



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Report on the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Resolution 55/28)

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PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

We are at an inflexion point in the crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory. A fragile ceasefire is allowing the people of Gaza to breathe, Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees to be released, and life-saving humanitarian aid to be delivered. At this tenuous moment, the world must ask itself how to resolve this decades-old conflict and stop the cycle of violence.

Any **plans for a better future must deal with the past**, so accountability and justice for violations are crucial. For more than 57 years, people in Gaza and in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have been suffocating under Israeli occupation. They have been denied their most basic human rights, from the right to self-determination, to freedom of movement, to an adequate standard of living. In Gaza, they have been subjected to blockades amounting to collective punishment. In the West Bank, illegal settlements and violence have been growing for decades in violation of international law, with a significant increase over the past three years. Most of these violations have gone unpunished.



There is **absolutely no justification for the horrific attacks committed on 7 October 2023**, when Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups brutally assaulted Israeli communities, killed civilians, and took more than 250 hostages. The High Commissioner has repeatedly condemned these acts. **Nothing justifies the appalling manner in which Israel has conducted its military operations in Gaza**, which consistently breached fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, **more than 48,000 people**, most of whom are women and children, have been killed. Over 35,000 children have lost one or both parents. More than 1,054 medical personnel have been killed, with many others injured or detained by Israeli forces. At least **277 United Nations staff have been killed**, as well as a reported 200 journalists and media workers. Over two-thirds of essential infrastructure is destroyed or damaged. The level of devastation to basic features of civilian life across Gaza is massive, from homes to hospitals to schools to the justice system.

Restrictions imposed by Israel, despite its obligations as Occupying Power, have created a **humanitarian catastrophe**. An estimated 90 percent of the population has been displaced, often multiple times. In the West Bank, Israel has ramped up its use of unnecessary and disproportionate force against Palestinians, has destroyed refugee camps, severely restricted movement, and displaced tens of thousands of people. In the northern **West Bank**, many are now in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees has been a continuing and appalling feature on all sides. The severe crackdown on civic space, affecting in particular those working on human rights and humanitarian issues through threats, intimidation, and other measures, is alarming.

Behind each awful statistic is a life lost, torn apart, or shattered. We cannot yet grasp the full extent of this tragedy, nor the many years of trauma, grief, and mourning that lie ahead. The report presented today takes stock of the raft of international human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory and the absence of meaningful accountability for them.

There has been an **unprecedented disregard for the principles of international humanitarian law** in the conduct of hostilities in Gaza and Israel since October 2023. As just detailed, and as my office and others have documented, Israel's means and methods of warfare have caused staggering levels of casualties and destruction, raising concerns over the commission of war crimes and other possible atrocity crimes. There has been a limited number of investigations and indictments by the Israeli authorities, for example, for abuse of detainees.

However, there are **serious doubts about the capacity and will of the Israeli justice system** to deliver full accountability in line with international standards, notably in relation to the unlawful killing of Palestinians in Gaza or in the West Bank. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups have taken, held, and tortured hostages in Gaza and here have indiscriminately fired projectiles into Israeli territory, amounting to war crimes. There are grave concerns that they may have committed other serious breaches of international humanitarian law in Gaza, including the intentional co-location of military objectives and Palestinian civilians. OHCHR is **unaware of any measures taken by Hamas and other Palestinian groups to punish** those responsible for all violations. Any attempts at shaping a peaceful future where such horrors do not recur must ensure that perpetrators are held to account. The tragic record of this conflict and of so many



other conflicts shows clearly how impunity begets more violence. **Abuse is given free reign** to ripple across other war zones. This harms us all and generations down the line. De-legitimising and threatening international institutions that are there to serve people and uphold international law also harms us all. It is clear that all these violations and abuses need to be investigated independently. We urgently need an end to the conflict, the unconditional release, freeing of all hostages, the release of arbitrarily held detainees and an end as rapidly as possible to Israel's unlawful presence in the OPT as affirmed by the International Court of Justice.

The ceasefire must hold. Each phase must be implemented by both sides in good faith and in full. And all of us must do everything in our power to build on it, to create a path to a sustainable peace so that Palestinians and Israelis can live side by side in equal dignity and rights. And it should be for the Palestinian people to determine their own future. We must resist any normalisation of unlawful conduct, including proposals for annexation or forced transfer, which could threaten the peace and security of Palestinians and Israelis and of the wider region.

This is the moment for **voices of reason to prevail**, for solutions that will deliver justice and make space for compassion, healing and truth-telling. This begins by seeing the pain and suffering of the other. We have seen, unfortunately, so much **dehumanising rhetoric**, including by political leaders. Defending and maintaining the international edifice of human rights and the law is everyone's responsibility. The alternative is unthinkable for Israelis, Palestinians and for our common humanity.

.CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Volker TÜRK explains that for more than 15 years, OHCHR has been monitoring, reporting, and alerting on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and the wide-ranging violations that stem from 57 years of military occupation by Israel, 17 years of blockade and closures of Gaza amounting to collective punishment, and the longstanding patterns of institutionalised discrimination and oppression of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. In these reports, OHCHR has made numerous recommendations to Member States to act. In fact, during his first address to the UNHRC in March 2023, the High Commissioner had asked his colleagues to come back with the recurring findings of all these recommendations. Most of those findings were unanswered. It is important to bear this in mind as we look to the future. Over the past 16 months of the conflict in Gaza, we have monitored, reported, and warned again on grave violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law committed by all parties to the conflict. OHCHR called on all parties and Member States to ensure full respect for international law and accountability. This has included calls for ensuring urgent compliance with the orders for provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice and with the advisory opinion that the International Court of Justice issued last year. In doing so, OHCHR has reported on violations by Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, and other Palestinian armed groups applying the same human rights standards.

Despite **severe access restrictions to the High Commissioner's staff** in the occupied Palestinian territory, OHCHR is continuing within those resources to document, report, advocate, and bear witness on the ground. OHCHR does this in an impartial and objective manner, applying standard methodology. It is absolutely critical for the international community to address the root causes of the conflict, to insist vis-a-vis both parties that the current ceasefire holds and that



negotiations on its next phase continue, to ensure the effective protection of civilians and the respect and implementation of the rulings of the International Court of Justice. It is also important to act to support accountability for all violations, whether delivered through national institutions, through universal jurisdiction, the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, or other processes. While it is not within OHCHR's mandate to make judicial determinations as to individual criminal responsibility, victims of gross violations of international law have the right to an effective remedy, including reparation.

UNRWA is indispensable in addressing the critical needs of Palestinians, given the fact that it is the only entity with the mandate and capacity to ensure the delivery of assistance at the scale and breadth needed, including through operational support to other UN entities in the delivery of their humanitarian assistance mandate. UNRWA is not just an aid provider, it also embodies the commitment of the international community to address the fundamental and unresolved right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Even though the legislation has taken effect, it is critical for Member States to continue providing political and financial support to UNRWA. On the West Bank, OHCHR has seen the use of unnecessary and disproportionate force against Palestinians, the restrictions to movement but also the displacement of tens of thousands of people, but also the continuous settlement activities. Once again, international law is very clear and the International Court of Justice has found clear statements to this effect. Again, we have to reiterate our call for the respect for international law.

On a more general level, the High Commissioner is deeply troubled and worried. He condemns the dangerous manipulation of language and disinformation. We need to make sure that we resist all efforts to spread fear or incite hatred, including **abhorrent dehumanising narratives** whether they are insidious or explicit. OHCHR will continue to work for justice for every victim and survivor by establishing and documenting the facts and standing firmly for accountability and the rule of law without exception. To conclude, he reiterates his urgent plea for the ceasefire to hold; for each phase to be implemented by both sides in good faith and in full; and for all of us to do everything in our power to build on it in order for the occupation to end and for a lasting peace, with Palestinians able to exercise their right to self-determination and **both Palestinians and Israelis living in equal dignity and rights**.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by the Countries Concerned

The delegation of **Israel** was not present in the room. On 5 February 2025, Israel announced it would withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Thanking the High Commissioner and his Office for the report, the **State of Palestine** reiterates that it has not been balanced in dealing with the facts, because it deals with Israeli settler occupation and colonial occupation within the Palestinian State, which lives on equal footing, ignoring that this is illegal. The report outlines some of the grave violations committed by the occupation forces up until 24 October. But the situation on the ground is more atrocious since 77 October. Until now, the occupation force committed war crimes and genocide against the Palestinians, leading to the killing of thousands of Palestinians, including **15,000 children and 12,000 women**. The occupation forces targeted medical crews and journalists, **killing 186 medics** and more journalists, together with **203 UN staff**. More than 11,200 Palestinians are



accounted for in the debris of demolished houses, and over 9,000 Palestinians are behind bars under occupation, facing violations including torture, misuse and medical neglect.

In spite of the ceasefire in 18 February 2025, Israel was not committed from the first day. Occupation forces killed 132 Palestinians during the truth and injured 900 in immediate targeted civilians returning to their homes and who want to remove the debris. However, we see some calling for the displacement of Gazans and refusing their return, which is in grave violation against humanity and a war crime according to the Rome Statute.

