



Presented by WBII

# PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

The “Media Blackout” Campaign – A Threat to Truth and a Gift to Terror



SEPTEMBER 2025



[advocacy@webelieveinisrael.org.uk](mailto:advocacy@webelieveinisrael.org.uk)



[www.webelieveinisrael.org.uk](http://www.webelieveinisrael.org.uk)

## Information Warfare Against Israel

### 1. A Coordinated Propaganda Offensive

- On 1 September, over 150 media outlets across 50 countries will stage a simultaneous “blackout” of their front pages, websites, and broadcasts. The accusation: that Israel is deliberately targeting journalists in Gaza and suppressing press freedom.
- This campaign is orchestrated by NGOs such as Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and Avaaz. Leaked briefing documents show identical headlines, banners, hashtags, and broadcast scripts have been distributed across the participating outlets.
- This is not “journalistic independence.” It is centrally scripted propaganda.

### 2. The Timing: Not Accidental, but Strategic

- The date chosen — 1 September — is the anniversary of Nazi Germany’s invasion of Poland. The symbolism is deliberate: Israel is to be portrayed as the modern-day fascist aggressor, Gaza as Warsaw.
- The campaign comes just weeks before the UN General Assembly, where several European states (France, Spain, Ireland) are expected to press for unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state. The blackout is intended to soften public opinion and pressure governments, including the UK, into supporting this push.

### 3. Hamas’s Strategy of Information Warfare

- Hamas cannot defeat Israel militarily. Its rockets are intercepted by Iron Dome, its tunnels are exposed and destroyed, and its commanders are relentlessly targeted.
- Instead, Hamas fights in the information space: reframing its atrocities as “resistance,” redefining Israel’s self-defence as “genocide,” and exploiting sympathetic NGOs and media to amplify its narrative.
- The “media blackout” is part of this strategy. It weaponises sympathy for “journalists” to cover for Hamas’s crimes and undermine Israel’s legitimacy.

### 4. A Dangerous Precedent for UK Policy

- If Parliament ignores this campaign, it risks signalling that UK foreign policy can be manipulated by coordinated NGO propaganda rather than by fact, law, or democratic debate.
- Allowing NGOs aligned with terror sympathisers to shape policy creates a precedent whereby Britain’s security, credibility, and moral authority are eroded.

## Exploding the Lies

### 1. The “210 Journalists” Claim

- RSF claims 210 journalists have been killed in Gaza since October 7. This figure is deliberately misleading.
- Intelligence and independent investigations confirm that dozens of those counted as “journalists” were Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad operatives:
  - Some live-streamed the October 7 massacres while wearing press vests.
  - One man was discovered to be holding three Israeli hostages in his own home while also filing “dispatches.”
  - Others served as drone operators, rocket commanders, or battlefield scouts.
- To present these combatants as martyrs for press freedom is to launder terrorism as journalism.

### 2. Israel’s Restrictions Are Not Unprecedented

- RSF accuses Israel of “barring journalists from Gaza without precedent in modern warfare.” This is false.
  - The U.S. military excluded journalists during the battles of Fallujah (2004) and Mosul (2016).
  - Sri Lanka barred reporters during its final offensive against the Tamil Tigers (2009).
  - Russia restricted all press access during its campaigns in Chechnya.
- Why? Because journalists in war zones are not just vulnerable, they are exploitable: they can be kidnapped, used as human shields, or, as in Gaza, double as combatants.
- Israel’s policy is not exceptional. It is consistent with international practice where counter-terror operations occur in dense urban environments.

### 3. The Real Blackout is Hamas’s

- Gaza’s journalists are not free. They operate under Hamas censorship and fear of lethal reprisal.
- Palestinian journalists have testified — under threat of torture — that every word they publish is vetted by Hamas’s censors.
- Several journalists who criticised Hamas were imprisoned, tortured, or executed.
- Yet RSF and Avaaz mount no campaign on their behalf. Their silence is telling. They defend not journalism but Hamas’s monopoly on information.

### 4. The Agenda is Political, Not Journalistic

- The blackout is designed to invert the moral order:
  - Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is portrayed as the great oppressor.
  - Hamas, a genocidal death cult that rapes, burns, and murders civilians, is presented as the custodian of “press freedom.”
- This is not scrutiny of Israel — which is legitimate and necessary. It is slander. It is political warfare masquerading as journalism.

