



17th February 2026

A Thaoisigh,

I am writing in response to your statement that the Republic of Ireland's games against Israel in the UEFA Nations' League should go ahead on the basis that there is no official boycott of Israel in Ireland.

Shamefully there are indeed no sanctions on Israel despite its flagrant violations of international law. Nonetheless you have stated on the record that Israel is guilty of genocide.

As you are aware, Article 1 of the Genocide Convention states that-

"The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish".

In accordance with the Convention, signatory states are required to enact relevant legislation and punish perpetrators, regardless of their position or status.

The majority of Israeli football players have served in the IDF. These "sportspeople" are either reservists or active military personnel and they cannot represent Israel in any international sports events without having first served in the IDF.

Furthermore, Israeli footballers/ soldiers regularly advertise and promote the Israeli army, posting photos of themselves in Israeli army fatigues. Indeed a number of them have openly incited genocide on social media.

I am, therefore, seeking a firm commitment that your government will fully discharge its obligations under Article 1 of the Genocide Convention by detaining Israeli footballers should they travel to Ireland, questioning them about their role in the Gaza Genocide and bringing criminal charges against them as appropriate.

This same approach should, of course, immediately apply to those 75 Irish citizens who are reported to have served with the IDF during the Gaza Genocide.

I look forward to your reply.

Le dea-ghuí

Tony Doherty Chair, The Bloody Sunday Trust.