PALESTINE SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE
United Against Apartheid Israel

Statement by the Palestine Solidarity Alliance – South Africa

On the Case of Mohammad Hasna: The UK Must Not Be an Accomplice in Criminalizing Humanitarian Aid.

The Palestine Solidarity Alliance – South Africa (PSA) condemns in the strongest terms the United Kingdom's handling of the case of Mohammad Hasna, a humanitarian worker whose detention and pending extradition to the United States represent a grave assault on the principles of humanitarian law and the fundamental right to provide life-saving assistance to civilians under siege.

The Facts of the Case

Mohammad Yousef Hasna, a 45-year-old Turkish national of Palestinian origin, was arrested in the UK on 31 July 2026 at the request of the United States. He remains in custody pending extradition to New York on three charges: conspiring to provide material support to Hamas, conspiring to finance terrorism, and financing terrorism. Each charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years.

The US Department of Justice alleges that Hasna, as global director of a UK-registered charity, coordinated with senior Hamas leader Ghazi Hamad regarding the delivery of funds and supplies into Gaza, and that he took steps to conceal the destination of aid shipments. The prosecution's theory is that Hasna "used his position to raise funds and provide financing, food, and supplies under the guise of relief work."

The UK's role in this case is not that of a neutral legal partner. British counter-terrorism police arrested Hasna, and British courts are now processing an extradition request for conduct that occurred entirely outside the United States and involved no American nationals. The investigation that led to Hasna's arrest was aided by UK law enforcement and Israeli intelligence. The UK is not merely complying with a treaty obligation—it is actively enabling a prosecution that treats the operational realities of aid delivery in Gaza as criminal conduct.

The Legal Contradiction: The ICJ's Prevention Standard and the UK's Selective Application

The International Court of Justice has spoken on Gaza with a clarity that removes any remaining excuse for inaction. On 26 January 2024, in *South Africa v. Israel*, the Court found that South Africa's claims that Palestinians in Gaza were at plausible risk of genocide were credible enough to warrant provisional measures. The Court ordered Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent acts of genocide, including "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." It specifically required Israel to take "immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance" to Palestinians in Gaza. The Court acted because it found a real and imminent risk of irreparable prejudice to the plausible rights of the Palestinian population under the Genocide Convention.

The evidence before the Court was not abstract. The ICJ's order recorded statements from senior Israeli officials, including Defence Minister Gallant's declaration of a "complete siege" with "no electricity, no food, no fuel," and his statement that "we are fighting human animals." The Court noted that at least one in four households in Gaza was facing "catastrophic

conditions"—experiencing an extreme lack of food and starvation. These were the conditions that led the Court to conclude that the plausibility threshold had been met.
Since that order, the situation has only deteriorated. In August 2025, the IPC Famine Review Committee confirmed famine in Gaza Governorate. UNRWA's Commissioner-General stated plainly: "This is starvation by design and manmade by the Government of Israel. It is the direct result of banning food and other basic supplies for months including from UNRWA." The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food has documented Israel's use of starvation as a method of warfare, noting that by December 2023, Palestinians in Gaza constituted 80% of the world's population experiencing famine or catastrophic hunger.
This is the context in which the UK now operates. On 19 November 2026, the ICJ delivered its judgment in *The Gambia v. Myanmar*, establishing that a state can breach its duty to prevent genocide without the court first determining that genocide occurred. The UK welcomed this judgment. It expelled Myanmar's defence attaché, summoned the chargé d'affaires, imposed sanctions on military officials, and formally recognized the genocide against the Rohingya.

