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The Lord Advocate, Rt Hon Ruth Charteris KC

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Dear Directors of Public Prosecutions for England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Lord Advocate,

Following the UK Court of Appeal's 15 June ruling that overturned the High Court's February decision that the proscription of Palestine Action was unlawful, grassroots campaigning group Defend our Juries (DoJ) has continued its campaign against the proscription. Their actions include peaceful protests and more recently supporters publicly stating that they were members of Palestine Action and, in some cases, encouraging others to join. More peaceful actions by DoJ are expected ahead of 4-5 November when the Supreme Court will hear the appeal against the proscription.

On 30 July, 134 people were arrested under Section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000 for professing to be members of Palestine Action. Prior to this, police had raided and arrested the homes of other activists who had taken similar actions online. On 5 July, 14 activists arrested under the same legislation, after they staged a protest inviting police officers to join Palestine Action.

Since the ban against 'Palestine Action' came into effect on 5 July 2025, over 3500 arrests of peaceful protesters have taken place across the country simply for their engagement in acts of peaceful protest opposing the proscription. The majority of these arrests have taken place at, or followed peaceful protests, organised by Defend our Juries, at 16 of which Amnesty International deployed protest observers. To date, approximately 1200 individuals across the UK have been formally charged with terror-related offences under section 12 or section 13 of the UK's 2000 Terrorism Act, and more charges continue to be brought against the arrested protesters.

Under international human rights law, to which the UK is bound, any restriction on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly must be lawful, necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate aim. Criminalising speech in this context is only permitted when it incites violence, hatred or discrimination. Expressing support for Palestine Action, professing membership or inviting support for the group does not in itself meet this threshold.

I urge you to uphold the UK's human rights commitments by dropping the charges and not pursuing prosecutions against all those who have participated in peaceful protests in support of 'Palestine Action'.

Yours sincerely,