

Statement to full council meeting 16th May 2024 - Jane Samson

“Run! the Israelis demand.

“Run for your lives!

Run from Rafah the way you ran from Gaza City, the way you ran from Jabalia, the way you ran from Dare-al-Balah, the way you ran from Beit Hanoun, the way you ran from Bani Suhaila, the way you ran from Khan Yunis.

Run or we will kill you.

We will drop 2,000-pound bunker - buster - bombs on your tent encampments.

We will spray you with bullets from our machine-gun-equipped drones.

We will pound you with artillery and tank shells.

We will shoot you down with snipers.

We will decimate your tents, your refugee camps, your cities and towns, your homes, your schools, your hospitals and your water purification plants.

We will rain death from the sky.

And we will laugh.

Run for your lives.

Again and again and again.

Run. Run. Run.

And when you run in terror to one part of Gaza we will make you turn around and run to another.

Trapped in a labyrinth of death.

Back and forth.

Up and down.

Side to side.

Six. Seven. Eight times.

We toy with you like mice in a trap....

Then.... we will deport you so you can never return.

Or we will kill you.”

So what has this got to do with Bath and North East Somerset council?

With the Balfour Declaration, the UK was responsible for giving away Palestinian land to Zionists. The UK is directly responsible for the ruthless persecution of the indigenous Palestinians and for the facilitation of the Nakba, a reign of terror which has gone on for 76 years.

The Nakba didn't end in 1948. It is an ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing, violence and occupation.

On 14th March this year, BANES council published a statement from which I quote:

“We would like to express deep sympathy for all those affected by the conflict in Palestine and Israel. To those in the Bath and North East Somerset area who have been affected by this conflict, we offer our support during this difficult time.”

Please tell us what practical support you have offered to the people affected since the statement was made?

Words are not enough.

As far as we are aware you have made **no** attempts to follow through on your statement.

Are you aware of the abuse that people with brown skin living in Bath have received since October 7th last year?

This abuse happens on a regular basis coming from racists and Zionists. The residents of Bath are proposing that BANES councillors pass a resolution to lobby the government.

We would like the government to implement a refugee scheme for Palestinians similar to the Ukrainian Scheme.

It's been done before. It can be done again. It's the very least we can do.