

Starmer's choice? Does he support Palestine or the USA?...

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As the New York Times says [in an email this morning](#):

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and President Trump are said to be working on a deal that would present Hamas with an ultimatum: release the remaining hostages and agree to terms that would disarm the group, or Israel's military campaign would continue.

Three thoughts.

First, of course, Hamas should release all its Israeli hostages. Hostage taking is utterly unacceptable.

Second, of course, Israel should release all its Palestinian hostages. Hostage taking is utterly unacceptable.

Third, if Hamas is destroyed, it will be replaced. You cannot commit genocide on people and expect them to surrender and accept it as the USA and Israel are demanding; it is simply not going to happen, meaning that this proposed outcome is impossible to deliver: it is not going to happen.

It is not going to happen any more than Starmer's demand that Hamas recognise that it can have no role in the future of Palestine is going to happen. If Palestine is to be a state, and it must be, it is for the people of Palestine to decide that, not Trump, Netanyahu or Starmer, and there is a long record of former 'terrorist leaders' going on to lead their states. Leave aside Mandela, and just look at Eamon de Valera in Ireland.

These demands are undeliverable then. Anyone can see that. They are, in other words, excuses for the continuing genocide.

So, Starmer has to decide. Does he break with Trump and condemn this and support the right of the Palestinian people to decide?

Or, does he continue to support genocide?

Oddly, it is that simple in his case, and there is very little in between, apart from promoting the obvious, which is the need for an international peacekeeping force to deliver aid to Gaza from the sea, and to tell Israel it must accept that this will happen, which it could, virtually overnight.

It's Starmer's choice. He can do the right thing. Or book his ticket for The Hague.