The Occupying Power uses **hunger as a weapon of war**, ignoring the ICJ orders, which compels it to allow entry of humanitarian aid. Two-thirds of needed trucks have been allowed in, and tents have been denied, together with mobile homes, in spite of the need to have them, in addition of a denial of entry of heavy equipment to remove debris. It has impeded access of food, medics and slowing the work of hospitals, which has been destroyed by Israeli shelling.

The forces of the Occupying Power and the settlers have escalated their **terror campaign in the West Bank** through executions, collective detention, demolition of houses and methodical ethnic cleansing in Jenin, Nablus, and Tulkarm, and other cities and villages and refugee camps in Palestine. This led to displacement of over 40,000 Palestinians. Demolition activities of infrastructure and houses is ongoing and abated in the West Bank. The Minister of the Occupying Power said it bluntly that ‘People will not return to the north of West Bank camps’ and that they have stopped the work of UNRWA. The aim is to put an end to UNRWA and to Palestinian refugees, thereby putting an end to the right of return.

Wars have rules, as the UN Secretary-General said. However, the illegal Occupying Power committed all types of crimes, including genocides, hunger, prevented water, electricity and medicine, denied access of assistance, transfer of the sick, targeted hospitals, places of worship and schools. All of these are violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law and Rome Statute. This means that legal international institutions should shoulder their responsibilities in order to provide protection to our people and to hold the perpetrators and killers to account.

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Jordan jointly with the Group of Arab States takes the report and expresses its utmost concerns over the situation. Palestinians are under occupation and the genocide cannot be described as mere escalation. Without recognising decades of siege and settlement, the Group condemn Israel’s non-cooperation with OHCHR and calls upon the international community to pressure Israel to allow the Commission of Enquiry to conduct its mandate in investigating violations of international law. In closing, the Group stresses the need to combat impunity and calls upon the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and take all necessary measures to ensure accountability, provide redress, and ensure Palestinians’ access to their rights and put an end to the Israeli illegal occupation.

On behalf of the **Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Kuwait** takes note of the report on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories. The GCC condemn the escalation of violations against the Palestinians by the Occupying Power which violates international law and principles of human rights in Gaza Strip. We have seen the most



heinous crimes against civilians over a year and a half. This includes denying entry of assistance, destroying facilities, and ending the work of UNRWA. In this light, we applaud the efforts by Egypt and Qatar and the US in order to reach a ceasefire in exchange of prisoners. The GCC calls for humanitarian access without impediment in order to reach a permanent ceasefire. In the West Bank, the occupation conducts large-scale attacks and conducts a collective punishment with disregard of the death of civilians and in violation of international law. In a close scene, we see that the two-state solution ensures stability and peace, and call for doubling diplomatic efforts to find a comprehensive and just law that guarantees the rights of Palestinians to have their own independent state in 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Ghana jointly with the African Group remains deeply concerned about the persistent lack of accountability for the violations committed against the Palestinian people, and this is basing in light of the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe caused by brutal Israeli aggression in Gaza, as well as escalation of violations committed by Israeli forces in the West Bank. Stemming from its common values and principles that stand strongly against colonialism, oppression, and apartheid, the African Group reaffirms the centrality of the just cause of Palestinian and steadfastness of its support to the historic struggle of the Palestinian people to realise their right to self-determination and establish their independent state based on the 4th of June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. The African Group calls on Israel to fully comply with the provisional order issued by the International Court of Justice and reiterates its unflinching support for relevant UGA resolutions on Palestine and declared positions of the UN Secretary General on the ongoing atrocities committed in Gaza, despite the recently-assigned ceasefire agreement, which can inevitably lead to serious repercussions on the state of peace and security in the Middle East. The African Group underscores the necessity of resolving the Palestinian.

Pakistan jointly with the OIC Group stands with the Palestinian People in complete solidarity and unwavering support. Events before, during and after the reporting period have laid bare the illegal Occupying Power's utter disregard for its human rights and humanitarian obligations. Attempts to strike a balance can only favour the occupying power. We must therefore guard against false equivalence between the Occupying Power and those under its illegal occupation. The OIC Group condemns in the strongest terms Israel's horrific and shocking crimes in the Gaza Strip in the context of the crime of genocide. It categorically rejects the forced displacement of Palestinian citizens inside or outside their land and call for the withdrawal of occupation forces from the entirety of Gaza. No pretext can ever justify what the Palestinian People has suffered and continue to suffer in Gaza, East Jerusalem or the West Bank. No category of protections has been left unviolated. The OIC Group calls for credible steps to prevent the obliteration of evidence and to hold the perpetrators accountable. It also calls for immediate and effective steps to bring an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine consistent with the ICJ advisory opinion of 19 July 2024.

Saudi Arabia has examined the report of the High Commissioner about the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. In this regard, we reiterate our categorical rejection to any impingement on the rights of the Palestinian people, whether through settler Israeli policies or by annexation or efforts to displace the Brotherly People of Palestine. Saudi Arabia reiterates its commitment to the Palestinian People and its right to establish an independent Palestinian State on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. It also calls on the international community to further mobilise in favour of the rights of the Palestinian People in



line with the UNGA resolutions. The Kingdom will continue to stand by the side of the Brotherly People of Palestine, whether through diplomatic offices or through the provision of humanitarian aid. In conclusion, it reiterates that there is no sustainable and fair peace without the Palestinian People receiving all of their legitimate rights based on the international framework of legitimacy.

Kuwait explains that there are no words that faithfully depict the ongoing situation in the occupied Palestinian territories in light of the crimes and abuses by the Occupying Power and the flagrant abuses to international humanitarian law and the UN Charter. We stand in front of a moral and human responsibility before the Palestinian People. After a year of war in Gaza, while we were hoping for an end to the bloodshed and an end to the operations of the occupying powers military, we are witnessing a threat to evict the Palestinian people from Gaza and the West Bank and refusing the return of the refugees and continuing to target assets and infrastructure. Kuwait calls upon the international community to shoulder its responsibility in favour of the Palestinian People, and reiterates its principled stance in favour of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital on the borders of 4 June 1967 based on international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Canada fully supports the ceasefire in Gaza. Parties must negotiate subsequent phases with the purpose of ending hostilities permanently. There has been unbearable suffering and loss over the past 15 months, precipitated by Hamas' terrorist attacks on October 7th, 2023. Canada condemns these attacks and call for the release of all remaining hostages. Civilians, particularly women, children, journalists, humanitarian and health workers have borne the brunt of this conflict. More than 47,000 people have been killed alongside mass displacement, the collapse of basic services, including access to food, water, and medicine, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. Israel must allow immediate, unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance. All parties should refrain from actions that put at risk the safety of civilians and must refrain from unlawful attacks on civilian objects, such as medical facilities and schools. There must be credible investigations into all allegations of human rights violation, including of sexual and gender-based violence in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territories. Accountability is essential. Impunity is unacceptable. Canada remains committed to a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians can live side by side in peace and security.

Switzerland is alarmed by recent images of the handover of the bodies of Israeli hostages and explosions in Bat Yam and by the ongoing intensification of military operations in the West Bank. Switzerland calls for the full implementation of the 15th January Agreement with a view to putting an end to this devastating war, despite recent events. The Israeli occupation that has been ongoing since 1967 is illegal, as noted by the International Court of Justice, and it must cease. Transfer of populations is forbidden by international humanitarian law. Switzerland is deeply concerned by escalating violence in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, which is causing numerous victims and also the massive destruction of infrastructure and major population displacement. At the same time, attacks, threats and intimidations by settlers are worsening the situation. Switzerland firmly condemns human rights violations of international humanitarian law and human rights committed by all sides. It calls on everyone to abide by their obligations and international law. Accountability and the fight against impunity are crucial for victims and for sustainable peace. Independent investigations should be carried out into all allegations of



violations so that the perpetrators are brought to justice. Only a two-state solution with Israel and Palestine, of which Gaza is an integral part, can succeed.

Jordan thanks the High Commissioner for his presentation, and calls upon him to continue his efforts based on his mandate. The ICJ's advisory opinion was clear from last year. The Israeli occupation in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegitimate, as is evidenced in the report that we've just heard. There are abuses and crimes that have been perpetrated, and the process that needs to be taking place is to ensure redress for the victim and to deter and punish the perpetrator. In today's logic, even when we see the killing and the destruction and the abuses, those things have become usual and natural in the occupied Palestinian territories. Nobody is listening to them in a flagrant affront to our common values. Accountability is of the essence of the occupied Palestinian territories, and this is part and parcel of this council's mandate, including other mandates. So the necessary resources need to be afforded to OHCHR to enable it to fulfil that mandate and to ensure that the principle of non-impunity is guaranteed, and that we all put an end to the deprivation of the Palestinian People from their rights, freedom, security, and statehood.

Türkiye stresses that Israel has been implementing a denial policy against Palestine, Palestinian people, and their inalienable rights for decades. After October 7th, this policy has turned into an unconscionable aggression. Israel has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, majority of them women and children. Those who committed crimes must be held accountable. Millions of Palestinians in Gaza were displaced from their homes who faced only rubble upon their return. Palestinians in Gaza are unable to access basic human needs. Clean water, healthcare and shelter, humanitarian aid must be provided unhindered. Türkiye has submitted its declaration of intervention before the ICJ. The current ceasefire must be made permanent. International community should insist that Israel walk the path of peace. The Israeli occupation of the West Bank is expanding. The recent attacks of Israeli forces to three refugee camps have led to forced displacement of nearly 40,000 Palestinians. There are extremist groups in Israel calling for the annexation of the West Bank. The international community should oppose firmly Israel's occupation attempts and aggression. For the sake of peace in the region, the establishment of a sovereign, independent, and contiguous Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital should no longer be delayed.

