinian state” in September 2025; the resumption of funding for UNRWA, even though its employees were actively involved in the October 7 massacre; the suspension of licences for defence exports to Israel, and today we learned of the intention to expand these restrictions; sanctions on Israeli ministers; sanctions on Israeli individuals and entities; the suspension of negotiations on a free trade agreement; restrictions on Israel’s official participation in the international defence and security equipment exhibition in Britain; the freezing of military dialogue and security cooperation; preventing IDF officers from participating in training at the Royal College of Defence Studies; and the promotion of repeated, biased and one-sided attacks against Israel in the international arena.

These measures by the Labour Government in Britain, along with biased and one-sided anti-Israel rhetoric, have already contributed significantly to the unprecedented rise in antisemitic attacks, including violent attacks against British Jews.

In light of all this, I have decided, as stated, with the agreement of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on the following Israeli countermeasures:

1. The closure of the British Consulate in Jerusalem. United Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and is under its full sovereignty. Any activity by a foreign state within it must be carried out with the consent of the State of Israel. Any foreign activity in the area must be conducted through accepted and agreed channels and without violating Israel’s sovereignty.
2. The removal of British representatives from the International Gaza Support Center in Kiryat Gat.
3. The termination of British activities to train Palestinian Authority forces in Judea and Samaria under the “British Support Team in Ramallah.”
4. The denial of entry to Israel to [12 British elected representatives and other British nationals](#) involved in antisemitic and anti-Israel activity, as well as those who deny the very existence of the State of Israel.

Britain initiated and led the current move. But we will also take countermeasures, at our discretion, against other countries that act or will act against Israel.

The message to every government that harms us is clear: whoever acts against Israel, Israel will act against them, and they will lose their influence and relevance in the region.

Measures against Israel will not go unanswered.

Shana Tova to all of the Jewish people, in Israel and throughout the world.

Elected officials and British nationals to be denied entry to Israel:

1. Jeremy Corbyn MP
2. Zarah Sultana MP
3. Fahad Ansari, Director of Riverway to the Sea
4. Naz Shah MP
5. Diane Abbott MP
6. Hannah Spencer MP
7. Carla Denyer MP
8. Sian Berry MP
9. Ellie Chowns MP
10. John McDonnell MP
11. Richard Burgon MP
12. Adrian Ramsay MP

<https://www.gov.uk/en/pages/fm-sa-ar-announces-closure-of-british-consulate-in-jerusalem-and-countermeasures-against-uk-sanctions-8-sep-2026>