



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including East Jerusalem and in Israel

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PRESENTATION OF THE THEMATIC REPORT

Ms. Navi PILLAY, Chair of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the OPT

The Chair of the COI present its [new report](#) examining violations of international human rights law (IHRL), international humanitarian law (IHL) and possible international crimes relating to **attacks against educational facilities and religious and cultural sites** in the OPT and in Israel. Twenty months have lapsed since the beginning of the most ruthless, prolonged, and widespread attack against the Palestinian people since 1948. The goal of the Israeli government is abundantly clear, the **destruction of life in Gaza**.

For a year and a half now, the COI has been investigating the violence unfolding in Gaza. The COI notes a constant escalation and more and more deaths and injuries. The violence has extended now into southern Lebanon, then Yemen, and now Iran. In relation to violence in Palestine and Israel, **security can only come with peace**. Once more, the COI reiterates this in relation to the new regional conflict involving Israel and Iran. Peace, justice, and respect for human rights are the only ways forward in which the peoples of the region can live in security.



We should not let this regional escalation divert our attention from the **ongoing carnage in Gaza**, where hundreds continue to be killed each week. In the last three months, the entire population of Gaza was forcibly transferred into small enclaves, and Palestinians were killed while attempting to receive aid, bringing life to its bleakest point to date.

Children have paid an unimaginable price. More than 1,300 children have been killed just from the end of the ceasefire on 18 March to date, and more than **15,000 children** have been identified as having been killed since October 2023. These are not just intolerable numbers. Each child killed represents a past, a present, and a future that will no longer exist.

The COI findings show that as Israeli security forces killed thousands of children, they also **obliterated the education system in Gaza**. More than 90% of schools and university buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed, creating conditions where education for children has been made impossible. With the loss of education, Palestinians are also losing their source of stability, of hope, and of a possibility for the future. Israeli airstrikes have targeted educational facilities believed to be safe refuge areas, thus killing the displaced, including children and women, and deliberately shelled, burned, and demolished schools and universities.

The **COI could not identify any military necessity** which justifies such actions, and concludes that these actions show an intent to destroy these facilities in order to curtail Palestinians' access to education in the long term. These attacks were part of a widespread and relentless assault against the Palestinian people, in which Israeli forces have committed war crimes, including directing attacks against civilians and wilful killing, and the crime against humanity of extermination.

The systematic targeting of educational facilities has extended well **beyond Gaza** and has impacted all Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, closures, demolition orders, restrictions, military raids, and large-scale military operations have resulted in a significant loss of school days. Settlers have been responsible for violent attacks against schools and against students, leaving children and educators terrified and traumatised. Israeli authorities often directly incite such attacks or do not protect Palestinians, promoting a **regime of impunity for violent settlers**.

Attacks by Israeli security forces have **damaged more than half of all religious and cultural sites** in the **Gaza Strip**, part of a wider campaign to destroy civilian targets and civilian infrastructure through airstrikes and shelling. Israeli attacks also targeted religious sites that served as places of refuge, killing hundreds of people, including women and children. Such damage was completely avoidable, given that Israeli security forces knew or should have known the locations and the significance of Gaza's prominent cultural sites and should have planned all military operations accordingly. The damage to religious and historical buildings, monuments, and other tangible heritage has a cascading effect and deeply affects intangible cultural elements, such as religious and cultural practises, memories, and history, **undermining the identity of Palestinians as a people**.

In the **occupied West Bank**, including East Jerusalem, the COI found that Israeli authorities have appropriated, developed, and profited from cultural heritage sites representing Palestinian, Jewish, and other cultures and have **suppressed non-Jewish heritage**. They displaced



Palestinian residents from those sites, blocked or severely restricted Palestinians from accessing such sites, and conducted archaeological excavations leading to the creation of tourist attractions, which is unlawful under international law. Such actions deny the relationship of Palestinians to the land's heritage and history. Israel has been using cultural heritage and settlements as leverage for its unlawful territorial claims in the occupied West Bank, in flagrant defiance of multiple UN resolutions and the 2024 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The COI has repeatedly requested the Israeli authorities to grant the UNHRC-mandated Commission immediate, unimpeded access to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Gaza, in accordance with its mandate and the order of the ICJ of 24 May 2024. **Israel has ignored all of these requests.** Reiterating its call for a complete and unconditional cessation of hostilities, the COI demands an immediate and full end to the siege imposed on Gaza and the release of all those arbitrarily detained, including all hostages, both Israeli and Palestinian.

The COI has emphasised on several occasions that **atrocities committed by one side do not justify those committed by the other in reaction.** All those who have committed atrocities must be brought to justice and held fully accountable. The COI has also noted that the October 7th attacks against Israel and Israel's subsequent attacks on Gaza were preceded by decades of violence and retribution, dispossession, unlawful occupation, and denial of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Attacks against educational, religious, and cultural sites must stop immediately. All parties must ensure the protection, preservation, and development of cultural heritage sites representing **Jewish and Palestinian cultures alike.** The extensive physical destruction of Gaza, the dismantling of its educational and healthcare systems, the destruction of housing and infrastructure, and the targeting and destruction of heritage sites, including limiting of access to those sites and the **erasure of their heterogenic history,** are intended to erode Palestinians' historical ties to the land and weaken their collective identity, thereby **hindering their right to self-determination.**

In line with the ICJ advisory opinion, the COI emphasises that all member states, individually and collectively, and the United Nations are under a legal obligation to work cooperatively to bring to an **end the unlawful occupation and ensure the Palestinians' right to self-determination.** The COI strongly supports the resolution adopted by the UNGA last week condemning the use of starvation as a weapon of war, demanding a full lifting of the Israeli blockade on humanitarian aid, and insisting on the protection of civilians under international law. It is **incumbent on all states** to act resolutely to end the slaughter and stop the atrocities.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ms. Navi PILLAY, Chair of the COI, emphasises the recommendations directed to other states, in particular the recommendation requesting all member states to comply with all international law obligations, including those set out in the July 2024 ICJ advisory opinion, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) and the Convention on the Prevention and



Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This clear recommendations addressed to all member states is to take action. This comes directly from the voices of victims - no more talk, more action.

Mr. Chris SIDOTI, member of the COI, explains that to mitigate in the short term the absence of in-person learning in Gaza, the only way is to **stop the slaughter** to enable children to go to school. There are not many schools remaining, but there is no substitute to in-person learning - certainly not internet which is regularly cut off. The COI is examining how Israel's actions such as blocking humanitarian aid can contribute to the legal assessment of **genocidal intent** and this will be the subject of a report.

On how to **achieve a two-state solution** in the face of expanding settlements, Mr. Chris SIDOTI states he would have hoped that today Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom had joined its partner statement maker - Norway - in announcing recognition of the state of Israel. He would have hoped that France would do the same. It said that recognising the state of Palestine is a reward for Hamas terrorism. Nothing could be further from the truth, trying to obscure the real issue. Hamas is opposed to two states. Hamas is opposed to the recognition of the state of Palestine. Thus, an immediate simple step that can be taken by those states that have not yet recognised the state of Palestine

In closing, Mr. Chris SIDOTI noted in particular the statement made by the **wife of one of the hostages**, in whose woman's voice you could feel the pain. All hostages must be released - both Israelis and Palestinians - for the sake of the hostages themselves, their human rights and those of their families.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by the Countries Concerned

The delegation of **Israel** is not present.

The delegation of the **State of Palestine** appreciates the significant efforts deployed by the COI in preparing the report shedding light on the crimes committed by the occupying power against educational facilities and religious and cultural sites. The report includes detailed information and a legal analysis of information on **attacks against educational facilities**, including air raids, bombardment, arson, deliberate killing of civilians who took refuge in schools. This is a war crime and crimes against humanity, as well as genocide.

In the **West Bank**, including East Jerusalem, the educational system suffers from escalated military operations and attacks perpetrated by the occupation forces and the herds of settlers against students and schools. In addition to checkpoints, there are more than **900 checkpoints** and iron gates that separate cities, villages and camps and impedes the movement of students to access their schools, institutions and universities. There are also repeated attacks against nurseries, children's schools and the closure of a number of schools, including six schools that are part of UNRWA in East Jerusalem.