Welcoming the ceasefire in Gaza after 15 months of conflict and a devastating loss of civilian life, **Australia** urges all parties to respect the agreement's terms and for all phases of the deal to be implemented in full to safeguard a lasting peace and ensure respect for the human rights of all. Civilians must be protected, including the humanitarian workers and medical workers essential to life-saving care and hostages released immediately. Australia hopes the ceasefire offers an opportunity for the Palestinian people to rebuild, reform their governance, and pursue self-determination. Australia repeats its unequivocal condemnation of Hamas and its terrorist actions. There can be no role for Hamas in the future governance of Gaza. Deeply concerned by increased violence in the West Bank, including the actions of Palestinian militant groups and ongoing acts of settler violence, Australia calls on Israeli and Palestinian authorities to hold perpetrators to account and ensure civilians are protected during security operations. Australia's long-standing position is that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace. It calls on Israel to cease settlement activity. Australia is



committed to working with the international community towards a two-state solution, a Palestinian State and the State of Israel, living side by side in peace and security with the human rights of all respected.

The **Maldives** recalls that the UNHRC gathers once again as the voices of the Palestinian people continue to be blatantly ignored. Since the ceasefire agreement on January 19, Israel has issued tenders for the construction of nearly 1,000 additional settler homes in the occupied West Bank, adding to the 100 existing settlements that already house 500,000 illegal settlers. With approximately 1.9 million people internally displaced in Gaza, children remain the most vulnerable victims of this relentless conflict, enduring violence, hunger, disease, and inadequate shelter, all exacerbated by harsh winter conditions. The death toll of children is now more than 13,300. As the UNSG warned, what will remain is a generation left homeless and traumatised. Israel's continued aggression is a direct result of the impunity it has enjoyed despite repeated violations of international law. The Maldives urges the international community to hold Israel accountable and put an end to this culture of impunity. The Maldives rejects any attempt to displace the population of Gaza, ending the unlawful occupation of Palestinian lands and a blatant violation of their inalienable human rights is not just a moral imperative but a necessity for peace and justice. It reaffirms its call for the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Norway shares the High Commissioner's concern over the drastic worsening of the human rights situation in Palestine. It is paramount that all parties now respect the ceasefire agreement in Gaza and follow through on the various elements in all three phases. All hostages must be released immediately and unconditionally. Humanitarian access must be safe and unhindered into and within all parts of Gaza. Gaza is a part of Palestine and must be governed and rebuilt by the Palestinians under one unified and legitimate Palestinian government. We must support the Palestinian government in this endeavour. We must also prevent any forcible transfer of Palestinians within or from Gaza. The acceleration of illegal settlement activity, settler violence, and the rapid expansion of Israeli military operations in the West Bank are also deeply concerning. Civilians must be protected. Freedom of movement must be respected. It is imperative that there is a clear path towards a two-state solution based on internationally recognised borders and international law, including the right to self-determination. This is why **Norway, together with Saudi Arabia and the European Union**, has taken a leading role in the global alliance for the implementation of the two-state solution.

Expressing its deep concern over the alarming deterioration of the situation in the OPT, **Portugal** strongly condemns the unjustified terrorist attacks of October 7, including the taking of hostages and acts of sexual violence. It deplores the unacceptable number of civilian casualties resulting from the military operations by Israel in Gaza, which have led to an unprecedented level of destruction and to the collective punishment of civilians. Portugal welcomes the ceasefire agreement and calls for its full and timely implementation, allowing for an end to hostilities, the release of all hostages and the impeded access of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Recalling the replaceable role and mandate of UNRWA, it calls for the withdrawal of legislation hindering its operations. As regards the West Bank, Portugal condemns the expansion of Israeli settlements, which are illegal and international law, and remains concerned about the increase of violence by extremist settlers who must be held accountable. Political solution remains the only way forward



to a just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution. Therefore, Portugal opposes all actions that undermine its viability, including the forced displacement of Palestinians. It calls for the accountability and justice for the grave human rights violations committed.

Iraq laments the seriousness of the humanitarian situation in the OPT as well as the continuing genocidal war and persecutions, particularly in Gaza. Iraq categorically condemns the war crimes, genocidal crimes perpetrated by the genocidal power, and ask for accountability and compensation for the victims. Iraq rejects the calls for the transfer of Palestinians from their land, especially the Gaza Strip. This runs counter to international law. It calls for better access of urgent humanitarian aid, in the firm belief that UNRWA should be allowed to continue to support the Palestinian people. Israel must shoulder its legal and moral responsibility.

Slovenia echoes the High Commissioner's call for accountability and justice as fundamental pillars to end cycles of violence and impunity. The findings of the report, high civilian casualties, the use of force, home demolitions, repeated mass displacements, show the flagrant violations of international law, including human rights law and international humanitarian law, which erode prospects for peace. The UNSG recently reminded the UNHRC of the importance of human rights through peace, and peace through human rights. Civilians, especially children and women, must endure this suffering for far too long. Slovenia calls for urgent protection of all civilians and demand accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations, including for grave violations against children and sexual and gender-based violence. We must act decisively by demanding compliance with international legal obligations, including UN Security Council resolutions, supporting impartial monitoring and ensuring aid which is those in need. Slovenia remains steadfast in its commitment to human rights, justice and a future where Palestinians and Israelis coexist in peace, security and dignity.

The Ambassador of **Spain** recalls that in 2002, he chaired a meeting about the situation in Jenin. The city was destroyed as a result of the defensive shields process by Israel, which caused us so very many deaths, and that operation served nothing. All these years afterwards, we are still seeing a new cycle of violence so eloquently described in the report presented today. Spain calls on the parties, first of all, to comply with the ceasefire. Second, they must allow UNRWA to carry out their absolutely essential humanitarian work for people who are suffering in conditions of hunger and cold that beg a belief. Third, there is a solution which requires a two-state solution. Let us just put an end to this madness.

Indonesia reaffirms our unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people. Their suffering has lasted for far too long, with each generation scarred by the Occupying Power's blatant disregard for human rights and humanitarian obligation. Indonesia is deeply appalled by the mounting verified reports of grave violations amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Israel. Striking schools and hospitals is indefensible. Forcing 90 percent of Gaza population into displacement is unacceptable. An estimated 64,000 Palestinian deaths cannot be ignored. Mr. President, Indonesia rejects any attempt to forcibly displace Palestinians or alter the oppressive demographic. Such actions block the realisation of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state under the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. It also denounce Israel's legislation targeting UNRWA. The Occupying Power cannot ignore its duty to ensure and facilitate aid. Indonesia demands swift action to ensure Israel complies with the ICJ's order,



prevent genocide, cease attacks on civilians, and allow displaced Palestinians to return home safely and with dignity.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** is deeply concerned about the recent development in the Gaza Strip, causing widespread public outrage and concern as Israel is openly committing genocidal acts, ethnic cleansing, and annexation under active US patronage. The Gaza Strip and the West Bank are the inherent territory of the Palestinian people, as clearly stipulated in the UN resolutions. Instead of delivering protection and humanitarian aid for the suffering Palestinians, Israel is brutally killing and forcefully displacing numerous civilians. It is a heinous crime against humanity that deprives the Palestinian people of their rights to existence and development. The DPRK opposes and rejects in the strongest terms all sorts of attempts to deny the Palestinian People's rights to existence and development. It expresses its unwavering support to and solidarity with Palestinian People in their struggle to establish an independent state with the East Jerusalem as its capital.

The **United Arab Emirates** expresses its concerns over the human rights violations and Israeli policies and practises which run counter to international law and international humanitarian law in the OPT. A ceasefire is a good starting point, and the parties must respect the conditions. It welcomes the efforts deployed by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States in order to reach such an agreement. It categorically rejects any attempt to try and displace the Palestinian People from their land and call for reconstruction in Gaza based on an inclusive and lasting peace inspired by a two-state solution. It is necessary to avoid the conflict spilling over into the region. The UAE reiterates its position in support of the brotherly people of Palestine, and a two-state solution with the creation of a sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, in compliance with international law.

Iran takes note of the report which confirms that Israel has launched massive military attacks on residential areas, hospitals, and schools in blatant violation of the First Geneva Convention. Iran is also gravely concerned by the report's findings on the forced displacement of approximately 90 percent of Gaza's population, many displaced multiple times in clear violation of Article 49 of the First Geneva Convention. This systematic destruction and forced expulsion amount to acts intended to destroy the Palestinian group, meeting the legal definition of genocide. Furthermore, it expresses outrage at unlawful killings in West Bank, constituting a flagrant breach of Article 147 of the First Geneva Convention. Iran concludes that these actions by Israel amount to war crimes and bear the hallmarks of genocide. It rejects any language equating the perpetrators of genocide with resistance groups fighting occupation, and we will spare no effort in supporting all measures to liberate Palestine from the grip of this regime.