The UK cannot have it both ways. If the duty to prevent genocide is triggered by knowledge of serious risk, as the ICJ has now clarified in *Myanmar*, then the UK's obligation regarding Gaza was engaged long ago. The ICJ's January 2024 order in *South Africa v. Israel* put the UK on notice that the rights of Palestinians in Gaza were plausibly at risk and that Israel was required to ensure humanitarian access. The subsequent confirmation of famine, the documented starvation campaign, and the systematic destruction of water and food infrastructure have only deepened that knowledge.
And yet the UK is not merely failing to prevent—it is imprisoning the humanitarian who coordinated food distribution to the victims of these very conditions. Mohammad Hasna sits in HMP Belmarsh, held without charge, while the UK processes an extradition request to the United States for the alleged crime of coordinating aid delivery in Gaza. The UK cannot recognize genocide in Myanmar while treating the logistics of aid delivery in Gaza as material support for terrorism. It cannot invoke the Genocide Convention's prevention standard abroad while criminalizing those who sought to keep Palestinians alive at home.
The contradiction is not merely moral—it is legal. The UK's conduct in the Hasna case is incompatible with the obligations it has publicly accepted under the Genocide Convention. The duty to prevent genocide requires action. The UK has chosen prosecution instead.

The South African Extension: Humanitarian Agencies Are Similarly Targeted
This pattern is not unique to the UK. In South Africa, Zionist lobbying groups have likewise targeted humanitarian and welfare organizations that provide assistance to Palestinians. South Africa's largest humanitarian NGOs and their leadership have long faced accusations of "funding Hamas" from figures in prominent Jewish communal organizations, despite these accusations never resulting in any formal designation or prosecution. Pro-Israel groups have also pressured the US Treasury to investigate such organizations' ties to foreign institutions, seeking to bring South Africa's humanitarian relief networks within the scope of "counter-terrorism" enforcement. When Zionist forces in South Africa portray humanitarian workers as "terrorist accomplices," they are in effect providing political cover for the starvation policy in Gaza—those who try to feed the besieged population are punished, while the architects of famine walk free. South Africa's humanitarian agencies stand on the same front line as their counterparts in Gaza; every false accusation against them is another attack on the right to survival in Gaza.

CAGE UK: The Documentation the State Refuses to Acknowledge
In this landscape, CAGE International has done the work the British state refuses to do. CAGE has documented how counter-terrorism frameworks are repurposed to suppress dissent and sever lifelines to besieged populations. It has named the mechanism at work in the Hasna case: the reframing of humanitarian coordination as terrorism, and the use of extradition to enforce a political agenda that British courts would not independently pursue. CAGE UK has not waited for permission to speak. It has identified the legal architecture enabling this persecution and stood with those targeted by it. The British government owes CAGE a debt it will not acknowledge: the debt of having been told the truth while it chose to look away.

The UK Must Act
The UK cannot claim to defend humanitarian law while delivering a humanitarian worker to face charges that criminalize aid coordination. It cannot invoke the Genocide Convention in Myanmar while facilitating the punishment of those who fed the starving in Gaza.
The Palestine Solidarity Alliance – South Africa therefore supports the call on the UK government to:

1. **Halt the extradition of Mohammad Hasna immediately.** The alleged conduct has no connection to the United States beyond a politically motivated indictment. The UK is not an enforcement arm of Washington's campaign against Palestinian humanitarian action.
2. **Reject the criminalization of humanitarian coordination.** The UK should issue clear guidance that logistical coordination with local authorities in besieged territories is not material support for terrorism. To hold otherwise is to criminalize the entire practice of humanitarian aid in conflict zones.
3. **Apply the ICJ's prevention standard consistently.** If the UK accepts that the duty to prevent genocide arises upon knowledge of serious risk, it must explain why that standard does not apply to Gaza, where UN experts and international bodies have documented conditions meeting the legal definition of genocide.

Conclusion
The architects of genocide walk free. The humanitarian who coordinated survival sits in custody. This is the moral inversion the UK now enforces. It must end.
The Palestine Solidarity Alliance – South Africa stands in full solidarity with Mohammad Hasna, with the Palestinian people, and with all humanitarian workers who risk their freedom to deliver life-saving aid to civilians under siege. We call upon the international community, civil society organizations, and all people of conscience to join us in demanding an immediate end to this persecution and to the broader campaign of criminalizing humanitarian action in Gaza.

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About the Palestine Solidarity Alliance – South Africa
The Palestine Solidarity Alliance – South Africa is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to supporting the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, justice, and equality. We work to raise awareness, advocate for policy change, and mobilize solidarity with Palestine across South Africa and beyond.