

Funding the Future

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Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges has [written this on X](#) when referring to the sanctions put on United Nations Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese by the United States of America:

The attack against Albanese presages a world without rules, one where rogue states, such as the U.S. and Israel, are permitted to carry out war crimes and genocide without any accountability or restraint. It exposes the subterfuges we use to fool ourselves and attempt to fool others. It reveals our hypocrisy, cruelty and racism. No one, from now on, will take seriously our stated commitments to democracy, freedom of expression, the rule of law or human rights. And who can blame them? We speak exclusively in the language of force, the language of brutes, the language of mass slaughter, the language of genocide.

I think that Hedges is right. Apart from those who will deliberately refuse to acknowledge what is really happening, the vast majority of people will realise that a state that deliberately sanctions those people who call out the perpetrators of genocide is, itself, on the side of those committing that act.

What he had to say reminded me of another article that I thought powerfully evoked the reaction that people are having to the world around them at present, [this one being written](#) by Guardian journalist and editor, Archie Bland, who said:

Those people have been told that Gaza protests are hate marches; they can see it's not true. They have been told that US campus protesters are largely motivated by antisemitism; they can see it's not true. They have been told that Palestine Action is a terrorist organisation because it spray painted military aircraft; they can see it's not true. They have been repeatedly told, by Benjamin Netanyahu, that opposition to Israel's war is antisemitic; they can see it's not true. They have been told that the British government finds Israel's actions "intolerable"; they can see it's not true.

Bland uses reiteration in that piece to good effect. The fact is that most people now know that what they are being told by politicians is not true. This, of course, is also the case with regard to matters far beyond the conflict in Gaza, but something has to crystallise that feeling in people, and Gaza might be it, as Hedges also suggests.

No one with any sense has ever believed everything that a politician has said. However, we rarely expected them to say something that was glaringly obvious contrary to the truth in a way that was readily apparent to anyone who gave a moment's thought to the issue in question. That, however, is now commonplace.

It is now the case that politicians don't just 'spin'. They promote blatant untruths to promote the abuse of people, and seemingly think we should accept such statements as being not just true but an honest reflection of their opinions. Tellingly, this is the case here in the UK as much as it is in the USA. We have reached the point where legislation could be presented to parliament saying that black is white, and I would expect a whole pile of Labour MPs to go into media studios to argue that this is, indeed, the case.

When truth departs - as it is doing from the political field - we are in very deep trouble.