Religious and cultural sites were not spared. Mosques and churches were targeted in Gaza, most of whom were destroyed. Christians and Muslims were killed while taking refuge in them. These schools and religious sites are civilian properties in accordance with international law and also in accordance with the agreement for the protection of cultural property in conflict. The



Commission reiterates that there is no evidence corroborating the allegations of the occupying power for the use of these properties for military purposes.

In the **West Bank**, the occupying forces appropriated themselves of Christian, Jewish and Islamic religious and cultural sites, denied access to them, and the COI concluded that these practises, including the **transfer of responsibility for archaeological and cultural sites** in the West Bank to the Israeli antiquities authorities, is an illegal annexation and obliteration of history.

The report also details the **magnitude of the tragedy** faced by educational, cultural and religious institutions. This threatens the current situation of the Palestinian people, their future, and this also has a bearing on the right to self-determination. All parties should implement the COI's recommendations and countries should shoulder their responsibility by taking practical steps in order to stop all violations against educational, cultural and religious institutions.

In accordance with the advisory opinion of the ICJ that provides for the illegality of the occupation, including all its consequences and repercussions, as well as provisional measures ordered by the ICJ last year in order to prevent genocide, Palestine calls on all states and institutions to ensure the **delivery of humanitarian aid** to Gaza in terms of food, medicine, water and fuel through international and UN agencies, rather than the US-Israeli mechanism or 'mass murder trap' that targets **aid seekers - 400 of whom were killed and 3,000 were wounded**. Today another such crime was committed - 80 aid waiters were killed in Khan Yunis and Rafah and 200 people were wounded.

The State of Palestine calls for the implementation of the UNGA Resolution A/ES-10/L.34 that calls for a **ceasefire** and the **release of hostages**. Palestine calls for the release of those administratively detained and forcibly disappeared by bringing pressure to bear on the occupation forces and taking measures through seizing, export of weapons and reconsideration of trade, diplomatic relations and taking punitive measures against the members of the government of extremism, killing, murder and criminality, not to receive them and to implement the principle of accountability and responsibility without double standards. There are so many martyrs and wounded, most of whom are children and women, who were killed in Palestine.

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Algeria appreciates the COI's report on the Israeli relentless assault against the Palestinians, their wilful and wanton killings, slaughter and atrocities against this people, and their attempts to *judaize* the Palestinian land in view of their occupation. The illegal occupation of Palestinian land has lasted for more than 77 years. It is imperative that the Israeli army, the Israeli government and the people involved are held accountable for targeting schools, churches, mosques, and cultural and heritage places. Similarly, the events in the West Bank must not be overlooked as they also violate UN resolutions and international law. Algeria condemns the Israeli occupation and reiterates the demand for the Palestinians to enjoy a sovereign independent state and the right to self-determination, which will hopefully provide protection for the Palestinian people. All the perpetrators of these crimes must be held accountable, particularly those who build the settlements and the settlers.

Australia stresses that the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East risks further destabilising an already volatile region. Urging de-escalation, restraint, and a return to dialogue



and diplomacy, Australia remains deeply concerned by the COI's findings regarding attacks on cultural property and heritage and expansions of settlements. According to its longstanding position, Israeli settlements are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace and a two-state solution. Australia strongly condemns ongoing settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians and took action against perpetrators, including coordinating with partners to sanction extremists. Australia joined partners in sanctioning Hamas terrorists for their ongoing acts of terror. On 10 June, Australia announced with partners targeted sanctions on Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich for inciting, supporting, and enabling violence against Palestinians in the West Bank. Australia calls on Israel to cease settlement activity and to hold perpetrators of settler violence to account. Remaining committed to the two-state solution as the only way to guarantee security and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians, Australia urges an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, full and immediate resumption of aid, and the protection of all civilians.

Bahrain on behalf of the Arab group condemns the refusal of the occupying power to cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms, especially with Special Procedures. The COI's report illustrates clearly the grave violations perpetrated by the occupying power against international law and IHL. The report shows the link between systematic attacks against the Palestinian people and violations of the right to self-determination. Education institutions have been targeted despite people taking refuge in such establishments. Many people have been injured and killed. Religious and cultural sites have also been systematically destroyed. Churches, mosques, museums, archives have all been destroyed. Today, teaching has been attacked in violation of international law. In this context, the Arab group calls for the end of the illegal occupation, an immediate ceasefire and supply of humanitarian aid, including the end of the use of famine as a weapon of war. Calling for respect of freedom of expression, the Arab group urges the international community to use the tools at its disposal of the UN system to ensure accountability and to combat impunity.

Bangladesh strongly condemns the unspeakable atrocities on and indiscriminate killing of innocent Palestinian civilians, including women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities 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 and permanent ceasefire, and calls upon Israel to refrain from committing ceasefire violations. Urging rapid, safe, and unhindered provision of lifesaving assistance to Gaza, Bangladesh also calls for rebuilding initiatives to ensure the rapid return of the displaced Palestinians to their homes as well as the 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 sees the establishment of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state along pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Belgium is very concerned by the well-documented findings in the latest COI report about the widespread destruction of educational facilities in Gaza by Israeli security forces, greatly affecting hundreds of thousands of children. Belgium calls upon all parties to distinguish



between civilian objects and military objectives. Also disturbing are the findings about attacks, demolitions, and harassment by Israeli security forces and extremist settlers affecting education in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Attacks against schools and hospitals are a grave violation of children's rights. Israel is already listed in the annex of the UNSG's report on Children and Armed Conflict, naming actors that commit grave violations against children, as are Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Belgium condemns these violations and urges Israel to engage constructively with the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict and to negotiate an action plan to end and prevent these grave violations. Furthermore, Belgium deplores the destruction of the healthcare system in Gaza, as documented in the COI's previous report, and calls upon the parties to demonstrate respect for international law in order to preserve much-needed access to healthcare. Undermining the long-term perspective of a viable future for the people of Gaza by destroying access to education and healthcare is in no one's interest and will not lead to more security for anyone in the region.

Brazil is appalled by the recent deaths of civilians near the humanitarian aid distribution centre established by the Israeli government. The use of starvation as a method of warfare and the resort to violence against civilians seeking food are utterly unacceptable. Attacks against civilians and obstruction of access to humanitarian aid constitute violations of international law and war crimes. Settlers and settlers groups responsible for acts of violence must be identified as mandated by UNHRC Resolution 52/32. All parties to the conflict must respect IHRL and IHL. Israel must abide by ICJ advisory opinion on the illegality of the occupation and to the binding orders to take all necessary and effective measures to supply adequate humanitarian aid. Brazil reiterates its support for the COI and other UNHRC Special Procedures. All human rights violations must be thoroughly investigated, and those responsible must be held accountable. Brazil remains committed to a two-state solution with an independent and viable state of Palestine, living side by side with Israel.

Cuba supports the significant work carried out by the COI, which should continue examining the serious human rights violations committed by Israel in the illegally occupied territory. Multiple war crimes and crimes against humanity have already been documented. This will allow that sooner rather than later, Israel and its accomplices will have to pay the historic debt to the Palestinian people. The historic acts that Israel has committed with impunity, with the support, weapons, and funding and complicity of the United States is one of the most serious atrocities recorded by humanity. The most recent figures from the most recent report from the COI illustrate the humanitarian catastrophe that is occurring before our eyes. In the last 20 months, 55,000 Palestinians have been murdered in Gaza. Cuba would like to pay tribute to the 463 humanitarian workers, including the 319 UN staff who have also been murdered. This genocide must cease unconditionally and without delay. The humanitarian aid blockade must be lifted, which is so urgently needed by the Palestinians.

