

## Israel is a rogue state

Published: April 26, 2026, 6:05 am

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Israel is a rogue state. Its wars in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Iran have no justification in international law. More than 70,000 civilians have died in Gaza alone. Ambulances and crews are being deliberately targeted in Lebanon. These are war crimes — and the world has seen this before, in apartheid South Africa. What a full boycott must include:

- \* End all defence agreements and halt armed supplies immediately
- \* Ban trade, block financial flows, restrict travel
- \* Break sporting, artistic, and academic links
- \* Begin war crimes investigations and prosecutions

Opposing these actions is not antisemitism. Allowing them to continue unchallenged would be a moral failure of historic proportions. Sanctions eventually ended apartheid in South Africa. Nothing less will do here — and the time is now.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fq051jFFTY?si=B8zfd5wfldNLxeVg>

This is the audio version:

[https://www.podbean.com/player-v2/?i=z7ddj-1aa8dd1-pb&from=pb6admin&share=1&download=1&rtl=0&fonts=Arial&skin=f6f6f6&font-color=auto&logo\\_link=episode\\_page&btn-skin=c73a3a](https://www.podbean.com/player-v2/?i=z7ddj-1aa8dd1-pb&from=pb6admin&share=1&download=1&rtl=0&fonts=Arial&skin=f6f6f6&font-color=auto&logo_link=episode_page&btn-skin=c73a3a)

This is the transcript:

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There's an issue that the world is not talking about right now, and it is that Israel is now a rogue state by any meaningful definition that anyone could create.

It's waging illegal wars in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Iran. None of those actions has any justification in international law. All have been widely condemned by the international community, and the driving force behind all of them is deliberate racial prejudice against Palestinians and Muslims.

This is no longer a borderline case. It is a clear and present reality that threatens us all, and that's why we need to talk about it and what we can do about it.

What Israel is doing in Gaza meets the definition of genocide. The United Nations have said so via the International Criminal Court. We don't need to wait for another decision to know that to be the case. It's already happened. The scale, intent and indifference to human life shown there are unambiguous; civilians have died in considerable numbers: more than 70,000, at least to date, and we are now seeing the same thing happening in Lebanon.

The targeting of ambulances there, civilian ambulances manned by civilian crews, with deliberate targeting going on so that successive ambulances arriving at a scene are attacked one after the other, proves that Israel is targeting civilian infrastructure. These are not mistakes or collateral damage. They are policy, and they are contrary to international law that says such action is always and inevitably illegal. But so far the international community has not risen to the challenge that these actions do pose for us all, and it is not taking the urgent and collective action that is required in response to them.

Israeli policy in Gaza and the West Bank is apartheid in practice. It's built on systematic discrimination by the Israeli state against Palestinians. Palestinians do have a right to live in these territories. That right is being denied to them. They are being expelled from the places where they live. That is ethnic cleansing. That is a war crime, and at the same time, the claim of Jewish superiority that underpins this action is by definition antisemitic.

Anything that treats Jewishness as a basis for discrimination is, by definition, antisemitic, and by this definition, Israel's own actions are therefore antisemitic, whatever its supporters claim. You cannot use the status of a population and its ethnicity as the basis for discrimination, whoever you are, and that is what Israel is doing.

At the same time, we need to look at a broader level and note that the wars in Lebanon and Iran are now threatening global stability. Millions of people may die as a direct or indirect consequence if famine becomes commonplace, as it might during the course of 2026 because of an absence of fertiliser flows. Massive refugee crises are already forming and will grow. World economic disorder is a foreseeable consequence with

serious outcomes for many all around the globe, and people in the UK are already facing higher costs and economic risks as a result.

Now, let's just contextualise this. I understand the arguments made by Israelis about the events of October 7 2023. However wrong that attack on Israeli civilians was, it does not justify the response that has happened since then. The fact is that under the rules of war, a response has to be proportionate. The response that Israel has put in place, as a consequence of that attack by Hamas, has been totally disproportionate, unjustified and inappropriate in international law. So, no one can now say that October 7 2023 was justification for what has happened since. That is simply not true.

At the same time, we have to recognise that there was no recognised threat posed by Iran that justified the attacks on both Lebanon and Iran by Israel and the USA. Again, a just war must be proportionate, and none of the actions of the USA and Israel in those wars has been. That's a simple, straightforward statement of fact, which it is impossible to challenge.

The response has been callously indifferent to civilian suffering. Civilian targets have been attacked. School children have died. Civilian hospitals and schools have been targeted. All of that shows precisely how indifferent Israel now is to the demands from the international community that it act appropriately. It isn't going to do that, and this is why we need to think about a different type of response to the crisis that we now face as a consequence of Israel being, as I've previously said, a rogue state.

And remember, we have been here before. South Africa provides us with the precedent for this situation. The world faced this kind of state-sponsored racial hatred in the 1970s and thereafter in South Africa, and we faced it, and we acted. We imposed sanctions, sporting boycotts, travel restrictions and financial limitations on South Africa as a consequence. We pursued political isolation. We imposed trade embargoes, and we created a demand for public accountability. Those measures worked. They did, and it took a long time to bring apartheid to an end. If it was right to sanction South Africa back in the 1970s, 80s and 90s, it is right to sanction Israel now. That is my argument, and let me slightly differentiate the cases of Israel and the United States here.

In the United States we still have a chance that democracy might yet deliver change. Trump may be rejected at the ballot box. That's my point. The fall of Viktor Orbán in Hungary shows that democratic correction is still possible in countries which are close to fascism, but Israel is a different case. Changing government in Israel has not changed policy in the past. Successive Israeli governments have maintained West Bank policy regardless. There is no sign now that removing Netanyahu would necessarily change policy on Gaza, Lebanon, or Iran.

The world cannot wait on Israeli democracy to solve a global problem this time. A full international boycott of Israel must now be put in place.

Defence agreements must be ended, and armed supplies halted.

Trade must be banned and financial flows must be blocked.

Travel must be restricted and tourism suspended.

Sporting, artistic and academic links must be broken.

Investigations into the abuses by Israeli politicians, officials and its military must begin now. We must be prepared to bring prosecutions when the right time comes. Plans for war crime trials are essential. Individual politicians, officials, and commanders must be named and profiled for this purpose.

The narrative around all this must be made absolutely clear, and the fact that none of it is antisemitic because racial intolerance is unacceptable from anyone must be made apparent.

But the fact is, these sanctions must also be general. Those who elect governments that commit these crimes must share the responsibility for them. That is why sanctions on South Africa were justified in the 1970s. The white population there that put in place the governments that imposed apartheid had to be sanctioned to ensure that change took place. Populations with democratic control of governments are not exempt from the consequences of their choices.

Let's just stand back. As a young man, I supported sanctions on South Africa. I had no hesitation at the time. I was doing this as long as 50 years ago. As an older man, I'm now calling for sanctions on Israel. The crimes now are comparable. I cannot morally distinguish the racism that drove the policy of both countries from the way that is now apparent in the actions of Israel. If it was right to impose sanctions in the 1970s, it is right to do so now on Israel. The world cannot afford to tolerate one state's feral behaviour at such a cost as the one that Israel is going to impose upon us all. In that case, nothing less than sanctions will do, and the time for them is now.

That's my opinion. What's yours? There's a poll down below. Please let us have your comments. Please like this video if that's what you do. Please share it if you want to, because we'd appreciate that. Please subscribe to this channel, and if you want to support our work, any donation that you're able to make would be gratefully received.

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## **Poll**

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