

UK Court Upholds Legality of F-35 Jet Parts Sales to Israel Amid Gaza Conflict Scrutiny

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The UK High Court has ruled that the government's continued sale of F-35 fighter jet components to Israel is lawful, dismissing a legal challenge brought forward by Palestinian human rights advocates. The court concluded that the decision to allow the export of military equipment, specifically parts used in the US-led F-35 program, fell within the legal

boundaries of ministerial discretion and did not breach international or domestic obligations.

The case was brought by the Palestinian human rights organization Al-Haq, which argued that the UK's involvement in supplying components used in jets deployed by Israel during military operations in Gaza violated international humanitarian law. They urged the court to suspend licenses for exports connected to the F-35 program. However, the judges determined that it is ultimately the responsibility of the government, not the judiciary, to assess and decide on such matters based on available intelligence and diplomatic considerations.

The ruling comes at a sensitive time, as Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza continues to draw international scrutiny and debate. Civil society groups and human rights organizations have increasingly criticized Western governments for supplying arms to Israel amid reports of civilian casualties and large-scale destruction in the Palestinian territories. The court acknowledged the severity of the humanitarian concerns but maintained that it was not within its remit to overrule the government's assessment of export controls in this instance.

Government officials welcomed the decision, saying it confirms that the UK's arms export process remains compliant with legal frameworks and international standards. They emphasized that all licenses are subject to regular review and are only granted when consistent with the UK's obligations under international law.

Al-Haq expressed disappointment in the ruling and signaled its intention to continue pressing for greater accountability and oversight of UK arms exports. The outcome underscores the delicate balance between

national policy, legal responsibility, and international pressure in one of the world's most contested geopolitical arenas.