Egypt expresses its profound concerns that the systematic violations committed by Israel against the Palestinian people in the context of its war of aggression against the Gaza Strip, which have been qualified as war crimes and crimes against humanity. Infrastructure is being targeted and being destroyed. People are being displaced by force. Today, the Palestinian people are denied their inalienable rights. Egypt calls on the international community to assume its responsibility to protect the basic human rights of the Palestinian people and urgently intervene to stop these



grave violations. It is imperative to establish a ceasefire, to exert pressure on Israel, and to lift the inhumane blockade of the Gaza Strip. Justice and accountability for these crimes is not an option, but a moral and legal necessity. Egypt further stresses the need to address the root causes of the cycle of violence and instability in the region. It is necessary to put an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, to cease settlement policies and to guarantee the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Eritrea stresses that the point of merely expressing concern over the ongoing genocide in Gaza has long passed. Eritrea finds itself at a loss of words in the face of the atrocities witnessed daily, displayed vividly on our screens, where innocent human beings, members of our shared global community are being killed day after day, treated as though their lives are worth less than our own. The right to self-determination is an unchallengeable right of the Palestinian people. It is not a matter for debate. It is a legal and moral fact. As members of the international community, we have a collective responsibility to uphold this right. A just and lasting peace in the region depends on the Palestinian people being allowed to determine their own future, free from external coercion and interference. Eritrea stands firmly with the Palestinian people and recognises that, at this juncture, words may seem insufficient. Eritrea further acknowledges that what the Palestinian people need is not just solidarity, but tangible, decisive action, something that the international community has tragically failed to provide. There must be accountability. Complicity in what is unfolding must also be confronted and addressed. Eritrea wishes for the Palestinian people what one wishes for itself, namely peace, freedom, and the right to pursue their own path for self-determination.

Estonia states that the suffering of civilians in Gaza is intolerable. The recent COI's findings concerning the deliberate and widespread destruction of Gaza's educational infrastructure are deeply alarming. This directly undermines the right of Palestinian children and youth to education essential to their personal development, dignity, and future prospects. This is unacceptable. Such actions violate international law, directly contravene the principles set forth in the Safe School Declaration, which calls on states to protect educational facilities from attack and to ensure the continuation of education during armed conflict. Estonia emphasises the importance of and calls on all parties to armed conflict to fully comply with IHL and IHRL and to take concrete steps to protect children, including by safeguarding the right to safe, uninterrupted education, children's rights, and the needs must be upheld everywhere, including in armed conflicts.

France considers the resumption of humanitarian aid after three months of embargo as insufficient. The reality is against international security and law and does not resolve the catastrophic consequences for the population. Taking account of the serious in the of this context in the region, France calls on the Israeli government to respect his international obligations in order to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches on a massive scale the target population without any obstruction across the entire Gaza Strip. France reiterates its support for all UN agencies and their humanitarian partners. They have demonstrated their ability to convey aid. France continues to lobby for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional liberation of all hostages. It supports the efforts of mediators in that direction. France has not ceased and will not cease the condemnation of the attacks from October committed by Hamas and other terrorist groups. At the same time, it condemns the Israeli settlement policy, which runs contrary to international law and the violent attacks from colonists. At the international and



European level, France stands ready to adopt new sanctions against actions which are jeopardising the two-state solution. France will continue to work in favour of its goals in co-presidency with Saudi Arabia in the next two-state solution conference.

The **Gambia** is deeply concerned by the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. The rising number of civilian casualties, large-scale displacement, blockage of humanitarian relief assistance, and destruction of critical infrastructure are unacceptable. The devastated attacks on educational facilities and religious and cultural sites represent an affront to the sacred principle of distinction, which affords protection to civilians and civilian infrastructure, even in wartime. The consequences of the destruction of the education system in Gaza is a grave threat to the long-term regional peace and security, which the world must not neglect. The Gambia supports the COI's recommendation on the need for accountability wherever international crimes have occurred. Accountability is imperative to long-term peace and stability of the region. Respect for IHL and IHRL is not optional. It is a legal and moral obligation. The Gambia reiterates its call for a just and sustainable solution that respects the rights and dignity of these Palestinian people. The Gambia stands firmly in support of its two-state solution, in line with international law and relevant UN resolutions, and urges all parties to respect their obligations.

Ghana on behalf of the African group expresses its deep concern over the violations of IHRL and IHL committed against the Palestinian people. In the light of the ongoing Israeli military operations in Gaza, deliberate targeting of civilian humanitarian personnel and critical infrastructure as well as the systematic obstruction of humanitarian access and the unlawful prolonged blockade imposed on Gaza. The African group denounces Israeli colonial policies manifested in collective punitive measures against civilians and attempts to forcibly displace its residents. The Group calls on Israel to fully comply with the provisional orders issued by the ICJ and reiterates its unflinching support for the relevant UNGA resolutions on Palestine and declared position of the UNSG on the ongoing atrocities committed in Gaza as well as the persistent call by the EU for the permanent ceasefire in the collective interest of peace and stability in the Middle East. Stemming from its common values and principles that stand strongly against colonialism, oppression and apartheid, the African group reaffirms the steadfastness of its support for the historic struggle of the Palestinian people to realise their rights to self-determination and establish their independence.

Greece remains deeply concerned by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which has reached catastrophic proportions. The scale of human suffering is alarming. The widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, large-scale displacement of the population, and severe shortages of essential supplies have created an urgent humanitarian emergency. Moreover, the deaths of numerous humanitarian workers, UN personnel, and journalists in Gaza serve as a tragic reminder of the imperative to respect and protect those working on the front lines of humanitarian missions. Greece strongly condemns the horrific terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas and other extremist groups on October 7, 2023. Greece calls for the immediate, safe, and adherent delivery of humanitarian aid to all those in need in full compliance with international humanitarian law. An immediate ceasefire, alongside the unconditional return of all hostages, is essential to bringing a permanent end to hostilities. Finally, Greece remains committed to revitalising the



political process with the ultimate goal of achieving a two-state solution in line with relevant UNSC resolutions.

Iceland takes the floor through the voice of its **Minister of Justice, H.E. Ms. Thorbjörg Sigríður Gunnlaugsdóttir**, who declares that Iceland recognised the independence and sovereignty of the Palestinian state in 2011 and welcomes the growing number of countries that have already done so or are considering taking that step. The lack of dignity for Palestinians living under occupation calls for our undivided attention. The status quo is unsustainable. The blockade of Gaza and deliberate withholding of humanitarian assistance fail every test of proportionality and have left the people of Gaza on the brink of famine. Iceland underlines the importance of an immediate ceasefire, return of hostages and adequate humanitarian access in line with humanitarian principles. It is evident that the war in Gaza has had a severe impact on the enjoyment of human rights by the entire population. We cannot advocate for adherence to international law only for some. International law must remain our compass in this conflict as others. Iceland reaffirms its support for a credible pathway towards peace both for Palestinians and Israelis based on a two-state solution.

Indonesia is outraged by the findings, which expose a chilling genocidal intent to erase the Palestinian people from history. Over 15,000 children have been killed since October 7. The relentless bombing of schools, the terrorising of students and teachers, and the destruction of cultural and religious sites indeed are not isolated incidents. They represent a systematic assault on identity, memory, and the future of an entire generation. Or to put it bluntly, to exterminate the Palestinian people entirely. Enabled and protected by its allies, Israel acts with impunity, relentlessly violates international law on Palestinian land, and even expands its aggression beyond the OPT. Indonesia urges all states to choose any form of support for violations and to take concrete steps to ensure accountability. Indonesia echoes the COI's call for Israel to immediately end its unlawful occupation, stop all settlement activities, and fully respect the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Iran states that on 13 June 2025, the Israeli regime launched a full scale act of oppression Iran, killing at least two hundred and twenty four civilians, including women and children, and destroying protected civilians infrastructures. This is not a military escalation or conflict. It is a grave act of oppression and a war crime. This crime is indirect result of years of systematic international impunity afforded to the Israeli regime. These atrocities would not have been possible without the continued military and political support provided by the Western governments. In accordance with article 51 of the UN Charter, the Iranian armed forces have exercised Iran's inherent right to self-defence and responded decisively and forcefully after killing over fifty five thousand people and attacking three sovereign nations. The Israeli regime's war machine showed no sign of restraint. No aggressor in our history has escaped justice. Iran will act with strength and uncompromising force to suppress threats at the inception.

