



SO15 Investigations  
Specialist Operations, London Metropolitan Police Service  
New Scotland Yard, Victoria Embankment  
City of Westminster  
SW1A 2JL

6 September 2025

BY EMAIL ONLY: [REDACTED]

**URGENT**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write to notify you of Israeli president Isaac Herzog's upcoming official visit to the United Kingdom, which will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, between 10-11 September 2025.

Isaac Herzog, who has been serving as the president of Israel since 2021, is suspected of bearing criminal liability for alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity, torture, and actions that constitute plausible genocide contrary to s.134 of the Criminal Justice Act, the Geneva conventions act 1957,<sup>1</sup> and s.50 & s.51 of the International Criminal Court Act 2001.<sup>2</sup>

You will be aware of the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 24 November 2024, relating to war crimes and crimes against humanity, including starvation of the civilian population allegedly committed during the recent conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). These warrants target senior officials within the Israeli military and government for conduct that may amount to grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other serious violations of international law, and the Rome Statute.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Geneva Conventions Act 1957, First Schedule, Article 50, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/5-6/52/schedule/FIRST>

<sup>2</sup> International Criminal Court Act, part 5, Section 51, 2001, (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2001/17/section/51>, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2001/17/section/68>)

<sup>3</sup> International Criminal Court, [Situation in the State of Palestine: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I rejects the State of Israel's challenges to jurisdiction and issues warrants of arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant](#) (21 November 2024).

ICJP has previously provided the Metropolitan Police with extensive evidence which demonstrates Israel's commission of international crimes including the crime of starvation as a method of warfare and indiscriminate targeting of civilians and civilian objects, specifically protected medical staff—all crimes that fall within the remit of UK legislation and jurisdiction. Therefore, it is our view that evidence previously submitted need not be restated.

We also draw your attention to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) order from 26 January 2024 in proceedings initiated by South Africa against Israel on the application of the Genocide Convention. In this order the Court found that it is plausible that Israel's military action in Gaza amounts to genocide and ordered provisional measures to prevent "*irreparable harm*" to Palestinians caused by Israel's continued actions in Gaza.<sup>4</sup>

In reaching its order, the Court took note of a number of dehumanizing statements made by senior Israeli officials, in particular a statement made on 12 October 2023 by Mr. Isaac Herzog, President of Israel, asserting that all Palestinians in Gaza were responsible for the Hamas attack on 7 October 2023. In his statement, Herzog stated: *"We are working, operating militarily according to rules of international law. Unequivocally. It is an entire nation out there that is responsible. It is not true this rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved. It is absolutely not true. They could have risen up. They could have fought against that evil regime which took over Gaza in a coup d'état. But we are at war. We are at war. We are at war. We are defending our homes. We are protecting our homes. That's the truth. And when a nation protects its home, it fights. And we will fight until we'll break their backbone."*<sup>5</sup>

We request that SO15 urgently investigates Mr. Herzog's liability and urgently do everything possible to secure an interview with him. We would like to note that immunity would not preclude SO15 from interviewing him and otherwise investigating him, in compliance with the UK's international and domestic obligations.

Yours faithfully,  
International Centre of Justice for Palestinians

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<sup>4</sup> Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (*South Africa v Israel*) (Order) [26 January 2024], <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>, paras. 54,75.

<sup>5</sup> Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (*South Africa v Israel*) (Order) [26 January 2024], <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>, para 52.