South Africa is deeply concerned about the human tragedy in the OPT resulting from Israel's onslaught on Gaza, together with its ongoing siege of the West Bank. The litany of unspeakable horrors perpetrated against the Palestinians is unprecedented, as such Gaza is in ruins strewn with the blood of the innocent, where those who have managed to survive cling to a life of deprivation. South Africa therefore welcomes the ceasefire. However, it must be resolutely implemented. In so doing, UNRWA must be protected, as Israel's ban on its activities undermines the ceasefire and disrupts Gaza's recovery and reconstruction efforts. As part of this process, any initiative that seeks to forcibly displace the Palestinians from their homeland cannot be countenanced as it amounts to ethnic cleansing. Indeed, unless and until we ensure an end to



Israel's unlawful occupation, the suffering of the Palestinians will continue. The UNHCR has a legal and moral obligation to ensure that Israel is held accountable, as it is the impunity accorded to Israel which lies at the core of its genocidal actions today. It is for this reason that, as part of the recently formed Hague Group, South Africa committed to taking effective measures to support the realisation of the Palestinian right to self-determination, and we invite all states to join us. Much like the international community stood united against Apartheid, we now need to display the very same enduring solidarity with the Palestinians.

Chile regrets that, once again, Israel has denied its cooperation so that the High Commissioner's team was denied a field visit, which is this is detrimental to the human rights in the region. It also regrets that Israel is not present to respond to this report. Chile has always insisted on the Palestinian People's request for a two-state solution. It rejects the forced transfer of people from Gaza qualifying as a severe violation of international law and preventing Palestinians from having their own State. Any forced transfer of population is considered a war crime and, in certain circumstances, is a crime against humanity. Forced displacement has also been described as part of ethnic cleansing. Chile has always supported the fact that Israeli settlements in Gaza are illegal, and it also condemns the fact that humanitarian aid has not been allowed to enter, which fosters the illegal occupation. There must be compliance with the ICJ's conclusions, and measures must be taken to put an end, as soon as possible, to illegal settlements.

The **Netherlands** welcomes the report which depicts a grim reality of the past year, following the heinous attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023, the capture of hostages, and the war that unfolded afterwards. The suffering of civilians on both sides, especially women and children, and the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza is heartbreaking. The Netherlands calls on all parties to comply with international law, in particular IHL. Although the report paints a bleak picture, it continues to strive for peace, justice, and accountability. To guarantee and continue documentation and monitoring of human rights violations, the Netherlands calls on all parties to cooperate with OHCHR and grant access to the area, and it will contribute an additional one million euros to OHCHR in the Palestinian territories. Additionally, to guarantee the safety of journalists, an additional financial contribution to Free Press Unlimited will be made. The report demonstrates once again that a negotiated and sustainable two-state solution is needed now.

Egypt supports the right of the Palestinian People to life and to defend their cause. The Egyptian position supporting the Palestinian cause is unshaken. Egypt calls on the international community to shoulder its responsibility and implement its three-phase ceasefire. The Palestinian People have an inalienable right to self-determination, and there must be a recognition of the legitimacy of establishing an independent Palestinian State. There can be no attempt to strip the Palestinian People of their land or transferring them from their historic territories. We must consider the fact that there has to be an end to the Israeli occupation, and Egypt calls on the High Commissioner to ensure the Palestinian People's right to self-determination.

Malaysia thanks the High Commissioner for his report, which once again exposes the systemic violations of international law perpetrated by Israel. Israel's illegal occupation in the OPT has led to decades of apartheid policies and gross human rights violations. The crisis in Gaza has resulted in nearly 50,000 casualties, with over 2.3 million others being displaced and suffering from inhumane conditions. Impunity must end, and Israel must be held fully accountable for its



atrocities. The international community must exert pressure on Israel and work together to ensure that all international obligations are fully implemented, including the rulings of the ICJ and the findings of the Commission of Enquiry. Malaysia calls on all parties involved to fully implement the multi-phase ceasefire and hostage-release agreement that came into effect on 19 January. This agreement is merely a starting point, and the root causes of this conflict must be addressed. Malaysia strongly opposes any plans to forcibly displace Palestinians from their homeland. Resettling Palestinians away from Gaza amounts to ethnic cleansing and is a clear violation of international law. Malaysia reiterates its commitment to the Palestinian cause and will continue supporting the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as the admission of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations.

Algeria emphasise that attempts in the report to put on equal footing the Occupying Power and the Palestinians when it comes to their responsibilities is not a healthy approach, and it runs counter to international law. Algeria also recalls the ICJ ruling and the absence of cooperation with OHCHR in order to investigate crimes. Algeria believes that there has been systematic murder and forced displacement, and these constitute crimes against humanity, unprecedented crimes. Algeria reiterates its support for Palestinians' right to self-determination and to an independent State. It calls for the return of Gazan inhabitants to their homes. There must be humanitarian aid entering the territory. It further calls on UN agencies and States to ensure accountability for the crimes committed by the occupying power.

In the belief that maintaining the ceasefire in Gaza is essential to achieve peace in the Middle East, **Brazil** urges all parties to engage in negotiations in good faith to ensure the freedom of all hostages, unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance, and the permanent cessation of hostilities. Human rights and humanitarian situation in the OPT remains highly alarming, not only in Gaza but also in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Brazil expressed its strong concern with intensification in recent weeks of Israeli military operations in refugee camps in the north of the West Bank. The reconstruction of devastated Gaza must respect international human rights law, avoiding additional unlawful forced displacement of Palestinians. All human rights violations in the OPT by Israel must be investigated and those responsible must be held accountable. Brazil is also concerned with Israeli legislation that aims at hindering the activities of UNRWA in the OPT. Brazil recalls the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice pointing to the illegality of the continued Israeli presence in the OPT.

Ghana commends the resilience of the Palestinian people in the face of the ongoing systematic violence. Ghana, like all other delegations, is deeply concerned about the displacement of the civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Demolition and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures do not only serve to stoke tensions and deepen mistrust, but they diminish any political horizon of a future Palestinian State. Ghana is equally worried about measures seeking to undermine and discredit binding decisions of accredited international bodies, especially those that are at the core of the protection of the civilian population. In closing, Ghana urges all the parties to prioritise constructive dialogue and contribute meaningfully to deliver a secure and assured statehood for both Israel and Palestine.

Eritrea recalls that for 77 years of the nearly 80 years since the United Nations was founded out of the ashes of the gruesome World War II, the question of Palestine remains unresolved. For



decades, the Palestinian people have faced formidable challenges in their quest for self-determination. The historical context of this struggle is rooted in the long-standing occupation and colonisation of Palestine territories by Israel, which has subjected generations to displacement, displacement violence, and systemic oppression, plunging the region into turmoil and immense suffering unseen in modern history. We must recognise that the Palestinian people deserve the same rights and freedoms as any other people on Earth. It is a recognition that a just and lasting peace can only be achieved through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Eritrea reaffirms its unwavering support for the inherent rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and statehood. It is thus incumbent upon us to take decisive action to support a just and lasting resolution to this protracted conflict. Eritrea calls for an immediate end to the aggression against Palestinian neighbouring countries and ensure the continuation of unimpeded humanitarian aid for all those in need.

Oman has taken note of the report by the High Commissioner and commends its findings, even though Oman is convinced that they do not fully reflect the scale of the tragedy in Gaza for the following reasons. First, the pressure that is put on UNRWA and on the Special Rapporteur on the situation in the OPT and other international bodies has had a clear impact on the findings of the report. Second, the positions of certain Western States ignore the rights of Palestinians and apply double standards in the field of human rights, which is unacceptable. In this context, Oman insists that it is fundamental to adopt a recommendation calling for an end to the occupation of the Gaza Strip. This should be unconditional and there should be a rejection of all attempts to undermine the legitimate rights of the Palestinian People. There is an imbalance in the report and it does not fully cover all of the prejudices suffered by the Palestinian People due to the Israeli occupation and it is unacceptable that the occupier is being asked to facilitate the provision of medical services and food. Those are fundamental rights.

After 16 months of conflict and devastating loss of civilian life, **New Zealand** welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire and hostage agreement in Gaza. It urges all parties to implement the terms of the ceasefire fully. This includes the immediate release of all Israeli hostages as well as the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid into and throughout Gaza. It also urges all parties to engage in good-faith negotiations to move beyond the current phase of the ceasefire towards a just and durable peace based upon the two-stage solution. We cannot return to the conflict and suffering that we have seen over the past 16 months. New Zealand is deeply concerned by the reports of ongoing serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and echoes the High Commissioner's call for accountability for violations and abuses of international law.

Colombia would like to reiterate the call by President Gustavo Petro for there to be an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories and for actions that amount to gross violations of international law to cease. The use of indiscriminate force, the bombing of civilians, the blocking of the access of humanitarian aid and the mass destruction of critical infrastructure constitute patterns of potential war crimes and crimes against humanity which the international community cannot ignore. Colombia condemns in the strongest terms the humanitarian tragedy underway in Gaza and the systematic violations of the human rights of the Palestinian People that the situation described in the High Commissioner's report with thousands of civilians having been killed including women and children as well as mass forced displacement and the deliberate



destruction of critical infrastructure cannot be tolerated by the international community. Colombia will continue to support all initiatives which within the framework of international law facilitate justice and accountability. It therefore supports the actions undertaken before the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice with a view to ensuring that the perpetrators of these violations are investigated and brought to account. Colombia also hopes that the ceasefire will be maintained and that Palestinians will be allowed return home in safety and dignity. It is essential to immediately start rebuilding Gaza.