Iraq denounces the carnage that being practised by the Israeli forces and condemns in the most unequivocal terms the criminal acts, heinous acts, committed by the occupying forces. More than 300,000 children have met their death because of the policy of starvation. This has pushed Gaza into catastrophic situation intentionally, relentlessly made by the Israeli assault, including depriving them of clear drinking water. Israeli forces target the civilians and they target the civil centres and hospitals. These heinous acts against the Palestinians violates the IHL and IHRL and



are tantamount to war crimes. Iraq invites the UNHRC to not to spare any effort to hasten the opening of humanitarian corridors and put a halt to the crimes perpetrated against Palestinian people. Iraq reaffirms and calls for the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people.

Ireland voices grave concern over the findings of the COI's report, notably the complete destruction of the education system in Gaza. The long-term repercussions are particularly worrying. As the COI points out, this has a severe impact not only on Gaza's young people and on their right to education, but also on the broader development of the occupied Palestinian territory and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people as a whole. Ireland is conscious that this report follows on from two other reports by the COI since 7 October 2023, which together catalogue a litany of violations of international law. Again, on this occasion, the COI finds that war crimes, including wilful killing and the crime against humanity of extermination, have been committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack on the civil population. Ireland urges Israel and all member states to heed COI's recommendations as well as the ICJ advisory opinion issued in July 2024. It is imperative that all parties are held accountable for all violations of international law.

Jordan recalls the UNHRC is meeting once again in order to discuss the atrocities and grave violations against the Palestinian people, practises of occupation and aggression that strip them from the most basic rights committed in full view of the world, depriving the children of the right to education. Not because they had committed a crime. Their only crime they committed is being Palestinian. They are getting punished. Isn't it time for this raging war to stop? The children of Gaza, the West Bank and the occupied Jerusalem, don't they have the right to feel safe? And to have their dreams and their future? Their homes were demolished. Their schools were turned into ashes. Their hospitals destroyed. They received no education. They cannot live in peace. This practise undermines the right of Palestinian generation to education and dignified life. Jordan condemns the deliberate targeting of worshippers in East Jerusalem and restrictions imposed on Muslim access to the noble sanctuary Al-Aqsa Mosque in clear violation of the historical and legal status quo sponsored by Jordan. All of the above constitute grave violations. In conclusion, Palestinian people deserve accountability and an end to the illegal Israeli occupation. They have the right to live in an independent, sovereign state.

Kuwait on behalf of the GCC welcomes the COI's report highlighting the flagrant violations of IHL and IHRL committed by the occupying power in the framework of its ongoing aggression against the Gaza Strip. The GCC condemns in particular the deliberate, unjustified targeting of educational, cultural and religious institutions including in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and its clear negative implication on the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. The GCC further condemns the occupier's practises and policy of collective punishment against the people of Gaza. The GCC will hold it fully responsible for its ongoing violations and attacks which amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The GCC rejects any attempt to justify the Israeli aggression as legitimate self-defence and expresses its profound concern over the systematic targeting of cultural and religious sites in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The destruction of those sites, restrictions imposed on access to them as well as attempts to erase the historic connection of the Palestinian people to these places constitute a flagrant violation of their inalienable right to self-determination and undermine their national identity. The GCC states categorically reject any attempts to obliterate the Palestinian identity.



Kuwait thanks the COI for documenting all the heinous crimes such as the stifling siege, the destruction, the relentless assault, the wilful and wanton killing, the destruction of the West Bank, and their attempt to enjoy impunity after all that. Kuwait supports the Palestinian cause and wholeheartedly condemns the act by the occupying power during more than one and a half years, which qualify as grave violations of IHL and related UN resolutions. Urging the immediate cessation of the war, Kuwait calls upon the international community to shoulder responsibility against these heinous, aggressive acts of genocide against the people and the Palestinian people, which in turn deprive them of the right to self-determination; and enable them to build up their sovereign and independent state alongside the June 1967 borders.

The **Lao PDR** is deeply concerned over the critical situation of human rights and humanitarian crisis in the OPT, especially in Gaza. The Lao PDR extends its heartfelt sympathy for the tragic loss of life and destruction to property resulting from the continuing violence. It strongly urges the implementation of an immediate and lasting ceasefire to facilitate the rapid, safe, and unobstructed delivery of humanitarian aid. The Lao PDR unwaveringly supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and reiterates its consistent call for the revival of diplomatic negotiation, aiming at achieving a just and peaceful solution with the goal of establishing two sovereign states coexisting peacefully in accordance with relevant UN resolution and international law. Profoundly concerned over the increasingly volatile security situation in the Middle East, the Lao PDR affirms its collective commitment to peace, justice, and human rights.

Lebanon expresses deep concern over Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza that continue to severely harm civilians and cause widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, including schools, universities, cultural heritage sites, and places of worship, many sheltering internally displaced persons. Such actions not only intensify hardship endured by Palestinians, but also constitute additional grave breaches of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Lebanon echoes the COI's warnings that this massive destruction will have grave long-term consequences, including at least five years of educational disruption and loss of cultural and religious identity. Moreover, such outcomes pose significant barriers to achieving lasting peace and dignity, and further undermine Palestinians' right to self-determination. Lebanon reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and calls on the international community to pressure Israel to urgently halt its actions and protect Gaza's educational, cultural, and religious institutions. Full accountability must be pursued for all violations, including those amounting to war crimes.

Libya commend the COI's report and efforts made in documenting the blatant violations committed by the occupying power against the Palestinian people that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. This report is a new condemnation for the occupying power in terms of the crimes committed against the Palestinian people. Libya calls on the international community to shoulder its responsibility to protect the Palestinian people. The occupation practices did not spare anyone to target infrastructure, including educational facilities, and this is part of the occupation plan to deny the Palestinians all aspects of life and right to stay in their land, putting them before two options, namely displacement or genocide. The COI should continue its work as



a step to ensure accountability and non-impunity. The COI should continue its work from inside the Palestinian territories without any obstacles. Libya calls on the international community to move and to act and to implement the recommendations of the report, to hold perpetrators accountable, and to ensure self-determination for the Palestinian people and the establishment of their state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Luxembourg is profoundly concerned by the continued suffering inflicted on the civilian population in Gaza and the methods of war adopted by Israel, as well as the humanitarian aid blockade. Luxembourg calls on the Israeli authorities to fully respect IHL and to reestablish, without delay, access to international aid. Reiterating its support for UNRWA and its irreplaceable role supporting the Palestinian people, Luxembourg calls on Hamas to free all hostages, attacks against populations and infrastructures that a civilian in Palestine must cease, and the illegal expansion of settlements must stop. Luxembourg is seriously concerned by the destruction of schools, religious and cultural sites in Gaza and in the West Bank, depriving Palestinian children of their right to education, compromising thus the future of the Palestinian people. The resumption of a political process aimed at a two-state solution fully respecting the right to self-determination of Israelis and Palestinians remains the only exit towards peace and the only guarantee of sustained security for the two parties. The Gaza Strip must be a comprehensive component in an independent Palestinian state. A fair and lasting peace requires also the end to war crimes and international law violations that have been committed. In closing, Luxembourg greets the work of the COI and reiterates its full support for the ICJ and the ICC.

Malaysia associates itself with the statements of the OIC and NAM. Malaysia is deeply appalled by Israel's continued and deliberate destruction of educational institutions, religious sites, and cultural heritage in the OPT. Universities, schools, mosques, churches, cultural centres, and heritage landmarks have suffered severe damage, primarily attributed to targeted airstrikes and ground operations. These attacks are not collateral, but rather systematic measures that pose a serious threat to the preservation of Palestine's historical and cultural identity, and more importantly, represent an assault on an entire generation's future. The COI's findings provide compelling evidence of the disproportionate scale of crimes committed by Israel, including flagrant violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Malaysia concurs with the COI's recommendations that the unlawful occupation of Palestinian territory must end immediately, including the removal of all obstructions to the full exercise of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination. 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.

