

Sanctioning 'Settlers' Won't Stop Expansion - It Will Fracture a Democratic Alliance

THE LIE

Sanctioning Israeli 'settlers' is the only way to stop 'West Bank' expansion and hold Israel accountable. The UK's planned trade ban and personal sanctions targeting residents of the E1 corridor will pressure Israel to change course.

THE TRUTH

The UK's proposed sanctions target ordinary families in a 40,000-person city that even the Clinton peace plan designated to remain part of Israel - not violent actors. Britain's own Chief Rabbi and the Board of Deputies of British Jews have warned these measures are counter-productive. Without a realistic path to compliance or US backing, these sanctions won't change Israel's policy—they're political theater with real diplomatic costs and real consequences for British Jews. .

BACKGROUND

→ On August 19, 2026, Israel opened construction tenders for the E1 corridor - a 4.6-square-mile stretch of largely uninhabited Israeli land connecting Jerusalem to Ma'ale Adumim, a Jewish city of over 40,000 residents founded in 1977.

→ → By August 26, 2026, reports confirmed that UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham was preparing a new, broader sanctions package targeting Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria—including a trade ban on settlement-linked goods and personal sanctions against leading figures in the settlement movement. This would go significantly beyond the UK's June sanctions, which targeted six firms and one individual over alleged violence in Judea and Samaria. [Jerusalem Post](#)

→ On August 30, 2026, Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis met personally with Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband and stated the government's intended sanctions would be 'counter-productive.' The Board of Deputies of British Jews simultaneously issued a public warning that a settlement trade ban could have 'harmful consequences for British Jews.' [Chief Rabbi, on X](#)

TRUTH EXPLAINED

→ Britain's double standard is glaring: as Yair Netanyahu pointed out, Britain is prepared to defend the Falkland Islands—thousands of miles from its shores—while demanding that Israel surrender Judea and Samaria, the Jewish people's ancestral homeland. Britain insists that its own tenuous territorial claims must be respected while treating Israel's sovereignty, history, and security concerns as illegitimate. [Yair Netanyahu–Rupert Lowe exchange on X](#)

→ The E1 corridor is largely uninhabited state land with no Palestinian residents. Ma'ale Adumim sits inside the security barrier on land the Clinton parameters — accepted by the Palestinian Authority — assigned to Israel. Sanctioning Israelis for living where the PA itself agreed they could is not justice; it is anti-Israel theater. [Jewish Virtual Library](#)

→ Ma'ale Adumim provides strategic depth for Jerusalem's eastern front - it cannot be left as an isolated enclave with only a vulnerable road connection, as Mount Scopus was between 1948 and 1967. Across Israel's political spectrum there is national consensus that E1 linkage is a security necessity. [Washington Institute](#)

→ Critics claim E1 would make a Palestinian state impossible. But that assumes the creation of a Palestinian state is a legitimate or desirable goal for Israel to facilitate. After October 7, the central question is not whether Israel can be pressured into creating another state west of the Jordan River, but whether doing so would create a massive terror hub overlooking Israel's population centers. E1 strengthens the strategic connection between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim and reinforces Israel's ability to maintain defensible borders and protect its capital. [Jewish Virtual Library](#)

→ Britain imposed these sanctions without stating what would ever trigger their removal. There is no compliance demand for Israel to meet — only punishment for Israelis living in a city of 40,000 that even the Clinton parameters recognised as Israeli. Sanctioning a democratic ally this way is not foreign policy. [Washington Institute](#)

→ When the UK formally designates the community where tens of thousands of Israelis live as subject to trade bans, it creates a chilling effect on British Jewish organisations and businesses with Israeli ties — and emboldens those who seek to conflate British Jewish identity with a sanctioned entity. The Board of Deputies' warning reflects a concrete fear, not a hypothetical one. [Jewish News UK](#)

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QUOTES

“You will go to war for some rocks on the other side of the world from Britain, but then expect Israel to give up Judea and Samaria, which is half of our territory (our whole country is the size of Wales), the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people, a land that cuts right through our capital, and sits 15 km from Tel Aviv? Don’t you think it’s a bit hypocritical?” - Yair Netanyahu responding to Rupert Lowe MP

The government's intended sanctions will be counter-productive. - Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis, meeting with Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband, August 30, 2026

A settlement trade ban could have harmful consequences for British Jews. - Board of Deputies of British Jews, public statement, August 30, 2026

TAKEAWAY

Britain's E1 sanctions are not a one-off — they fit a pattern of anti-Israel rhetoric and policy that keeps coming from London. Sanctioning Israeli families in a city of 40,000 that Clinton's plan recognised as Israeli, on empty land with no Palestinian residents, is the same script in a new form: treat normal Jewish life near Jerusalem as illegitimate. The Chief Rabbi and Board of Deputies warn it will harm British Jews at home and will not bring peace — and Britain is pressing ahead anyway. When a government ignores its own Jewish community's warnings to punish Israelis for living in their own country, the goal is not diplomacy. It is signalling — again — whose side Britain is on.