

If you listened to the news this morning, you would think that Keir Starmer has recognised Palestine.

He has not.

He has come nowhere near recognising Palestine.

He is playing games with Palestine.

He is saying he might recognise Palestine if Israel does not do what he wants.

He is giving Israel the right of veto over his policy.

He is giving in to Israel because he is saying that if they simply end the current genocide without in any way offering reparations for all the harm that they have caused, he will reward them.

He is also delaying the potential recognition of Palestine until the time when very large numbers of people in Palestine will have died as a consequence of genocide.

And please, let me emphasise, nobody anywhere should be talking about famine in Gaza, any more than anyone should ever refer to famine in Ireland in the 1840s. The people in Gaza are subject to a genocide, and not a famine, just as Ireland was back then. Starvation might be the consequence in both cases, but the causes are fundamentally different.

Starmer does not appear to be recognising that.

He is even placing conditions on Palestinians as part of this extraordinary game that he is playing, which appears, as ever, to be a part of his utterly inappropriate Zionist policy.

He is saying that he will recognise Palestine, and is simultaneously saying that the Palestinian people do not have the right to choose whoever they so wish as their next government. He is ignoring the fact that in South Africa, after apartheid, the ANC

moved from being a terrorist organisation, and out of prison, to form the government under Nelson Mandela. And he's also ignoring the fact that in Northern Ireland, Sinn Féin moved from being a banned organisation to providing Martin McGuinness, an admitted terrorist, as deputy first minister; they were the people's choice, but Starmer will not recognise the right of Palestinians to choose. He has said that Hamas must have no role in Palestine in the future, as a result, failing to recognise all the precedents from history.

He has even said that there is no equivalence between Hamas and Israel, which is also completely untrue. I am not in any way condoning deaths and attacks by Hamas. Let me be clear. Hamas leaders were charged with committing war crimes, although those responsible are now dead. But, there is an equivalence, because Israel has committed some of the most grossly offensive war crimes we have seen. Of course, they are not alone in doing such things, but that is no defence, and what they have done is, if anything, very much worse than what Hamas did, and again, I make those comments without in any way using it as justification for anyone. I am making the point that what Starmer is saying is wrong.

Starmer did not, then, recognise Palestine. He treated it as the powers that be in London have always done, as if it were a political pawn, a plaything, a piece to be used in their manoeuvres, without ever recognising that there are people, a nation, and a valid claim of title to land involved. It is as if we, as a country, and most especially he, as well as his cabinet, have learned absolutely nothing. Their contempt for the Palestinian people is matched only by their support for everything Israel has done. Remember, they only stopped flights to support Israeli action in Gaza three days ago.

So, what should Starmer have done?

He should have unambiguously and without conditions attached, recognised Palestine now.

He should have made clear that Israel is an invading force and is not undertaking self-defence.

He should have said that Israel is committing war crimes.

He should have called out genocide.

He should have committed British troops to defending Palestine by literally sending them in, as part of what I would hope would be a multinational force, with facilities and supplies into Gaza to relieve the victims of genocide.

He should have said that the UK will enforce any demands from the International Court of Justice for arrests for suspected war crimes.

He should have imposed sanctions on Israel until it surrenders those who are guilty of

war crimes.

He should have imposed sanctions on Israel until it ends its apartheid regime and withdraws from all occupied territories, including all the settlements on the West Bank.

He should have said that he recognises Israel inside its pre-1967 borders.

But he said none of those things.

He failed the Palestinians.

He failed us.

But most especially, he gave a lifeline and a veto on his actions to those committing genocide, and as a result, offered no help whatsoever to those who are dying as a consequence of it. And that was unforgivable because this was not a plan for peace. This was an act that supports an ongoing aggressor.

Taking further action

If you want to write a letter to your MP on the issues raised in this blog post, there is a ChatGPT prompt to assist you in doing so, with full instructions, [here](#).

One word of warning, though: please ensure you have the correct MP. ChatGPT can get it wrong.