The **Maldives** welcomes the comprehensive report of the COI, reaffirms its support for its vital work and rejects any attempts to undermine or discredit its mandate. The COI's report presents compelling evidence that Israeli forces have committed war crimes, including directing attacks against civilians and targeting cultural, educational, health, and religious facilities. As concluded by the COI, through these acts, Israeli forces have committed the crime against humanity of extermination, which has severely impeded the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Considering these findings, the Maldives urges the international community to take immediate and decisive action to ensure accountability for Israel's persistent violations of international



human rights law. The Maldives reiterates its call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and urges Israel to allow unrestricted, sustained access for humanitarian aid to reach the suffering population of Gaza. The government and people of Maldives stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and assure its unwavering support for their legitimate and just struggle towards an independent and sovereign state of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds at its capital.

Mauritania congratulate states for the resolution taken on the Palestinian situation at the WHO, which is a recognition of Palestine with the capital at East Jerusalem. Mauritania has taken note of the findings and the concerns of the COI's report, which documents the serious human rights violations and the systematic destruction of infrastructure in Gaza and demonstrates that these constitute war crimes. Today, civilians are targeted in schools, which clearly amounts to war crimes. This must lead to an urgent response. Mauritania calls for the lifting of the embargo and the respect for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to independence and dignity.

Namibia remains deeply disturbed by the persistent lack of accountability for violations and abuses perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the OPT by Israel. Namibia firmly believes that impunity is perpetuating rights violations committed against the Palestinian people and those who advocate for their rights. Namibia is concerned by the systemic repression and the escalation in the crackdown on Palestine's solidarity in many countries, especially in those countries who claim to be the champions of human rights. 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. To conclude, Namibia calls on OHCHR to take all the necessary measures within its mandate to investigate the grave violations and abuses against the Palestinian people.

The **Netherlands** takes note of the COI's findings and urges all parties to comply with international law. Education is a basic human right, and parties to conflict should refrain from using educational facilities for military purposes. The report demonstrates the harsh reality of the consequences of settlement expansion and settler violence in the West Bank. Settlements, legalisation of outposts, and evictions go against international law. The Netherlands is also concerned by the restrictions imposed by Israel that impede access of Christian and Muslim worshippers to holy sites in the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. It is vital that the status quo of the holy sites is upheld. This report also paints a bleak picture of the situation regarding both educational facilities as well as religious and cultural sites in the Palestinian territories and Israel. In this light, the Netherlands supports a two-state solution with an independent, viable Palestinian state existing alongside a secure Israel.

Norway is alarmed by the blatant disregard for human rights and lack of accountability for massive violations of international law by the bearers in Palestine. Civilians in Gaza are denied access to food, medicine and humanitarian aid. Beside the ongoing forced mass displacement, the COI's report illustrates that more than 70% of school buildings in Gaza have been hit or damaged. Norway is alarmed by the disproportionate, unnecessary and excessive damage to protected civilian objects, and especially the large number of civilian casualties. Similarly, reports or accounts of schoolchildren victimised by the attacks of 7 October are equally disturbing. Norway is deeply concerned by the reported targeting and destruction of heritage



sites in the OPT, both prior to and after October 7. Such attacks erode Palestinians of their historical ties to their territory. Precedent attacks on educational systems and cultural and religious sites do not only violate IHL, the rights to education and cultural identity, they also undermine Palestinian state-building and the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination. More than ever, the international community must redouble its efforts towards a viable two-state solution. Palestinians and Israelis alike deserve to live in peace, dignity and security.

Oman appreciates the efforts deployed by the COI for preparing the report amidst great difficulties faced. In light of the intransigence of the occupation authorities and the refusal to allow field examination of the situation, the report also documents a number of flagrant violations by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Palestinian territories, targeting educational, religious, and cultural facilities. Oman condemns the systematic practises of occupying power documented in the report, including the widespread targeting of civilian infrastructure. However, Oman would have preferred to have this in a separate report includes all the violations in Gaza and the West Bank. In the OPT, the systematic destruction of the educational sector and places of worship as well as the attempts to obliterate cultural identity qualify as crimes under international law and they form part and parcel of the genocidal war aiming at the obliteration of the Palestinian identity. Oman reiterates its condemnation of such attempts to end the Palestinian presence by removing them from their land. Oman reiterates the need to empower the Palestinians to exercise self-determination and to achieve their legitimate rights.

Pakistan commends the COI for continuing its invaluable work despite challenges and Israel's deplorable refusal to cooperate or grant access. Pakistan condemns in the strongest terms Israel's continued genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza, and its instrumentalization of humanitarian aid. Reports of systematic attacks on educational infrastructure, places of worship, and cultural sites are deeply disturbing. Taken together with the suppression of Palestinian heritage and misappropriation of cultural sites, the illegal occupying power's genocidal intent is increasingly clear. Changing the demographic character of the occupied Palestinian territory is not only a crime under international humanitarian law, it also chips away at the most basic protections for people under occupation arising from inherent human dignity of all persons. Attempts to alter the Muslim and Arab heritage of Al-Haram al-Sharif and East Al-Quds would only invite further insecurity and instability. The repeated storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex by Israeli occupation forces have demonstrated Israel's determination to escalate tensions and pursue its expansionist agenda at the expense of regional peace. Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and calls on the international community to act decisively to prevent further loss of life and preserve the sanctity of holy sites.

Pakistan on behalf of the OIC group appreciates the COI's contributions to systematically documenting the grievous harm against the Palestinian people arising from the war crimes and acts of genocide perpetrated by the illegal occupying power. These include the wanton destruction and widespread devastation of civilian infrastructure in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly within the Gaza Strip. The instant report is an indictment of the occupying power's intent to exterminate the Palestinian people from their native land, *judaize* the occupied Palestinian territory, especially east of Quds and al-Haram al-Sharif, and wipe out the history and



heritage of Palestine. Repeated and deliberate attacks on schools, educational infrastructure and cultural sites are designed not only to advance the extermination of the Palestinian people, they are also inflicting generational harm on the Palestinian people under occupation by robbing them of their right to education, right to cultural expression and freedom of religion. Israel's ever-increasing onslaught on the Palestinian people, their mosques and churches, historical sites and identity is a naked attempt to expel the people under occupation and suppress their inalienable right to self-determination. This must never come to pass. The OIC group applauds the COI for carrying on its vital work despite the lack of resources and access; calls for legal accountability of the occupying power's repeated criminal acts; and assures the COI of its continued support.

Portugal recalls that educational facilities should be safe havens. However, many have been deprived of their right to education due to the destruction of their schools and universities, particularly in Gaza. Where these remain operational, students live in fear of being attacked. The targeting of cultural and religious sites, the continued expansion of settlements, and forced displacement have further undermined the Palestinian people's right to enjoy their own culture, their freedom of religion or belief, and their right to self-determination. Portugal condemns all acts of violence, the targeting of civilians, civilian objects in U.S. facilities, as well as the use of civilian facilities for military purposes. It is paramount that all parties abide by international humanitarian and human rights law. Portugal recalls the ICJ advisory opinion and the obligation of Israel to protect the occupied population. All parties must cooperate with relevant UNHRC mechanisms, regretting that this was not the case throughout the COI's work. Portugal remains committed to comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on the two-state solution, and urges all parties to refrain from unilateral actions that may undermine peace efforts. In closing, it expresses concern with the recent escalation in the region and appeal for renewed commitment to stabilisation.

