

SEE NO EVIL ...

MORE than 600 lawyers, academics and retired senior judges warned last week that the UK government is breaching international law by continuing to arm Israel. This followed the International Court of Justice finding that there is a plausible risk of genocide being committed in Gaza.

Meanwhile, a Lords private members' bill put forward by Baroness (Helena) Kennedy is seeking to require better monitoring and reporting on the UK government's response to all genocides. But first it needs to get the government to work out what genocide is.

In February this year Lord Alton, who had queried the government's current stance on events in Sudan in 2003. The government whip Baroness Swinburne replied and confirmed that "the government does not recognise the Darfur conflict as genocide". Really?

The government has already acknowledged the genocide in Sudan, where there are once again widespread violence and atrocities against civilians, including deliberate targeting and mass displacement of the Masalit community. In his 2017 Holocaust Memorial Day speech, the then communities secretary Sajid Javid noted: "The 20th century ended with genocide in Bosnia. The 21st century began with genocide in Darfur."