ISRAEL™ TRUTH NETWORK

IED Kite Flying Is *Not* Child's Play

THE LIE

Israeli Defence Minister Katz has issued a decree to execute any child flying a kite. Israel is treating paper kites flown by Palestinian children as weapons of war - proof of genocide and the total destruction of innocence.

THE TRUTH

No such decree exists. Katz ordered military action against Hamas commanders responsible for orchestrating kite and balloon launches - not against children. Calling these "innocent children's kites" ignores seven years of documented Hamas arson attacks using kites and incendiary balloons against Israeli farmland, forests, and communities.
Israel's policy is a direct response to Hamas's arson terrorism, not to children at play.

BACKGROUND

➔ On August 24-25, 2026, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz announced that kites, balloons, and drones launched from Gaza would be treated with equal military seriousness, and that Hamas commanders responsible for organizing launches would be targeted and residents of launch neighbourhoods displaced.

➔ Within hours, former UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn (@jeremycorbyn) posted that Israel was treating 'paper kites flown by Palestinian children' as weapons of war and called it evidence of genocide. Actor Liam Cunningham (@liamcunningham1) went further, claiming that Katz issued 'a decree to execute any child flying a kite' - a claim that appears in no official statement, no news report, and no government document.

➔ Hamas publicly claimed the kites were 'children's toys from displacement camps.' The IDF assessed the current launches as a Hamas-orchestrated operation, likely a test of Israel's response, and confirmed the kites found in August 2026 carried no explosives.

TRUTH EXPLAINED

➔ Katz's actual statement was: 'A balloon is treated like a kite, and a kite is treated like a drone, with or without explosives.' He directed action against Hamas military operatives running the launches, not against children. The phrase 'decree to execute children' appears nowhere in any official record. Middleeasteye

➔ The kite-and-balloon weapon system is not new. Hamas began deploying incendiary kites and balloons as an organised arson campaign in 2018, a tactic documented by the IDF, Haaretz, USA Today, and international monitors - not only Israeli government sources. USA Today

➔During Hamas's 2018 "return march" campaign, what began as scattered incendiary kite launches became centrally orchestrated arson terrorism - the Meir Amit Intelligence Center documented Hamas's military wing manufacturing devices, transporting them to launch sites in military vehicles, scheduling mass launches, and attaching IEDs to kites and balloons that burned thousands of acres across southern Israel. Meir Amit Intelligence Center

➔ At least six kites have crossed from Gaza into Israel this week — flown, the IDF believes, by children as young as 12 under Hamas direction. This is not incidental: putting children behind the controls is Hamas's strategy. If Israel holds back, the launches continue and escalate. If Israel strikes back, Hamas broadcasts photos of dead children and accuses Israel of killing kids for flying kites — even though Hamas put them there on purpose. Jerusalem Post

➔ The documented damage from Hamas's 2018 kite and balloon campaign alone included over 7,400 acres of Israeli agricultural land and forest burned, more than $3 million in losses to Israeli farmers, hundreds of livestock killed, and incendiary balloons landing in Israeli kindergartens. Fires were ignited at Kibbutz Kfar Azza, Nahal Oz, and Kibbutz Be'eri - communities later targeted again on October 7, 2023. Middleeasteye

➔ Reuters confirmed Israel issued public strike warnings and evacuation orders in direct response to kite launches in August 2026 — Corbyn and Cunningham omitted that sequence when they framed the operation as an unprovoked assault on children at play. Reuters
IDF footage from Hamas's 2018 kite campaign shows Gazans launching kites rigged with explosives and incendiary devices while chanting "Allah willing, the Jews' hearts will burn." Hamas's own operatives framed the arson attacks as a military operation, not the "innocent childhood play" Corbyn describes. Times of Israel

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QUOTES

"A kite may look harmless. But communities along Israel's border with Gaza remember what happened when kites and balloons were deliberately weaponized."

-Stand With Us

TAKEAWAY

Corbyn and Cunningham did not make an honest mistake — they ran a familiar script: strip away the military context, make the children the entire story, then call it genocide. Cunningham didn't misread a real policy; he invented one, fabricating a "decree to execute children" that no one issued. Corbyn took a documented Hamas arson weapon and repackaged it as innocent childhood play. Neither move is new: it's the same playbook Hamas built in 2018, when the kite campaign launched alongside a deliberate media operation designed to produce exactly this reaction abroad — outrage aimed at Western audiences who never see the fires, the years of damage, or the military decision-making, only a child and a kite. The kites are real. So is the propaganda built around them. When a former head of a major political party and a well-known actor repeat fabricated kill orders against children, they are not speaking truth to power — they are functioning as unpaid amplifiers for a terrorist organization's information war.