Qatar stresses the report's findings documenting seizure, theft, and destruction by the Israeli occupying powers and settlers of Palestinian Islamic and Christian cultural and religious sites. Qatar further notes deliberate unjustified targeting of educational facilities, particularly in the Gaza Strip, as well as UNRWA schools, despite regular communication of their coordinates and in the absence of any evidence of military targets in these facilities. Describing this as a flagrant violation of IHL and IHRL, Qatar believes that such acts fall within the racist criminal Israeli approach that aims to exterminate the Palestinian people, displace them, deprive them of their rights, especially the rights of children and youth to education, with the aim of expanding Israeli settlements, deleting the presence and existence of Palestinian people, and breaking their historical connection to the land and state of Palestine. What encourages Israel to persist in committing more violations and crimes is the prevailing state of impunity and absence of accountability. For this reason, Qatar calls on the international community to take necessary measures to put an end to these crimes; ensure accountability for the perpetrators; and force the occupying power to comply with international law. Qatar reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the creation of their own independent, fully sovereign state on the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Saudi Arabia reaffirms its categorical condemnation of the practises by Israel, including the expulsion, the aggression against unarmed civilians, which violates international law. Saudi Arabia believes that the just and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine can only

happen when the Israeli occupation will come to a definitive end and when the state of Palestine is erected on the borders of 1967 by virtue of the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant UN resolutions. Saudi Arabia calls for the immediate halt of all Israeli attacks and calls upon the international community to stop the escalating war crimes.

Senegal notes that since the last report, the human rights situation in the OPT has significantly exacerbated. In this context, Senegal reiterates its profound concern in the face of the unprecedented humanitarian crisis, which is blighting Gaza, condemns the use of famine as a weapon of war and urges the international community to take the necessary measures to end the humanitarian aid embargo on Gaza and to further invest in the defence of international law. To the catastrophic situation in Gaza, one must add the continuing intensification of the colonisation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with the litany of damaging repercussions for the most fundamental rights of the Palestinians. In addition to breaching international law, colonisation jeopardises the viability of two-state solutions. Senegal reiterates its support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and reaffirms its commitment to the two-state solution in line with UN resolutions.

Slovenia is shocked by the lack of humanity in Gaza and is appalled by the COI's findings illustrating the widespread destruction of educational facilities as well as religious and cultural sites. Education was supposed to represent the sole beacon of hope for children in Gaza who have been deprived of nearly everything else. In addition, the report on reasonable grounds finds that the attacks through dismantling the educational system and cultural heritage in Gaza also violate the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Slovenia reaffirms its condemnation of all attacks on cultural and religious sites as well as on educational facilities and personnel. Such attacks carry detrimental long-term repercussions, especially for children and the future generations, both in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel. The protection of civilians, in line with IHRL and IHL, must prevail at all times. Lastly, this war must end.

South Africa emphasizes Israel's targeting of the educational, cultural and religious life of the Palestinian people is not simply an aberration nor an isolated incident. Rather, the very foundations of Palestinian society are being reduced to rubble in an intentional concerted campaign, which is aimed at erasing Palestinian life and survival as a group eroding the Palestinian people's historical ties to the land and weakening their collective identity. Combined with the continued expansion of settlements, these genocidal actions violate the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, diminishing the prospects for a viable independent Palestinian state, constituting what the UN Special Committee on Israeli Practices in the OPT recently warned a second *Nakba*. However, notwithstanding Israel's clear and stated intentions, the Palestinian people exist and their right to self-determination is inalienable and therefore can never be expunged nor subject to a veto. Accordingly, unless and until we as an international community live up to our legal and indeed moral obligations to bring a decisive end to Israel's unlawful occupation, together with its ongoing impunity, the unimaginable suffering of the Palestinian people will continue. South Africa must act now and hold Israel accountable once and for all. Tomorrow will be too late, with irrevocable consequences for our shared humanity.

Spain is grateful for the crucial work of the COI in such difficult circumstances, which is being carried out without the help of the state concerned. Its report notes very grave violations of IHL and IHRL in Palestine. The suffering of the population is intolerable. The victim count is appalling.

The report describes partial aspects of an inferno of a work that is crucial to document the offences being committed and ensure that in the future there will not be impunity. Spain urges the end of killings. In the West Bank and in East Jerusalem, Spain urges an immediate ceasefire that enable entry into Gaza of humanitarian aid in line with the UNGA resolution approved last week spearheaded by Spain and Palestine. Protection of schools, shrines, cultural heritage, and hospitals must be guaranteed. Spain requests accountability, the release of all hostages, and an embargo on the sale of weapons to Israel. The two-state solution is the only alternative to move towards peace and stability in the region.

Timor-Leste expresses its deep concern over the COI's findings regarding attacks on educational institutions and religious and cultural sites. Such acts not only constitute violations of international law, but also strike at the core of human dignity and the right of all peoples to safety, identity, and access to learning. Timor-Leste is particularly alarmed by the COI's findings that since October 2023, more than 70 percent of the school buildings in Gaza were damaged, and that education for children has been made impossible. Timor-Leste reaffirms its firm position in support of the rights of the Palestinian people and of all civilians in the region. Timor-Leste condemns all violations of international law and calls for full accountability, the protection of civilian infrastructure, and underpin humanitarian access. Timor-Leste stands in solidarity with all peoples, striving to live in peace, dignity, and security. Finally, Timor-Leste firmly supports a two-state solution as the only viable path to a just and lasting peace between Israel and Palestine, and joins the international community in calling for an immediate end to the conflict.

Tunisia appreciates the COI's report, which exposes the genocide and war crimes and the systematic destruction of education places, which is being done by the occupying forces in all parts of Palestine. This has a deleterious effect on the educational system, on the children and the youth and the people of Palestine. Tunisia condemns the continued escalation of these crimes against the Palestinians in Gaza. There is a relentless assault, wilful and wanton killing against the Palestinian people in order to push them to relinquish their homeland and their rights. This is a blatant violation of IHL. The Israeli forces continue to expand their occupation by seizing further and further land. Tunisia calls for its cessation and demands that the Palestinian people receive immediate help and humanitarian aid. In closing, Tunisia calls upon the international community to shoulder its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people, while reaffirming its unconditional support to the Palestinian people.

Türkiye states that the COI's report demonstrates that Israel has destroyed the education system and damaged more than half of all religious and cultural sites in Gaza, with devastating long-term repercussions for children and youth and for the identity of the Palestinian people as a group. Türkiye shares the COI's finding that Israel's targeting of the educational, cultural and religious life of the Palestinian people will harm generations, hindering their right to self-determination. The report's conclusion is crystal clear - these attacks amount to war crimes and a crime against humanity of extermination. Furthermore, continuing provocations by Israeli radicals, including ministers in the West Bank, are destabilising the historical status quo of the holy sites. These actions are intensifying the already deeply rooted tensions in the region. Israel continues to weaponize food and block humanitarian aid, as yet again exemplified by its recent intervention against the Madleen humanitarian ship. Starvation, collective punishment, forced displacement of Palestinians, settlements, annexation, and ongoing blatant disregard and grave violations of



international law are unacceptable. Türkiye calls for accountability and ensures the COI of its continued support. Reiterating its unwavering support for the rightful cause of the Palestinian people, Türkiye reaffirms its commitment to contribute to efforts aimed at securing peace and stability in the region, including a permanent ceasefire and a two-state solution.

Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) deeply regrets the lack of reprieve to the grave situation in Gaza, and the conflict has unfortunately dramatically intensified, worsening the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza but also the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. NAM members further express concern at reports of forced starvation and forced displacement of civilian population throughout Gaza and demand an immediate end to this. The Movement condemns in the strongest terms the acts of aggression and collective punishment by the occupying power against the Palestinian people in grave breach of IHL and IHRL. The NAM strongly condemn Israel's violation of the ceasefire agreement made earlier and reiterate the demand for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Moreover, the NAM demands an end to the illegal occupation and siege and calls for humanitarian aid at scale to meet the dramatic needs of the population, as well as an immediate halt to the forced displacement of Palestinian civilians. The NAM unequivocally condemns the act of military aggression committed by Israel against the sovereign territory of Iran on June 13, 2025, which constitutes a flagrant violation of article 2.4 of the UN Charter, as well as a breach of international peace and security. The Movement reaffirms the inherent right of all states to sovereignty, territorial integrity, and self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter and calls on the international community to hold Israel fully accountable for this act.