According to **Russia**, the Israeli military occupation in Gaza rolled through the enclave like a merciless steamroller claiming tens of thousands of lives including children. Gaza now lies in ruin. The educational system and the health care services are paralysed. Virtually all schools have been destroyed and most hospitals have stopped functioning which is catastrophic for the population's access to medical services. The report that was published on 31 December by OHCHR underscored the systematic and structural nature of the attacks against Gaza's medical establishments. The final number of victims has yet to be established. Humanitarian staff simply cannot work fast enough to collect all the evidence on the number of deaths caused by hunger, dehydration, unsanitary conditions and disruptions to medical services. The rubble from buildings under which thousands of bodies may still lie has yet to be cleared. Thanks to the Egyptian and Qatari mediators as well as the efforts of the new American administration which joined the efforts in the final stages, a long-awaited ceasefire agreement was achieved recently and that is of course a good step towards a settlement. However, it is still little cause for rejoicing. The humanitarian catastrophe has gone nowhere. Today, the international community must stand up in defence of the ceasefire and to strengthen the voices of those who call for peace in the region. Russia calls on the High Commissioner and his Office to continue to pay close attention to the situation in the region and to regularly report back to the Council on it.

Bolivia is deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Gaza and the West Bank including East Jerusalem and we reiterate our condemnation of the illegal occupation of these territories. There are no words that can describe the suffering endured by the Palestinian people with children being the worst affected by the military attacks of the occupying forces. Bolivia rejects any attempt to forcibly displace the Palestinian people from its historic territory. It condemns the collective punishment as well as the violence and gender-based violence and sexual violence, cases of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment among other human rights violations that have been perpetrated and we call for justice and for impunity to not be permitted. Violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be punished and this should involve going through independent and impartial criminal justice systems and we should also not lose sight of the need to adopt effective remedy that includes full reparation to victims. Bolivia recently joined the Hague Group reaffirming its commitment to international law in order to put an end to the Israeli occupation in Palestine and to remove obstacles to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination.

Cuba condemns in the strongest terms the genocide against the Palestinian people perpetrated by Israel and supported by the weapons, the funds and the vetoes of the United States and the complicit silence of others. There has been illegal occupation for more than seven decades including abuse, attacks and exclusion. How many more women and children are to be



massacred before the international community takes action and provides international protection which is so desperately needed by the Palestinian people. Every minute of impunity and inaction means that more innocents will continue to be killed, mutilated, detained and displaced. Cuba rejects any plan to expulse the Palestinian people from their territory which would be a serious crime of ethnic cleansing. Gaza belongs to Palestine, not to Washington, not to Tel Aviv and not to anybody else. Cuba calls for respect of the inalienable right of the Palestinian People to self-determination and for their right to build an independent and sovereign State. There is no other effective way to put an end to the spiral of violence, save lives and chart a viable course towards peace. The UNHRC must act so that the perpetrators and accomplices of such barbaric acts face the consequences of their actions.

Senegal remains deeply concerned by the serious humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip which is unprecedented in scale. We encourage the regional efforts at mediation as well as all initiatives aimed at establishing a permanent ceasefire and paving the way towards a solution from this crisis. Senegal also calls for urgent and concerted action to ensure unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid and all other necessary assistance for Gazans in the context of future reconstruction efforts. Senegal reaffirms its commitment to a peaceful settlement to this conflict and call on the international community to always give priority to such a settlement. Finally, Senegal reiterates its support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People to self-determination and Senegal's commitment to the two-state solution in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

The **United Kingdom** recalls that back on the 7th of October 2023, Israel suffered the worst terror attack in its history at the hands of Hamas. The hostages have since suffered an unbearable trauma. The People of Gaza, so many of whom have lost lives, homes, loved ones, have also experienced a living nightmare. Palestinian civilians must be permitted to return to their communities and rebuild. It is for Palestinians to determine the future of Gaza and international humanitarian law must be respected. In the West Bank, the UK is deeply concerned at the expansion of Israel's war aims and operations. Civilians must be protected. But the UK is opposed to the existence of Item 7. The UK wants to see all countries face appropriate scrutiny of their human rights record but oppose the disproportionate focus of this item. The UK has urged all parties to sustain the ceasefire deal, implement the agreement in full, and support efforts to move to phase 2 and a sustainable peace. Indeed, let me reaffirm once again our support for a credible pathway towards a peaceful future for both Palestinians and Israelis based on a two-state solution where they live side by side in peace, dignity, and security.

In **Qatar's** view, hateful crimes and violations committed by Israel, the occupying power, are nothing new and cannot be justified by the right to self-defence. This situation has been ongoing for seven decades and one cannot put the victim and the torturer on an equal footing. It gives the impression that Israel feels above the law and feels it can act as it does in Gaza with impunity in the West Bank and Gaza. We are seeing collective punishment tactics and infrastructure is destroyed, hospitals are destroyed, humanitarian aid is not let in, and there are attempts to impose Judaism. In the face of this genocide, Qatar calls on the international community to put an end to double standards and to force Israel to be held to account for its crimes. Qatar reiterates its strong condemnation of any attempt to displace the Palestinian people and recalls the advisory opinion of the ICJ in this respect. Qatar calls on the international



community to protect the Palestinian People's rights to implement the two-state solution and East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mauritania aligns itself with the High Commissioner's call to promptly end hostilities in the Palestinian-occupied territories, ensuring delivery of humanitarian aid, a return of Palestinian displaced to their lands, while lifting restriction on basic services, including health care, which was affected dramatically, particularly affecting women and children. Mauritania also condemns the deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian territory documented in the report since 7 October 2023. This period saw grave violations of IHL and human rights as military activities led to the killing of 50,000 and injuring 100,000 others. It exacerbated the humanitarian crisis due to forced displacement and the siege on Gaza. Mauritania condemns as well the ongoing violations of human rights in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the escalation of systemic violence against the Palestinians by the occupation forces and settlers who enjoyed full official support deepening the plight of the Palestinians and compromising their self-determination. Lack of accountability led to normalising of these violations, which requires urgent international response to hold perpetrators to account.

Tunisia renews its firm denunciation of the genocidal acts and the war crimes that the Palestinian people have been and are still subjected to, in addition to the human rights systemic violations at the hands of the occupation forces without questioning and without any accountability amid the suspicious international silence. Tunisia condemns in the strongest terms those crimes and abuses and calls upon the international community and the State Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to seize this occasion in a spirit of equality, justice and dignity to act swiftly and effectively to block any schemes to forcibly displace and increase settlements. It also draws the attention to the ICJ measures and the advisory opinion of the same Court as to the importance of ending the settlements and bringing to an end the occupation. Tunisia renews its principled and firm position in favour of the right of the Palestinian People, an inalienable and imprescriptible right to regain its historical land and establish its independent State with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital.

According to **Venezuela**, the report by the High Commissioner states that the situation on the ground has affected all the rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination as the Palestinian people has been the target of blockades and closures amounting to collective punishment and that such actions have resulted in a catastrophic humanitarian crisis due, among other reasons, to restrictions on humanitarian aid, the displacement of around 90% of the population, the massive destruction of hospitals and other civilian infrastructure. The world is witnessing an unconceivable genocide of the Palestinian People in Gaza. This is carried out with the complicity of the very same actors who claim they hold the moral high ground including in this council and that is the height of hypocrisy. The Palestinian people is today facing the threat of total occupation of its territory by Israel with the support of the United States. This act amounts to crime against humanity which under no circumstances can go unpunished. Venezuela calls on the international community to strengthen the ceasefire agreements and we demand that Israel put an end to its more than 75 years of illegal occupation which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter. Venezuela will always raise its voice in defence of the right to life and self-determination of the Palestinian



People. It calls for an end to this conflict and the reconstruction of Gaza including fair reparation for victims and accountability for human rights violations.

The **Gambia** reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian People in their just struggle for self-determination. The systematic destruction of civilian infrastructure in Gaza and general disregard for international humanitarian law as highlighted in the report are a cause for alarm. The Gambia is equally concerned by the indiscriminate killing of civilians as well as the wanton destruction of Palestinian homes which has resulted in forceful displacement. It is also highly regrettable that the orders of the International Court of Justice have been lightly ignored. It welcomes the recent ceasefire agreement and urge both parties to respect the terms of the agreement to prevent further undue suffering of the civilian populations on both sides of the conflict. However, the ceasefire must be accompanied by meaningful efforts towards a just and lasting peace. To achieve this, the Gambia calls for the lifting of all illegal restrictions on humanitarian aid, respect for international humanitarian law and accountability for the attendant violations. Finally, it reiterates its unwavering support for a two-state solution based on international law and relevant UN resolutions. A sovereign and independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital alongside Israel remains the only viable path to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

Pakistan remains gravely concerned over the unconscionable human rights and humanitarian situation in illegally occupied Palestinian territory, particularly Gaza. It rejects any false equivalence between the occupation forces and those under illegal occupation as inconsistent with international law. Pakistan condemns in strongest terms the staggering loss of civilian life and wholesale destruction of civilian infrastructure throughout the by the Occupying Power. Notwithstanding the current ceasefire, a just and lasting peace requires the primacy of international law, starting with the right to self-determination to be re-established. The occupation must be held to account for attempting to dismantle the international legal framework with its brazen disregard for the obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Pakistan unequivocally rejects any proposals that seek to displace or relocate Palestinian People from their ancestral homeland as unacceptable, and it constitutes a flagrant violation of every cardinal principle of international law and the purpose and principles of the UN Charter. Pakistan underscores the urgent necessity of unhindered humanitarian support at scale to the Palestinian People. Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine must end in line with the ICJ's advisory opinion and relevant resolutions of the UN and the OIC.

