United Nations A/HRC/59/NGO/111

General Assembly

Distr.: General
XX May 2025

English only

Human Rights Council
Fifty-ninth session
16 June–11 July 2025
Agenda item 2
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Joint written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 May 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

Documentation of Israel's International Crimes

Considering the continuous crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), which has continued with even more intensity since March 2nd 2025, the question of holding Israel accountable for the crimes and ending its impunity has become increasingly urgent. Multiple international legal mechanisms have been engaged in addressing the issue, while the commission of crimes continues unabated in the region.

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Noting all the efforts made by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory (COI) on the OPT to shed more light on the crimes committed in the region, we call on the UN Mechanism to continue its valuable work of documentation of all crimes committed by the Occupying Power in the OPT, continue submitting evidence to support the South Africa case in the ICJ and expand charges to include apartheid and crimes against humanity. We call on the COI to especially continue the documenting of all the international crimes, war crimes, crimes against humanity (1), genocide and apartheid including but not limited to the following:

The Israel illegal conducts such as attacking forbidden targets such as hospitals, ambulances, the health personnel, the UN facilities and refugee's shelters; in addition to use of forbidden weapons; collective punishment; genocidal acts and mass killings, including the killings of thousands of women and children; depriving the population form access to means of existence and essential humanitarian items including food, water, medicine and health care as well as public expressions of genocidal intent by the Israel political figures. (2)

Defiance of International Court Orders

In addition to persistent commission of the above-mentioned international crimes, Israel has ignored binding International Court of Justice (ICJ) orders to halt genocidal acts and enable humanitarian aid, since the ICJ's July 2024 ruling that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal and the occupying power is obliged to facilitate aid under international humanitarian law. Israel has continued attacks on aid convoys and blocking UNRWA operations instead. Since March 2, 2025, Israel has escalated the conflict and imposed a total blockade on Gaza, cutting off food, water, and medical supplies to 2.3 million Palestinians, exacerbating an already severe humanitarian crisis.

We call on the COI to continue documenting all the atrocities committed by Israel, including the deliberate disregard for the rulings of the ICJ.

International Responses and Inaction

The global attempts by the UN General Assembly to stop the Israel genocide in Gaza has been blocked by the United States vetoes. The US has continued to offer military, finance and political support to Israel and contributed to continuation of all crimes in the OPT since Oct. 7th. There has been global condemnation of Israel crimes in the region. For example, at the April 2025 ICJ hearings, 40 states (excluding the U.S. and Hungary) criticized Israel's aid blockade. However, no enforcement actions (e.g., sanctions) have been taken, despite calls to suspend Israel's UN membership.

We call on the COI to encourage UN member States to take decisive action against the continuation of crimes in the OPT.

U.S. Complicity

To support Israel and all the violations in the OPT, the United States has been involved in arms transfers and military backup as well a diplomatic and intelligence support. Unprecedented military aid has been sent to Israel, including precision-guided munitions, bunker busters, and small arms, totaling at least $17.9 billion in the year after October 2023.

Beyond weapons, the U.S. has also provided intelligence, surveillance, and military coordination, including satellite targeting data and ground-penetrating radar to Israel. Former officials have accused the U.S. of "diplomatic cover" for Israel’s actions, including blocking UN resolutions, reversing UNRWA's legal immunity in U.S. courts and downplaying starvation and humanitarian harm in Gaza during ICJ proceedings.

We call on the COI to include cases of complicity of other States in international crimes in the OPT while documenting the violations of international law in the region.

Finally, we urge the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory to advocate for:

• Joining other UN mechanisms and States missions to call for an immediate ceasefire.

• Requesting arms embargoes on Israel.

• Calling for sanctions and diplomatic pressure on Israel to end the crimes.

• Encouraging States to support and expand South Africa's case to end Israel impunity.

International Movement for a Just World (JUST), Bahjat Al Fuad Center for Psychological and Medical Rehabilitation for Torture Victims, Children's Right to HealthCare (CRH), Center for Peace and Reconciliation Center Studies, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

1) the ICC, available at: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/war-crimes-court-issues-warrants-for-netanyahu-and-former-israeli-defense-minister; Human Rights Watch available at: https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/19/israeli-forces-conduct-gaza

2) Including the public statements made by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, and Energy Minister Israel Katz which indicate and prove the intention of depriving Gaza civilians of essential items.