The **United Kingdom jointly with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Norway** regret that the COI was established on an open-ended basis against usual practise. Nevertheless, the five countries remain committed to upholding human rights and support the COI in undertaking proportionate scrutiny of the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. The five countries oppose the Israeli government's escalating military action in Gaza and reject its intention to take control of the Gaza Strip. 55,000 Palestinians have been killed, including many women and children. The Israeli hostages held by Hamas continue to suffer an unimaginable ordeal. The human suffering in Gaza is intolerable. All of Gaza is at risk of famine. They strongly urge Israel to enable food and other critical supplies to reach people safely and at scale to address increasing urgent needs. Attacks on UN and other aid workers are outrageous and must be investigated. In the West Bank, violent settlers assault and abuse Palestinians are a source of concern. For this reason, the five countries announced further sanctions on individuals and entities promoting violence against these communities and will continue to take appropriate action. The five countries continue to call on all parties to urgently agree to a ceasefire hostage deal, the best hope of ending the agony of the hostages and their families, alleviating civilian suffering in Gaza, ending Hamas control and supporting a two-state solution.

Venezuela is grateful for the presentation of the report, which reflects the deterioration and systemic violations of human rights perpetrated by the occupying power against the Palestinian people since 2023. In the report's findings, it said that Israeli attacks in Gaza have destroyed the education system, with harmful repercussions in the long term for youngsters in Gaza, as well as for the identity of the Palestinian people as a group, which is in flagrant violation of the right to self-determination. The COI noted that Israeli security forces committed war crimes,



intentionally attacking civilians, including committing the crimes against humanity of extermination, killing refugees, taking refuge in schools through bombardments, air raids, demolitions by the occupying power, which were and are being systematically committed. Venezuela draws the attention of the international community to the irreparable damage to the peoples of the world. This year, the multilateral system of human rights is being covered. The people, the Palestinian people's rights has been completely undermined. Israel acts in complicity with the United States and the European Union. Venezuela reiterates its permanent standing condemnation of the occupation and extermination by the Israeli people of the Palestinian people. Venezuela calls for respect of the right life of the people to be safeguarded for the peoples of Palestine, Israel and all peoples of the world.

Venezuela on behalf of the group of friends of the UN Charter reiterates its profound concern at the grave systematic violations committed by Israel against the Palestinian people. As reflected in the COI's report, the attacks documented against educational institutions, cultural heritage and religious shrines in the Gaza Strip, leaving thousands of civilian victims, including women and children, are a clear indicator of a policy aimed at collective punishment and the destruction of Palestinian society and identity. On 26 January 2024, the ICJ issued provisional measures requesting to stop acts that could be tantamount to genocide against the Palestinians. Instead of acting in response, Israel intensified its military operations in Gaza. Moreover, the ICJ advisory opinion of July 2024 reaffirmed the illegality of the occupation and its role in denying Palestinian self-determination. The group of friends reaffirms its support to the ongoing efforts, relevant efforts in favour of justice and accountability, including those with a view to investigating the atrocious crimes committed against the Palestinian people, identifying and trying the perpetrators of war crimes and providing compensation for damages, losses or prejudice caused as a result of the crimes committed by the occupying power.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations

The **European Union** takes note of the report of the COI and recalls the need for Israel to cooperate with HRC mechanism. There must be accountability for violations of international law. The EU calls for the release of all hostages and an end to the hostilities. The EU deplores the unacceptable number of civilians who have lost their lives. The EU unequivocally condemns Hamas' brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attacks and exercising its right to defend itself, and Israel must fully comply with its obligations under international law in all circumstances. The EU also strongly condemns the further escalation in the West Bank following increased settler violence and expansion of illegal settlements. Given the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, there is an urgent need for the immediate removal of all restrictions to the access of humanitarian assistance. The EU recalls the need to fully comply with the ICJ orders and reaffirms its unwavering support for the international criminal justice system, particularly the ICC, as well as its commitment to upholding the Rome Statute and preserving the ICC's independence and integrity. The EU rejects any attempt at demographic or territorial changes in Gaza and remains committed to peace based on a two-state solution.

The **League of Arab States** commends the efforts deployed by the COI and appreciates its latest report. Its investigations have revealed the flagrant violations of international law committed by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people, notably through systematic attacks on educational, religious, and cultural sites and facilities. All Arab states expressed their concern



over the COI's findings that the Israeli occupation have completely destroyed the educational system in Gaza and damaged religious and cultural sites in Gaza and the West Bank. In this respect, the League calls on the international community to play its role to bring pressure to bear on the occupation authorities and to implement the recommendations. This includes ceasing attacks against educational facilities and stopping their use for military purposes; ending the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory and all settler activities in line with the ICJ advisory opinion; respecting and protecting the rights of Palestinians to education, cultural life, religious practices; and holding to account those responsible for IHL violations. The League stresses that preserving the religious and cultural life of the Palestinians is important in light of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **Independent Commission on Human Rights of the States of Palestine** expresses its sincere gratitude to the COI for its recent report which provides a detailed and comprehensive account of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The report highlights the **systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure**, including schools, religious sites and cultural landmarks. The destruction of vital infrastructure has had a devastating impact on the lives of Palestinian civilians and endangers the future of coming generations. These acts are not only grave violations of international law, but appear to be **deliberate attempts to dismantle Palestinian society** and erase its history and heritage. Moreover, the report documents crimes against humanity, including acts amounting to genocide, through the direct targeting of civilians in spaces that should be protected under international law. This reveals the scope and systematic nature of the violence endured by Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

The Commission emphasises that this situation demands urgent intervention, particularly to protect **Palestinian cultural heritage, religious sites and educational institutions**. The Commission calls upon the international community to act decisively on the report's recommendations; refer those responsible to the International Criminal Court; end all military and financial support that enables the continuation of these violations; protect civilians and preserve sites that are part of our shared human heritage. Respect for international law and human rights is not optional. It is a legal and moral obligation. The Commission urges all member states to ensure accountability and to transform the findings of this report into meaningful action.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

The **Institute for NGO Research** refers to the recent Iran's launching of nearly 500 lethal missiles on Israeli civilians, wreaking destruction and destroying lives. The COI presented its eighth report to the UNHRC, but in the hundreds of pages it has produced, the COI has not said anything about Iran and its role in driving the Palestinian conflict with Israel. This omission is glaring. The COI claims it investigates all underlying root causes of instability and protraction of conflict, yet it is silent as to how Iran is a root cause, with its genocidal agenda to destroy Israel and the terror armies it deploys to drive the conflict. Iran trains and arms Hamas and Hezbollah. It helped plan the October 7 massacre. Iran spreads the conflict across the globe, inciting antisemitism and



violence, riots in the streets and chaos on campuses. Iran is racing for a nuclear weapon to execute its malevolent aims. A reader of any COI report would know none of these facts, because this COI is not interested in presenting a complete picture of the conflict or its root causes. This COI plays into this campaign, manufacturing one-sided narratives that obscure the truth and serve to demonise Israel. Recent events provide a glimmer of hope that Iran's threats to eliminate Israel are finally over. Hopefully, this is the end of the information war as well.

The **Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH)** thanks the COI for its crucial work and welcome its latest report, which once again confirms Israel's ongoing violations of international law, particularly the deliberate and systematic destruction of Palestinian educational and cultural institutions across the OPT. The report provides overwhelming evidence that Israel has targeted and destroyed over 70 percent of schools and recesses since October 2023, with many used as shelters at the time of attack, resulting in mass civilian casualties, including children. The COI found that Israeli forces carried out these attacks with knowledge of civilian presence, constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity, including wilful killing and extermination. Equally alarming are the findings regarding the deliberate targeting of religious and cultural sites, which is an assault on Palestinian history, culture, and spiritual life. This is a calculated effort to dismantle the Palestinian people's present and annihilate their future. It is time for the international community to move beyond statements of concern. What is unfolding is a catastrophe by design. The Palestinian Initiative calls on states to uphold their legal obligations, including those under the Genocide Convention and those laid out in the ICJ advisory opinion, and take urgent, concrete measures to halt the ongoing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and policies of apartheid and occupation that continue with devastating regularity.