## Parliament's Duty

- This campaign is not about defending journalists. It is about delegitimising Israel, whitewashing Hamas, and manufacturing public consent to reward terror with premature statehood.
- By repeating Hamas's narrative, NGOs and media outlets are not supporting journalism — they are supporting terrorism.
- The UK must not be complicit. Parliament must:
  - Reject the lies of this campaign.
  - Affirm that restrictions on press access in war zones are lawful and precedented.
  - Insist that Palestinian statehood cannot be the reward for terrorism, but the fruit of genuine peace.

This is support for terrorism. It must stop — now.

---

In all my years of working to defend Israel and expose the lies woven around her, I have rarely seen an assault as brazen as the one we now face. The so-called “media blackout” is not journalism. It is an orchestrated campaign, scripted in offices far from Gaza, designed to smear Israel and whitewash the crimes of Hamas. Let me be clear: this is support for terrorism, nothing less. It rewards Hamas for its atrocities, it erases the suffering of our people, and it seeks to bully governments — including our own — into betraying truth in favour of propaganda. I write to you today not only as the Executive Director of We Believe in Israel, but as someone who has seen firsthand how narratives are twisted, how lies are dressed up as fact, and how easily public opinion can be manipulated. I know the danger when the pen becomes the weapon of the sword. And I will not stay silent. This is a moment that demands courage. We at WBI are in the trenches every day, but we cannot fight this battle alone. We need you — your voices, your strength, your refusal to let this blackout of truth succeed. Share our message. Speak up. Stand with us. Israel stands. And so must we.

With resolve,

Catherine Perez-Shakdam  
Executive Director  
We Believe in Israel

## Why the “Media Blackout” Campaign Falls Under the UK Counter-Terrorism Bill

The UK has long recognised that terrorism is not only fought on the battlefield, but also in the domain of ideas, propaganda, and incitement. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and subsequent legislation make clear that providing support — direct or indirect — to proscribed terrorist organisations is a criminal offence. The Avaaz/RSF “media blackout” campaign, planned for 1 September, meets the threshold of concern under this legislation for three reasons:

### 1. Direct Alignment with Proscribed Terror Groups

- The campaign adopts and amplifies Hamas’s central propaganda line: that Israel is “killing journalists” and suppressing truth.
- Hamas is a proscribed terrorist organisation in the UK. By adopting its narrative, the campaign provides political cover for its crimes and assists in its strategic aim: delegitimising Israel internationally while justifying its atrocities.
- Under UK law, to provide material or ideological support to a proscribed group is prohibited. This campaign functions as ideological support.

### 2. Incitement and Radicalisation Risks

- Coordinated blackouts across 150 media outlets globally will not merely “raise awareness” but create the perception of global consensus that Israel is guilty of “war crimes.”
- This has clear potential to incite hatred against British Jews and Israelis, fuelling antisemitism and radicalisation in the UK.
- Previous counter-extremism policy has flagged the danger of “narratives that legitimise violence.” By erasing Hamas’s crimes and casting Israel as criminal, this campaign does exactly that.

### 3. Undermining National Security

- The campaign is explicitly timed to influence UN deliberations on Palestinian statehood — an outcome Hamas openly seeks to secure through terror.
- By advancing Hamas’s goals, the blackout undermines Britain’s stated foreign policy, weakens its alliances, and emboldens terrorist actors across the region.
- UK institutions and media outlets participating in this campaign may inadvertently place themselves in breach of obligations under counter-terrorism legislation, exposing themselves to sanction.

The UK’s Counter-Terrorism Bill is clear: no support, material or ideological, should be provided to proscribed terrorist organisations. The Avaaz/RSF “media blackout” campaign is not neutral journalism but a coordinated propaganda exercise serving Hamas’s political and strategic ends. It constitutes ideological support to a proscribed terrorist organisation.

#### Parliament must therefore:

1. Condemn this campaign as support for terror.
2. Scrutinise UK-based organisations and outlets considering participation.
3. Ensure counter-terror legislation is applied consistently — including to NGOs and media when they cross the line into serving the propaganda aims of terrorism.

To tolerate this campaign is to legitimise Hamas. And to legitimise Hamas is to endanger both Israel’s security and Britain’s own. This is support for terrorism. It must stop — now.