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**Human rights situation in Palestine and other
occupied Arab territories**

Written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization 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.

[27 May 2025]

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

Starvation Threatens the Palestinians as a People

While Israel is obliged to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza, multiple reports from international organizations, humanitarian agencies, and media investigations prove the intention of deliberately starving the people to death in Gaza, which Israel is also bombing the same time.

Intentional Starvation

Since the beginning of war, Israeli officials, including the Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, and Energy Minister Israel Katz have made public statements indicating the intention of depriving Gaza civilians of essential items, while the policy has been followed and implemented by Israel military forces.

On the ground, the expressed intention of Israel is translated to extensive destruction of all civilian infrastructure including that of food, water and healthcare.

Amnesty International's December 2024 report concludes that Israel's actions, including blocking aid and imposing conditions of life calculated to destroy Palestinians, constitute genocide. Human Rights Watch documents Israel's systematic denial of water and food, estimating 1.95 million Gazans face catastrophic food insecurity, with famine risk persisting through April 2025. UN experts, including Francesca Albanese, warn that Israel's blockade and bombardment since the March ceasefire collapse have trapped Gazans in "misery, hunger, and disease," with starvation used as a weapon of war.

Famine Taking Lives

Weaponization of food, water, medicine and fuel, as war crimes, has continued in the enclave since October 7th, however, the total Gaza blockade since March 2nd 2025, has detrimentally exacerbated the living conditions in the enclave, taking the fragile lives of civilians, predominantly women and children, right before the eyes of world, the people who were under a blockade for 16 years, even before Oct.7th.

Limited hospitals which still operate, are confronting acute shortages of medicine and medical supplies. In early 2025, only 16 of the region's 36 hospitals were partially operational, quite insufficient for the growing medical needs. The majority of health facilities, including ambulances are intentionally destroyed. The medical personnel and the patients, including little children are targeted and killed.

In May 2025 ,(2) limitation of access to healthcare and starvation to death, especially for children, continues in Gaza, while the long que of trucks carrying essential items, extends for over 40 kilometers from Rafah crossing into Egypt.

Destruction of Food Infrastructure

Israel has razed agricultural lands, crop fields and olive orchards; bombed bakeries, mills, and food warehouses; blocked fuel needed for food production and water desalination. The last functioning wheat mill in Gaza was destroyed in November 2023, cutting off locally produced flour. Port and fishing vessels have been completely destroyed, or become non-operational. Destruction of food infrastructure has made people totally dependent on humanitarian aid, access to which is completely denied.

Recommendations:

Considering the commission of international crimes, including crimes against humanity, war crimes(3) and genocide by Israel, we call on the UN member States to:

- Immediately resort to all possible diplomatic, political and economic measures to ensure access to adequate, timely and sufficient humanitarian aid for all the people of Gaza.
- Impose sanctions on Israel and use diplomatic, political and economic measures to dissuade Israel from continuation of international crimes in the Occupied Territories.
- Stop the ongoing genocide through halting any forms of financial, political or military support of the occupying power to stop their complicity in the crimes and to ensure access to humanitarian aid and basic services in Gaza, in accordance with Israel's obligations under international law and the International Court of Justice order released following the South Africa's credible genocide complaint, as well as the obligations expressed in the 1948 Convention on Genocide.
- Fully and unconditionally support the international mechanisms, which are aiming at providing Palestine with justice, remedy and redress.
- Strengthen the international law enforcement mechanisms, including the ones that will be all the perpetrators of international crimes including the criminals of genocide and apartheid to justice.

1) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/18/israel-starvation-used-weapon-war-gaza>

2) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/3/57-palestinians-starved-to-death-under-israels-blockade-of-gaza>

3) Several reputable international organizations, human rights groups, and United Nations bodies have accused Israel of committing crimes against humanity and war crimes including the UN COI on OPT, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/un-commission-finds-war-crimes-and-crimes-against-humanity-israeli-attacks>; and the ICC, available at: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/war-crimes-court-issues-warrants-for-netanyahu-and-former-israeli-defense-minister>