Argentina recalls that on 7 October 2023, Israel suffered the most deadly attack carried out against the Jewish people since the Holocaust. This was not an escalation of violence or a conflict with shared responsibilities. It was a deliberate act of terrorism carried out by Hamas. The massacre, which targeted innocent civilians, including older persons and women who suffered aggressions of all kinds, children, including of an incredibly young age, who were killed at the hands of the terrorists. This moved the world and underscored just how egregious the aggression was. Argentina condemns in the strongest terms the report by the High Commissioner, which is presented under the mandate of Resolution 55/28. This report denatures all the principles that the United Nations claims to defend. It is unacceptable and inconceivable that the document attempts to mitigate the horror which is there for all to see. There is no moral equivalence



between Israel and Hamas. Israel is a democratic State, which as a sovereign nation and out of legitimate dissent has the obligation to protect its people in the face of such an atrocity.

Libya thanks the High Commissioner for his efforts in monitoring the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, while expressing its deep concern regarding reports in the UN that equate between the Occupying Power and the Palestinian People that are being subjected for decades to occupation. Libya reiterates its condemnation of the violations perpetrated by the Occupying Power, particularly in Gaza, which amount to genocide and war crimes. Libya insists on the implementation of the orders of the ICJ, and rejects every attempt to undermine the Palestinian cause by annexing land and forcibly displacing Palestinians, which is a flagrant violation to international humanitarian law. An independent fact-finding commission needs to be able to enter the occupied Palestinian territories to be able to monitor and document the violations of human rights at the hands of the Occupying Power. Libya further reiterates the right of the Palestinian People to establish its own independent State with al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital.

Namibia remains deeply disturbed by the persistent lack of accountability for Israel's violations and abuses perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the OPT. Namibia calls on OHCHR to take all necessary measures within its mandate to investigate the grave violations and abuses against the Palestinian people with a view to end Israel's impunity in the OPT. Namibia firmly believes that the only viable solution to this conflict is a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. We denounce any plans to forcibly displace the Palestinian people from their land, and we call on the international community to exert pressure on Israel to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian land in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and ICJ rulings.

Niger expresses its deep concern at the persistent occupation of the territory, and because of the attacks against individuals and against basic services, these are flagrant violations of international humanitarian law and international law. It condemns most firmly the brutal atrocities committed by the occupying power against Palestinian civilians for more than 70 years now, particularly the unspeakable brutalities which belong to a different generation. In this respect, Niger urges the international community, particularly those that say they are free and democratic, to put an end to this hidden form of collective punishment which is underway in Gaza, pursuant to the values that it says that it defends in other places in the world, including through economic and financial sanctions. To conclude, Niger restates its support for the two-state solution, Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace, security, and mutual trust, according to pre-1967 borders, grounded on a state of Palestine which is free and safe, pursuant to relevant UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 1515 of 19 November 2003 of the Security Council.

Thailand welcomes the ongoing implementation of the ceasefire and hostage release agreement in the Gaza Strip. It commends all these national efforts in this regard. It is imperative that all parties continue to fulfil their commitments and that all three phases of the ceasefire agreement are fully implemented, most urgently on the release of all hostages and detainees, to further de-escalate tensions and foster an environment conducive to achieving a peaceful solution. It is crucial that all parties respect international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law. A timely and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance by the Palestinian



people and all those in need must also be ensured. Thailand reiterates our unwavering support for diplomacy and constructive dialogue based on a two-state solution by which the states of Israel and Palestine live side by side in peace and security in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as for sustained peace and stability in the region.

China expresses serious concern about the human rights situation in the OPT, notably in Gaza. It welcomes the recent ceasefire agreement reached by the parties involved. The priority now is to implement it in a continued and effective manner and advance the follow-up negotiations with a constructive attitude. The Occupying Power must earnestly fulfil its obligations under the international law, respect and protect the human rights of the Palestinian People, and guarantee the safe return of the displaced persons to their homes. The two-state solution is the only viable way out of the Palestinian question. Gaza is an integral part of the territory of Palestine. China firmly supports the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian People. China believes that the 'Palestinians governing Palestine' is an important principle that must be upheld in the post-conflict governance of Gaza. Opposing to the forced displacement of the people of Gaza, China calls upon all parties to pay close attention to the aspirations and appeals of the Arab States and of the State of Palestine in particular, and to work for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question.

Sudan reiterates its insistence on keeping this item on the UNHRC's agenda, and it expresses its full support to the Palestinian People that has survived decades of violations of forced displacement and suffering, which we are witnessing again now in Gaza, including in other areas in the region in Lebanon. A resolution to the Palestinian issue must include putting an end to occupation and violations of Palestinian lands, and stopping the expansion of the settlements, and ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people and their access to self-determination and establishing their own independent state based on international law. The violence must stop, and a solution must be found and must cover all details. Sudan calls upon the Occupying Power to fulfil its obligations according to international law, IHL and international human rights law. It calls upon the UNHRC to address human rights violations against the vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly, and persons in detention. Support through the United Nations must continue. Sudan calls upon the international community to redouble efforts to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and commends support by the UN and other international organisations and the work of some countries in this regard. Sudan wants UNRWA to continue its mandate in support of the Palestinian people.

Uganda is concerned by the grave situation that continues to unfold in the occupied Palestinian territory. Uganda welcomes the current ceasefire and the recent release of captives. Uganda reiterates the need for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza to safeguard civilians and any further destruction. It commends the efforts of Egypt, Qatar, and United States in this regard. The humanitarian impact of the conflict on civilian population demands urgent attention and resolution. Uganda calls on the international community to increase humanitarian assistance and also call for all necessary support towards the reconstruction of the destroyed infrastructure in Gaza. It also call for an end to the blockade and to the expansion of settlement activity, which continues to be a significant driver of tension and violence. As fragile as it is now, the international community, regional actors, the parties, and all of us must exert all efforts to pursue a just and



comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This should be based on relevant UN resolutions to achieve a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security.

Lebanon believes that in the OPT, we have reached a phase where occupation, violence, denial of rights, and dehumanisation are in full sway. Palestinian civilians are massacred and deprived of life's basic necessities. They are forcibly displaced and exposed to starvation and epidemics. Furthermore, by hindering access to humanitarian aid and by vilifying UN agencies, including UNRWA, the Occupying Power dashes the hopes of Palestinians for a better future. This terrifying situation largely stems from the international community's inability to reign in Israel or to hold it accountable for its numerous violations of IHL and human rights of Palestinians. Lebanon hopes that the Gaza ceasefire will be durable and would pave the way for ending the occupation. There is no alternative to a just and lasting solution to the conflict that safeguards the Palestinian People's rights, including to self-determination. This is key for preventing further subjugation of the Palestinians and for preserving the credibility of the principles we are supposed to uphold in the UNHRC, let alone security and stability in the Middle East region.

In **Iceland's** view, a long-awaited ceasefire in Gaza has brought cautious hope to us all. It has provided an opportunity to bring life-saving humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in Gaza and in the longer term must provide basis for them to rebuild their lives after a most devastating war. The High Commissioner's report outlines a long-standing lack of accountability and environment of impunity in Israel. This has continued to enable violations of international law with an unprecedented impact on the lives and rights of Palestinians. This is unacceptable. Iceland welcomes the recent releases of hostages that have been held in Gaza and we wish them and their families well in rebuilding their lives after the unimaginable ordeal. Iceland condemns the way in which Hamas has treated the bodily remains of hostages. All hostages and prisoners, whether Israeli or Palestinian, must be treated with dignity and respect, both the living and the dead. They should be neither paraded nor degraded. Regrettably, the ceasefire in Gaza seems very fragile. Iceland unequivocally calls on all parties to ensure that the ceasefire is upheld. War should not be an option, let alone an objective. The ceasefire must not fail.

After 15 months of conflict hallmarked by the systematic violation of international humanitarian law principles and of human rights and unspeakable suffering from the civilian population, it is vital today to ensure the ceasefire continues and guarantee continued access for humanitarian aid into Gaza. **Luxembourg** calls on Hamas free hostages in the respect of their dignity. Luxembourg continues to support UNRWA, who plays an irreplaceable role providing support to the Palestinian people. It is concerned at the stepping up of Israeli military raids and violence of settlers in the West Bank. Resuming the political process aiming to bring about a two-state solution, fully respecting the right to self-determination of Israelis and Palestinians is the only way towards a fair and just peace. Gaza must be an integral part of an independent Palestinian State. All attempts to create a de facto state by means of forced displacement of population or building new settlements are unacceptable. It is essential to put an end to impunity and ensure that justice is done for all war crimes and either violations of international humanitarian law. Luxembourg fully supports the ICC and the ICJ.