B'nai B'rith states that 90 seconds does not allow for even scratching the surface of the errors, misrepresentations, and omissions in the COI's report. The COI has again confirmed the explicit bias of its chosen members. In practically unsurpassable polemic rather than honest consideration of actual fact, the COI's newest report accuses Israel and Israel alone of undermining another people's identity, survival, and ties to a land. It accuses Israel alone of the crime of extermination, and it accuses Israel alone of possible genocidal intent. B'nai B'rith urges those reading the COI's output to compare the expressly genocidal exterminationist rhetoric of Iran's leadership with the foundational documents of the state of Israel. B'nai B'rith urges them to weigh Israel's military capacity alongside the diverse democracy it uniquely has built. B'nai B'rith urges them to contrast Israel's establishing of peace with every willing Arab neighbour and its sweeping overtures to the Palestinians from 1947 through 2008 with the ideology and actions of Iran, a regime that has sponsored terrorism globally, impoverished its people while mass producing missiles, and spent decades on an illicit nuclear programme mere weeks away from a potential bomb. If this COI were interested in the root causes of conflict, it would show some interest in the open intentions of those who chant death to America, death to Israel.

Human Rights Watch appreciates the COI's vital new report documenting Israeli forces' systematic destruction of Gaza's educational, religious, and cultural sites and war crimes and extermination underscores the long overdue need for concrete actions to stop the Israeli government's atrocities and hold perpetrators to account. The COI and many others have highlighted the harrowing situation in Gaza and called for an end to the unlawful killings,



starvation, and destruction. Instead, Israeli authorities have continued these crimes and, in many respects, have escalated them. The ICJ has issued three rounds of provisional measures ordering Israel to prevent genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. States parties to the Genocide Convention risk legal liability for failing to act to prevent genocide. More countries with leverage are taking concrete steps, such as review of bilateral agreements and sanctioning of some Israeli officials. Those steps have already had impact, but much more is needed. States should immediately impose an arms embargo on Israel; adopt targeted sanctions against Israeli officials responsible for ongoing serious abuses; review with a view to suspending bilateral agreements with Israel; commit to enforce all international criminal court arrest warrants; ban all trade and business with Israel's illegal settlements; and tackle root causes, including recognising Israel's crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution. Words are not enough. Without clear action from all states, Israeli authorities show no signs of ceasing their campaign to exterminate and expel Palestinians.

International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists jointly with the World Jewish Congress, and the European Union of Jewish Students give the floor to Rebecca, the wife of Elkana, aged 36, who was kidnapped on October 7, 2023, by the terrorist group Hamas. Elkana is the father of a five-year-old boy. Elkana and three other fathers are in captivity. Life and dignity cannot be held hostage by any conflict. Six hundred and eighteen days of silence, fear, and pain have passed. The Association knows from testimonies from released hostages the inhumane conditions in which the hostages live, hunger, chains, and isolation. Rebecca calls upon the UNHRC to ensure that her husband and the aforementioned parents who are still alive, along with the rest of the 53 hostages, are released and return home as soon as possible.

International-Lawyers.org thanks the COI for its report and reminds the UNHRC that the already damaged credibility of the Council is now hanging by a thread. The ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people, rooted long before the United Nations or the UNHRC existed, remains the most serious, unresolved human rights situation on the agenda. The scale and duration of Israel's atrocities are without precedent in modern international law. One cannot ignore the deliberate, systematic destruction of a people, their homes, institutions, culture, and lives, carried out with impunity over generations. The COI's findings confirm what the world is witnessing, starvation as a weapon, the bombing of hospitals and schools, and mass displacement. Every element of the crime of genocide is present. These acts have been committed with the intention to destroy the Palestinian people, at least in part, if not completely. Every state party to the genocide convention is obligated not only to prevent and punish genocide, but to take all lawful measures to stop it. All perpetrators must be prosecuted and full justice delivered to the victims, including their right to self-determination and reparations. Genocide is not only a crime, it is a call to action. International-Lawyers.org calls upon the COI to recognise that genocide is being committed by Israel against the Palestinian people. It urges the UNHRC to unambiguously call upon all states to fulfil their obligations under the Genocide Convention. History will judge the science of this body as complicity unless it acts immediately.

The **Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture** brings the message of Justice Caravan which set June 11th in front of the ICJ, which aims to shedding light on the inhuman violations suffered by the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons. The Justice Caravan, with the support of more than 150 international human rights organisations represents a broad civil



movement embodying cohesion of Palestinian rights defenders in the European field with civil society organisations in order to put an end to the silent massacres committed against thousands of Palestinian prisoners and to ensure accountability for the perpetrators of violations and to redress the victims. The Centre has repeatedly addressed the UNHRC calling for the activation of international accountability tools against occupying powers whose violations have become moral and legal burden on the international system. Therefore, the Centre requests to a special international mechanism to monitor and document the situation of Palestinians; invite the Special Rapporteurs on torture and arbitrary detention to visit Israeli prisons; demand member states not to provide political or legal protection to the perpetrators of such crimes for support effort of civil society.

Touro Law Center, The Institute on Human Rights and The Holocaust states that the COI's report stands out for overt antisemitism, to quote it 'Jews are extremists.' Why? Because Jews pray where Muslims say they cannot. Nazi exterminators also thought practising Judaism was offensive. The report says it includes incidents that demonstrate wrongful patterns. It missed this pattern. Before the UNHRC, Chris Sidoti belittled Jewish victims of Jew hatred by claiming antisemitism complaints are thrown around like rice at a wedding. Navi Pillay wrote the UNHCR's President defending Miloon Kotari's claim that the Jewish lobby and its money control social media. Navi Pillay told the UN press corps antisemitism worries are always raised as a diversion. The COI's 2024 report tried to silence the voices of Jewish victims by redefining antisemitism. Today's antisemitic trope Jews are profiteers not cultural preservationists. This report excludes antisemitic attacks on religious sites Arabs trashing Jewish sites for a century. Palestinian massacres targeting synagogues, Jewish schools, Passover seders, the Yom Kippur war and October 7 itself on a biblical holiday. The truth is only Israeli Jews have protected religious freedom and holy site access for Christians, Muslims and Jews while Palestinian leader Abbas bans (quote) 'Jewish filthy feet.' But this is not in the COI's report where the truth goes to die.

The **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** recalls that under IHL both the right to request and provide humanitarian assistance are protected legal entitlements not discretionary political gestures. As the occupying power in the Palestinian territory Israel is obligated to accept and facilitate relief efforts when the obligation is not contingent on political approval or security pretext. Equally vital is the right of the Palestinian people to initiate relief schemes. The state of Palestine holds the sovereign prerogative to assess needs request international aid and determine which actors are eligible to assist. Humanitarian organisations also hold the right to offer aid impartially and in line with the needs of the affected population. This right must be protected from interference bureaucratic obstruction or politicised regulation. When an occupying power gives its consent as it must all parties including third states must facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of relief. Israel obstructs humanitarian relief and protection efforts in Gaza and the West Bank in order to further the wanton goals of forced displacement and territorial acquisition. The NRC urges the UNHRC to affirm that denying or obstructing the request for provision of humanitarian aid in the OPT is not just morally indefensible, but also it is legally prescribed it is a grave breach of international law qualified as atrocity crimes.

Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights commends the COI for its rigorous work and continuous reporting. In its March report the commission detailed Israel's systematic use of sexual reproductive and other forms of gender-based violence against Palestinians and concluded that



such acts are genocidal and used to dominate oppress and destroy the Palestinian people. In its latest report it documents widespread and systematic attacks on educational institutions religious sites and cultural heritage in Israel and occupied Palestinian territory including Gaza. These are not random or collateral they are part of a deliberate effort to erase the Palestinian identity and collective memory and deny future generations the right to education and culture in an attempt to thwart Palestinians right to self-determination. How many more authoritative reports by respected UN bodies are needed before member states act to stop Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza and end its unlawful presence in occupied Palestinian territory? How many more findings of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide will it take before those responsible are finally held accountable? To conclude, the Centre stresses the urgent need to protect the mandates and independence of all investigative mechanisms addressing crimes in Palestine from political attacks and external interference. Undermining these only emboldens Israel to commit further atrocities.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

49 State Delegations

2 Inter-Governmental Organizations

1 National Human Rights Institution

10 Non-Governmental Organizations