

**Rida Hamidou**  
**Khalid Eats an Orange**

**Bush Theatre Protest Series**

Madam President, distinguished members of the court, it is an honour to appear before you again on behalf of the state of Israel.

The attempt to weaponize the term genocide against Israel in the present context does more than tell the court a grossly distorted story, and it does more than empty the word of its unique force and special meaning. It subverts the object and purpose of the convention itself.

There are many distortions in the applicant's submission to the court, but as shall be demonstrated by counsel, there is one that overshadows them all. In the applicant's telling, it is almost as if there is no intensive armed conflict taking place between two parties at all, no grave threat to Israel and its citizens, only an Israeli assault on Gaza. The court is told of over 23,000 casualties, as the applicant repeats, as many have unverified statistics provided by Hamas itself. Hardly a reliable source. Every civilian casualty in this conflict is a human tragedy that demands our compassion. But the court is not told how many thousands of casualties are in fact, militants. How many were killed by Hamas fire, how many were civilians taking direct part in hostilities, and just how many are the result of legitimate and proportionate use of force against military targets, even if tragic.

The key component of genocide, the intention to destroy a people, in whole or in part, is totally lacking. What Israel seeks by operating in Gaza is not to destroy a people, but to protect the people, its people, who are under attack on multiple fronts, and to do so in accordance with the law, even as it faces a heartless enemy determined to use that very commitment against it.

As the prime minister reaffirms, Israel seeks neither to permanently occupy Gaza or to displace its civilian population. It wants to create a better future for Israelis and Palestinians alike, where both can live in peace, thrive and prosper, and where the Palestinian people have all the power to govern themselves, but not the capacity to threaten Israel.

I thank you for your kind attention. May I ask, Madam President, that you call Professor Shaw to the podium?

**Credits:**

Writer and Director: Rida Hamidou  
Director of Photography: Joyce Nicholls  
Performer: Bilal Hasna  
Music: 'Sub 5' by Jack Sheen  
Design: Daniel Cooper

**End slide reads:**

Bush Theatre Protest Series  
We believe the connection between art and protest is vital.

The Bush Theatre's Protest series is a platform for artists to shed light on injustices that persist in our world.

[bushtheatre.co.uk/protest](http://bushtheatre.co.uk/protest)