France thanks the High Commissioner for his report, an expression of the duty to oversee from the UNHRC. We had barbaric attacks on the 7th of October by Hamas and there has been an never-ending hostage crisis. France lost 50 citizens. We have seen the return of hostages and the



return of remains must be done in a way that respects their dignities. Following operations in Gaza, the population has been decimated, the land devastated, and this is a conflict which violates the rights of all people and blocks the peace process. To return to peace, France calls on respect by all parties of the ceasefire agreement. Israel must ensure access for humanitarian workers and this must be in line with international humanitarian law. Civilians displaced by Israeli activities in the north of the West Bank, there must be protection of the civilian population. Illegal settlements must end immediately as the violence on the part of settlers. We must have effective implementation of a two-state solution. In June 2025, France with Saudi Arabia will chair an international conference for the implementation of this solution.

Belgium remains deeply concerned about the lack of dignity for Palestinians returning to their homes in the absence of shelter and basic infrastructure and we are also worried about the conditions under which both hostages and detainees are released. Belgium is alarmed by the methods used by Israeli forces in the West Bank, including airstrikes, bulldozers, and advanced weaponry resulting in killings, wanton destruction, and the displacements of tens of thousands of refugees. It strongly condemns the further escalation of violence by extremist settlers. Belgium urges Israel to protect the population in the territory it occupies in line with law enforcement rules and applicable human rights norms and standards. With Gaza ceasefire in place, reports like yours are fundamental to achieve, if not now, then in the future accountability for the violations of IHL and of international human rights law by Israeli forces, Hamas, and others. Accountability is a crucial part of any process of transitional justice and ultimately sustainable peace.

Bahrain underscores the importance of its recommendations and conclusions and the need to implement them to put an end to the plight of the Palestinians. Civilians in Gaza are suffering from a tragedy that is multiple, and this is not only in light of the number of the dead but because of prevention of water, food, health care, education, and basic services. We should provide prompt assistance to civilians in Gaza so that they enjoy their basic humanitarian rights and in order to protect their lives and ensure their dignity and reduce their long-term suffering. In closing, Bahrain calls upon the international community to live up to its responsibility by implementing international resolutions and principles of international humanitarian law to protect civilians and to ensure providing assistance to people in Gaza in a safe, sustainable way while providing environment to revive the peace process so that – to ensure the existence of the two-state solution and for Palestinians to have their own state with Eastern Jerusalem as its capital.

Brunei Darussalam is deeply concerned by the unprecedented levels of food insecurity and deliberately infliction starvation on the population of Gaza as a method of warfare that is prohibited by international law. It also remains deeply concerned by the actions of the Occupying Power having frequently provoked and deepened the fear of a destabilization of the whole region, thereby also weakening the foundations of the international order. We cannot sit idly by and let this continue. We cannot pick and choose the application of international law, including upholding obligation to the decisions of international courts, only when it is suitable. Brunei urges the international community to uphold its responsibility in protecting the rights of the Palestinians and in addressing the root causes, including returning to their homeland. It must ensure that all parties concerned honour the ceasefire agreement. Brunei also acknowledges efforts at finding a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to conflict, and in doing so, it stresses the importance of involving all concerned parties in any plans with a full adherence to



international law and all relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Brunei remains resolute in its solidarity with the Palestinian People and advocate for Palestine's full UN membership.

Ireland welcomes the ceasefire and hostage release agreement in Gaza and urge its full implementation in all its phases. We need to see the return of all hostages to their families and continued access for much-needed humanitarian aid into Gaza. The work of UNRWA is essential and irreplaceable in this regard. A return to hostilities would be disastrous for everyone. Turning to the report, Ireland regrets that the Office has not been granted full access to the occupied Palestinian territory and to Israel to investigate violations by all duty bearers. Ireland urges Israel to ensure this access. The scale of gross violations of rights and disregard for obligations under international law detailed in the report is appalling. Ireland shares the High Commissioner's concern about the long-standing lack of accountability and the prevailing environment of impunity, which continues to enable international law violations. It urges all states parties to their own statute to comply with their obligations and reiterates the High Commissioner's call upon all duty bearers to ensure cooperation with the ICC. Recalling the ICJ advisory opinion, Ireland calls on Israel to comply with its obligation to bring an end to its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. We need to see a political pathway towards implementation of a two-state solution, the only viable path to a lasting peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Bangladesh strongly condemns the unspeakable atrocities on an indiscriminate killing of innocent Palestinian civilians, including women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, particularly since October 2023. Bangladesh demands the permanent end of Israeli brutalities in Palestine. The flagrant violation of international law by Israel for decades needs to be addressed by the international community by holding Israel accountable and putting an end to the culture of impunity. Bangladesh reiterates its strong support for a lasting ceasefire. It calls upon the international community to make Israel refrain from committing ceasefire violations. It calls for rapid, safe, and unhindered provision of lifesaving assistance to Gaza. It also calls for undertaking rebuilding initiatives to ensure the rapid return of the displaced Palestinians to their homes, and for full implementation of the provisional measures ordered by the ICJ relating to the proceedings brought under the Geneva Convention. Finally, Bangladesh reiterates its strong support for an end to Israel's occupation of Palestine and for a lasting and permanent solution that ensures the establishment of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state along pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Views Expressed by intergovernmental Organizations

The **European Union** reiterates its support to your mandate and supports your call to pursue independent investigation, accountability, and justice for any grave violations and abuses as stated in the HC's report. The EU has warmly welcomed the ceasefire agreement in Gaza. It is vital that the deal is fully implemented. The EU recalls the need to fully implement the ICJ's orders, which are legally binding. While welcoming the increase of aid entering Gaza since the ceasefire, the EU reiterates its calls for access to humanitarian aid, and that aid can be effectively distributed, including by UN agencies, notably UNRWA. The EU reiterates its condemnation in the strongest term of the terrorist attacks conducted by Hamas against Israel on 7 October. In exercising its right to defend itself, Israel must fully comply with its obligation under international law. The EU strongly condemns the further escalation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.



The EU reiterates its call on Israel to cooperate fully with the UN, including the human rights mechanisms. The EU will remain committed to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on the two-state solution. The EU underlies the vital role of civil society and hopes that cooperation with civil society will remain unhampered.

UNRWA welcomes the Gaza ceasefire hostage and prisoner release deal, which brings hope for millions of people whose lives have been ravaged by the conflict. Despite this, UNRWA is gravely concerned about the crisis in the OPT, the civilian deaths and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, as well as in Israel, perpetrated by all parties. UNRWA joins the High Commissioner's plea for all human rights to be respected. UNRWA calls for rapid, safe, and unimpeded humanitarian relief to be provided to all civilians. There is an urgent need to maintain hospital and other medical services and public health with special regard for the health requirements of women, girls, and the vulnerable population. It also calls for the effective implementation of the ceasefire in Gaza, with special regard to health, women, and vulnerable populations.

[Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions](#)

The **Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights** explains that with all the dreadful crimes, crimes against humanity, and the live-stream genocide in Gaza, Israel continues to escalate its violations by systematically withholding the bodies of Palestinians it has killed. In 2024 alone, it seized 192 bodies from the West Bank, bringing the total to 646 held in morgues and cemeteries of numbers. This does not include the hundreds of victims from Gaza whose fate remains unknown while families are denied the right to bury their beloved ones with dignity. Among the withheld bodies are 59 children, 67 prisoners who were killed or died in Israeli detention, and nine women. Since October 7th, Israel has also subjected thousands, including women, children, and medical personnel to enforced disappearance under the so-called unlawful competent law, stripping detainees of all legal protection. This is a war crime and a blatant violation of international law. The Commission calls on the Human Rights Council to demand the immediate return of all withheld bodies, pressure Israel to disclose the fate of the disappeared, and ensure accountability for these grave violations. The dignity of the dead is a fundamental human right, and the world must not remain silent.

[Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations](#)

The **Defence for Children International (DCI)** explains that the lack of accountability is a core reason why the State of Israel has been able to carry out its campaign of genocide against the Palestinian People in the Gaza Strip and pursue its project of annexation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. For decades, Israeli forces have systematically killed Palestinian children in huge numbers without consequence. The end of this systemic impunity will save the lives of countless Palestinian children and their families. As the only Palestinian human rights organisations focused exclusively on children's rights, DCI has thoroughly documented violations of Palestinian children's rights for decades. DCI has continuously advocated for justice and accountability for these rights violations, and it can say with confidence that there have been no meaningful measures of accountability for perpetrators. Israeli soldiers know that they can kill Palestinian children with impunity and not face any professional or legal consequences. Now, as Israel and its officials are finally facing the beginning of justice at the world's courts, some countries are choosing to continue to embolden impunity. Israeli forces will continue to kill



Palestinian children without limit until world leaders support and enact strong measures of justice and accountability. DCI strongly urges all Member States to protect the integrity of investigations by the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court that aim to hold perpetrators accountable, including condemning sanctions and other punitive threats or actions towards members of the court, and use all available means to demand Israeli authorities uphold Palestinian children's rights, as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the State of Israel has ratified.

