

Press Release: 15 May 2024

REVEALED: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OF 'ADVISER' PROPOSING ACTIVIST BAN



Lord Walney - the Government's 'independent' adviser on domestic violence and disruption

In the last few days, extracts have been released to the media from the report of the Government's so-called 'independent adviser on domestic violence and disruption', Lord Walney, calling for campaign groups such as Palestine Action and Just Stop Oil to be banned, despite the groups themselves being denied access to the report.

Today, 15 May, it has emerged that far from being 'independent', Lord Walney serves vested corporate interests in the arms and fossil fuel industries, whose profits are being threatened by precisely the groups he's proposing to ban.

Amongst other roles Lord Walney:

- Chairs the [Purpose Defence Coalition](#), whose members include Leonardo, one of the world's largest arms manufacturers, with [extensive links to the Israeli government](#)

- Is a paid adviser to Rud Pederson, lobbyists, whose clients include the oil and gas giant, [Glencore](#)
- Is a paid adviser to the [Purpose Business Coalition, whose members include BP](#).

Lord Walney also visited Israel in January of this year, funded by Elnet, an NGO promoting cooperation between Europe and Israel.

The revelations echo a previous attempt by the so-called ‘think-tank’, Policy Exchange to brand climate activists as [‘extremists’ in 2019](#). It later emerged that Policy Exchange was also being funded by [Big Oil](#).

Tim Crosland, Director of the climate justice charity Plan B, said:

“Lord Walney’s report is being presented as ‘independent’. But that’s not true. That’s dishonest. Lord Walney failed to disclose he is in fact the Chair of Defence Purpose Coalition, a group which represents the interests of arms companies, such as Leonardo, which Palestine Action are exposing for facilitating mass loss of life in Gaza. He is also a paid adviser to the Purpose Business Coalition, which includes BP, whose vast profits are threatened by Just Stop Oil. So his recommendations are not surprising, since they serve the vested corporate interests he represents. But it would be a shocking deception on the public for anyone to present those recommendations as ‘independent’.”

Huda Ammori, co-founder of Palestine Action, said:

“Whilst our government remains complicit in the ongoing Gaza genocide, it is our duty to take direct action to halt the production of weapons in Britain which is being used against the Palestinian people. It is a sham for the government to try and claim Lord Walney is an ‘independent’ advisor, who only a few months ago travelled to Israel, whilst families were being massacred a couple of hours away. By writing this report, he is working to protect the interests of Israel’s military supply chain, over the will of the British people, who overwhelmingly support an arms embargo on Israel. Unelected politicians with vested interests in arms companies and genocidal entities should not be given airtime to dictate British policy.”

It was originally expected that the full report would be released on Wednesday morning. It is understood that legal issues may now cause a short delay to publication.

See also

[‘Extreme’ protest groups face ban under proposal](#) (BBC)

[‘Meet the Shadowy Network Vilifying Climate Protestors’](#) (DeSmog)

[‘Israeli embassy officials attempted to influence UK court cases, documents suggest’](#) (The Guardian)

[‘Revealed: Policing bill was dreamed up by secretive oil-funded think tank’](#) (openDemocracy)

[‘David Cameron warns lobbying is next political scandal’](#) (Daily Telegraph, 2010)

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