

Fury over Palestine protest group ban

theday.co.uk/fury-over-palestine-protest-group-ban-424 June 2025



Demonstration: The head of London's police force said he was "shocked and frustrated" that hundreds of people attended a protest supporting Palestine Action on Monday.

Should we encourage dissent? The UK government moved to ban a pro-Palestine protest group. Some say this is a threat to freedom.

What's happening?

What is **terrorism**? When you think of this word, you might picture violence — bombs and killings. But what about spray-painting a plane?

Last week, the protest group **Palestine Action** broke into an **RAF** base in England and sprayed red paint over a military plane — including inside it. Experts say the cost of a replacement could be as high as £25m.

The group wants to raise awareness of what they say is British involvement in **war crimes** against the **Palestinian** people.

Find out more

The spray painting caused huge anger among those who say they put British national security in danger. Now the UK government says the group will be banned and labelled a terrorist group.

Supporters of Palestine Action say this is **absurd**. Palestine Action has destroyed **property** and damaged buildings but never killed or injured anyone.

But if the group is labelled a terrorist organisation, it will become a crime simply to show support for them.

How did we get here? Terrorism means the use of violence against **civilians** to achieve a political aim.

In the UK, leaders have the power to remove British **citizenship** from people who are citizens of more than one country if they are simply **suspected** of being a terrorist.

Should we encourage **dissent**?

Some say

Yes! Protests are a sign of a healthy society. It is wrong to start locking people up for showing support for nonviolent protest.

Others say

No! Palestine Action took a step too far. Protesters have to be shown that military sites cannot be damaged or destroyed. We should not encourage actions that put national safety at risk.

Six steps to discovery

Some people say

1. Connect

"Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty."

Henry Thoreau (1817 – 1862), American essayist

What do you think?

How do you feel about this story? - Do you think it is right to ban Palestine Action? Have you ever protested against anything?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: What methods can protest groups use?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - You are a top adviser to UK leaders. What do you suggest they do about Palestine Action?

5. Express

What do others believe? - "Protesters should always follow the law." Hold a class debate on this topic.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Make a list of common actions used by protest groups. Which are legal? Which are not? How do you feel about them?

Glossary

Terrorism - The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.

Palestine Action - A pro-Palestinian protest network that uses direct action tactics in the UK.

RAF - The Royal Air Force is the UK's air force.

War crimes - Violations of the laws and customs of war.

Palestinian - Palestine is an area of the eastern Mediterranean region, including the West Bank, Gaza Strip and parts of modern Israel. It has been fought over by Arab and Jewish national movements for many years.

Absurd - Ridiculous.

Property - Something that is owned by someone.

Civilians - People who are not in the army or the police.

Citizenship - A legal status meaning a person has a right to live in a country. There are different ways to become a citizen of a country.

Suspected - Believe or think that something is true, but without having clear proof.

Dissent - To hold or express opinions against a prevailing idea or policy, once used in England and Wales describe those who rejected the Anglican church.