



Polanski call for investigation of alleged Brit war criminals has upset Israel apologists

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Green Party Leader Zack Polanski is under fire for calling for potential British-Israeli dual national war criminals to be investigated. *The Jewish News* platformed commentators who conflated criticism of the state of Israel with antisemitism over Polanski's signing of a *Declassified UK* letter calling for [basic accountability](#)

Polanski, who is Jewish, signed the 26 May letter. *Declassified* and the [International Centre of Justice for Palestinians](#) are running a campaign to force police to investigate Brits who served in the Israeli military during the genocide. You can read the *Canary*'s report [here](#)

The campaign letter [reads](#)

We, the undersigned, are politicians, lawyers, campaigners, human rights defenders, journalists, and concerned members of the public who believe the public interest is best served by monitoring the entry of British-Israeli dual national citizens into the UK and investigating potential links to war crimes, in cases where they have served in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

Over 2000 Brits have served in the genocide, yet UK police have refused to investigate. The letter makes two recommendations:

[Firstly](#)

Implement a disclosure requirement regarding service in the Israeli military, subjecting travellers with Israeli travel documents or arriving from an origin of Tel Aviv airport to potential secondary screening at ports of entry under domestic war crimes inadmissibility rules and/or adjusted visa policies.

And secondly

Conduct robust, impartial and independent investigations and prosecutions at national or international levels, in compliance with the obligation to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes under international law, to ensure justice for all victims and the prevention of future crimes.

Conflating accountability with antisemitism

Jewish Leadership Council Foreign Affairs Director Russell Langer [told](#) *Jewish News*:

At a time of rising antisemitism, it is particularly disturbing to see calls for the monitoring of dual British-Israeli citizens. Demonisation of Israelis is criticism of a foreign government but the targeting of a group of people for their nationality.

Adding

Such hatred risks making British Jews, many of whom have close family and social connections to Israel, a target for hostility and violence.

A spokesperson for the Board of Deputies [said](#)

This petition seems to be another attempt to demonise Israelis and promote an atmosphere of intimidation against British Jews.

It is an example of what the government's independent reviewer of terrorism legislation Jonathan Hall KC has described as the ignoring of conventions against the promotion of collective hatred against a nationality in the case of Israelis.

The spokesperson [added](#)

The call of those who have signed it, including Zack Polanski, to treat people as potential criminals just because of their passport is a unique and wholly unacceptable form of discrimination.

The conflation of antisemitism with anti-Zionism and with a general critique of the settler-colonial state of Israel has always been a scurrilous thing. Almost three years of genocide has diminished

the power of this attack line. Previously indifferent publics now understand the colonialist nature of the Israeli project and the roles of the US and UK.

Polanski has his shortcomings â?? the *Canary* isnâ??t shy about [pointing them out](#) â?? but on this the Green leader is absolutely correct.

Featured image via [Getty/Ryan Jenkinson](#)

By [Joe Glenton](#)

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