United Nations Watch takes the floor through a speaker coming from Yemen who asks why the report mentions Israel 188 times, yet fails to mention the Islamic regime in Iran even once? How can the report speak about the conflict while ignoring the party that has armed, trained, and funded terror proxies like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, who have been bombing Israel thousands of times? Why is there no mention of the Houthis in Yemen, who have spent millions of dollars firing missiles at Israel instead of feeding my starving people? In Yemen, half a million people have died in the last 10 years. The biggest famine and humanitarian crisis in modern history. Why does no one care when half a million Yemenis die? What about Sudan? In less than two years, more than 150,000 people have been killed. Where is the flag of Sudan? What about Syria? Half a million Syrians have been killed. Where is the Syrian flag? High Commissioner, why is it that when Arabs kill millions of Arabs, no one bats an eye? Where is the outrage? And where are the protests? And why is Qatar sitting here as a member of the UNHRC when they host the Hamas terror leaders in luxury hotels?

According to **BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights**, international accountability or its opposite, impunity, do not happen organically or in a vacuum. Impunity is granted through the lack of action, and accountability must be imposed through practical measures. To uphold the principle of accountability, including the obligation of the international community to provide international protection, BADIL calls on all States, individually and collectively, to impose political, economic, and military sanctions against the Israeli regime to hold it accountable. For over 76 years of ongoing forced displacement and transfer, colonisation, and apartheid, and the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip, for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip and the reparations owed many times over to 9.17 million Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons, for its perpetual refusal to adhere to its obligations, including ensuring the protection, operation, and full access of UNRWA to fulfil its mandate, only sanctions can ensure an end to the impunity that the Israeli colonial apartheid regime enjoys, that the UN and its Member States fulfil their obligations, and that the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and return are put into practise.

The **Institute for NGO Research** argues that the accountability report promotes false claims, ignores aid diversion, and erases Hamas atrocities. This year's version parrots false casualty data from Hamas, sanitised under a new Ministry of Health euphemism. Again, the report conflates combatant and civilian deaths to conceal the truth. Yet again, the report hides Hamas' fighting tactics in Gaza. The report continues to cover for UNRWA, the ICRC, and aid NGOs that for 18 years turned a blind eye while Hamas stole taxpayer money to turn all of Gaza into a military base. Yet again, the report gives a free pass to Hamas' sponsors, Iran, Turkey, and Qatar. When will these actors be held accountable for Hamas murder and mayhem? The report promotes the Gaza starvation lie, as if the entire world has not seen Hamas' depraved ceremonies held in front of



brain mobs, where apart from the poor hostages, not a starving Gazan is in sight. Most egregiously, the report erases nine-month-old baby Kfir and four-year-old Ariel, who were stolen on October 7th to the terror lairs of Gaza, where they were executed in cold blood and where their bodies were paraded in one of the most disgusting and horrific spectacles of modern times, while hundreds of Gazan children were brought to watch and share it on.

The **Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH)** stresses that once again, the UNHRC convenes as Palestinians across historical Palestine endure ongoing land expropriations, mass killings, imprisonments, and state-sanctioned settler terror. The Gaza Strip, which endured 15 months of bombardment and an all-out genocide, is now facing an even deeper humanitarian crisis, while the same brutal tactics used in Gaza are being replicated on a smaller scale in the West Bank. Israeli military attacks, airstrikes, sieges, and mass arrests are intensifying, particularly in the northern West Bank, where 40,000 Palestinians have been displaced and at least 70 have been killed since the start of this year. As Israeli military actions continue to escalate in size and impact, so too do attacks by state-backed settlers who continue to carry out attacks and expropriate more Palestinian land. Meanwhile, the blockade on the Gaza Strip after 15 months of genocide is preventing Palestinians from rebuilding their destroyed homes, leaving women in particular vulnerable. This is not a sudden crisis, but rather the continuation of a long-term agenda aimed at consolidating Israeli control. With an increasingly aggressive Israeli government and the growing influence of far-right elements, the prospect of full annexation in the West Bank seems more imminent than ever. Allowing Israel to continue with its violations without consequences only gives the green light to continue its course, especially in light of the ICJ's ruling on genocide and the provisional measures laid out by the ICC, what is needed is concrete action and concrete steps of international accountability. Until then, justice for Palestinians who faced these violations for decades will not be realised.

The **Jerusalem Institute of Justice** asks how much longer will this turn a blind eye to the truth? The latest report by the High Commissioner is just not biased. It is a clear distortion of reality. It condemns Israel for defending its people while downplaying the barbaric atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7th. Over 1,200 Israelis were slaughtered in their homes. Entire families burned alive. Women raped. Children turned from their parents. Yet this report reduces these horrors to nothing more than a passing remark, appalling and entirely wrong. Where is the outrage? Instead, the report is obsessed with demonising Israel's response, ignoring the painful reality that Hamas uses Gaza's civilians as human shields, diverts humanitarian aid for terror, and rejects every ceasefire that would have saved lives. Israel's right, its duty to defend its citizens is dismissed, while Hamas war crimes are met with soft language and excuses. This report is not about justice. It emboldens terrorism while vilifying the only democracy in the Middle East. It ignores the suffering of Israeli victims and betrays the very principles this council claims to uphold. Enough is enough. The time has come for this council to stop enabling Hamas and start demanding accountability from those who commit crimes, not those who fight to survive.

The **Palestinian Return Centre** highlights some important elements in the report such as Israel's massive atrocities committed against Palestinians in Gaza, which amount to the crime of genocide. In regard to the occupied West Bank, the report notes the spike in Israel's killing and violations of human rights, which include collective punishment, gender-related violations, arbitrary detentions, torture, and ill treatment. It also importantly finds that serious concerns



persist about the capacity and the willingness of the Israeli justice system to ensure accountability and its compliance with international standards. Israel has consistently failed to open investigations in cases where there is evidence of unlawful conduct by Israeli occupation forces. It emphasises the report's recommendation to ensure that all Palestinians displaced from and within Gaza are allowed to return to their homes by creating safe conditions and providing adequate alternatives to those whose homes have been rendered uninhabitable.

According to the **International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)**, for decades, Israel has implemented a series of discriminatory laws, policies, and practises to establish and maintain an apartheid system based on racial domination and oppression over the Palestinian People. In parallel with its genocidal war on Gaza, enabled by the inaction and sometimes the unwavering support of third states, Israel has exploited the wartime context to launch an unprecedented assault on Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. FIDH's Palestinian and Israeli member organisations have documented a dramatic rise in human rights violations and international crimes, including the unlawful killing and forcible displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank, restrictions on their freedom of movement, state-backed settler violence, hundreds of arbitrary arrests and administrative detentions, and the torture of Palestinian detainees. Since the start of the Israeli military operation on 21 January, redirecting its military aggression to the West Bank, at least 45,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced and 33 have been killed, including 12 children. These mass human rights violations and international crimes underscore the entrenched impunity that allows Israel to perpetuate systematic violations without consequences. FIDH calls on States to recognise and address Israel's apartheid system, including by supporting the reconstitution of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid, to comply with arrest warrants issued by the ICC, to take immediate action against Israel's settlement enterprise in line with the ruling of the ICJ, including by instituting a ban on settlement imports and imposing sanctions on settlers, and to cease the sale or transfer of arms to Israel.

Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights stresses that the atrocities in Gaza are not stopping, and the need for accountability is stronger than ever. As we speak, the people of Gaza endure one of the coldest weeks in recent memory. Acts of genocide, including the deliberate obstruction of life-sustaining humanitarian aid. There is no accountability for Palestinians within the Israeli legal system. Decades of systematic injustice have shown that Israel's domestic mechanisms serve to shield perpetrators, not deliver justice to victims of international crimes. Investigations, on their occasions when they occur, are designed to absolve, rather than convict. The Israeli legal system has never delivered justice for Palestinians, and never will. Over the past year, the International Court of Justice has issued three provisional measures orders addressed to Israel. The ICJ has also issued a landmark advisory opinion, affirming the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. Yet, Israel continues to violate these rulings with total impunity, as the international community fails to enforce them. In a long overdue step, the International Criminal Court has issued warrants of arrest against the Israeli leadership, marking a critical moment in the pursuit of justice for Palestinians. However, impunity will persist unless ICC State Parties ensure these warrants are executed. Attacks on the ICC are an assault on the entire international justice system, and must be met with a firm and united response by all the State Parties to the Rome Statute. Justice delayed is justice denied. The time for action is now.



According to [Amnesty International](#), for over 16 months, the world has been witnessing shocking levels of dehumanisation, death and destruction on the occupied Gaza Strip, where Amnesty International found that Israel has committed and is continuing to commit genocide against Palestinians. Israel continues to arbitrarily arrest scores of Palestinians across the occupied territory, subjecting them to horrific detention conditions, including torture and other forms of ill-treatment. In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, state-backed stressor violence and Israeli military operations have resulted in killings, unprecedented destruction of civilian infrastructure, and unlawful transfer of Palestinians. Millions of people across the world have been incessantly protesting to demand justice for Palestinians. Yet many states have remained defiant to this cause, often actively silencing pro-Palestinian solidarity, thus undermining the universal value of international law. International courts and human rights bodies, including this Council, and the whole international legal system are under attack. Amnesty International urges states to take immediate action. They must uphold international law by imposing an arms embargo on Israel, supporting the International Criminal Court, and implementing its arrest warrants, and by complying with the ICJ's orders on genocide and its 2024 advisory opinion, declaring Israel's occupation unlawful. All mandates dealing with the current crisis must be adequately supported. Palestinians' rights must be protected.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

62 State Delegations

2 Inter-Governmental Organizations

1 National Human Rights Institution

10 Non-Governmental Organizations