



INNOCENT LIVES
IN THE LAND OF
PALESTINE

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March 2024



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Gaza

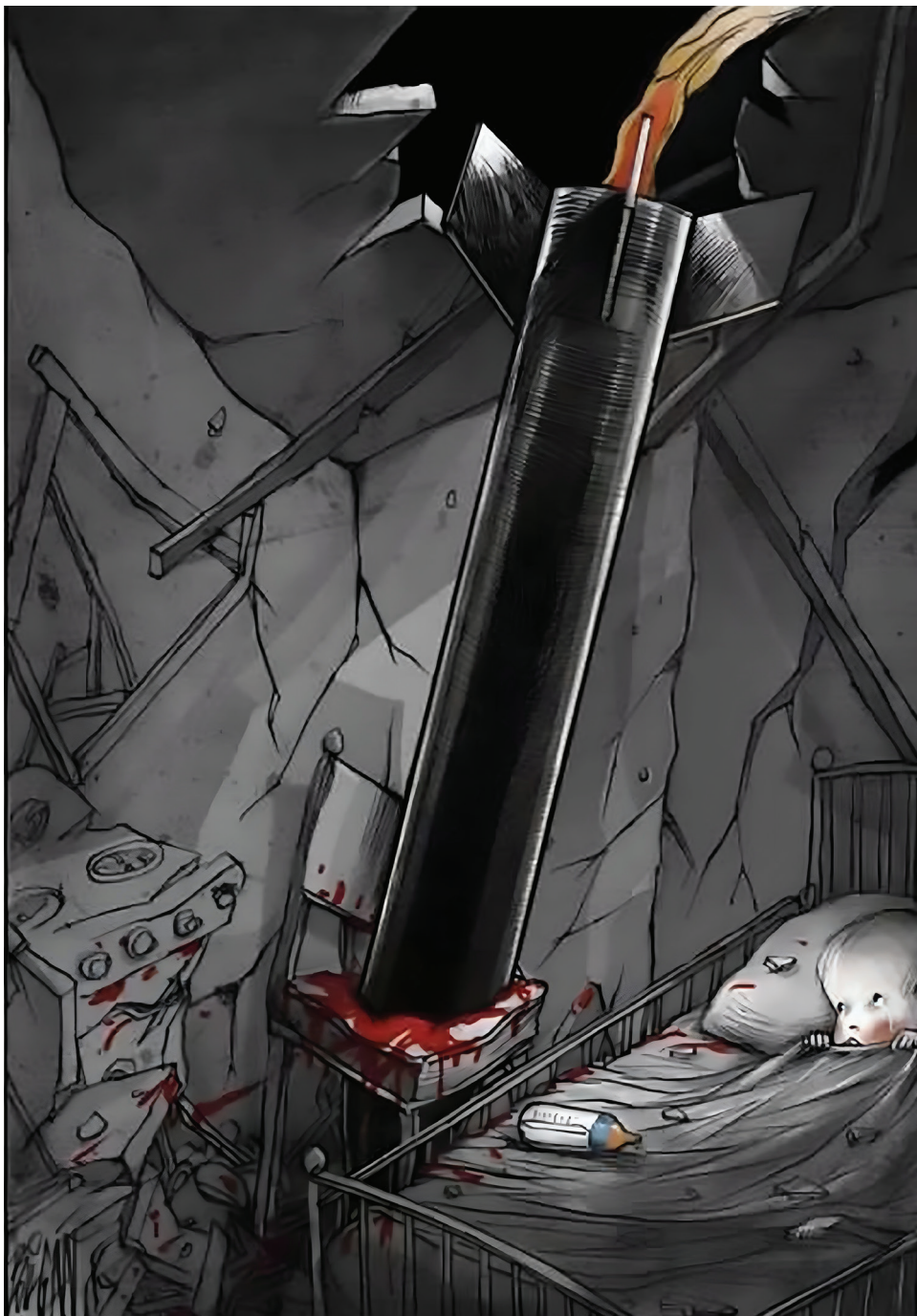
The long history of violations of all human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories lead to serious escalation of conflict on 7 October 2023. Since 7 October the civilian population of Gaza were subject to heavy unabated bombardments, as well as collective punishment, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. There have been numerous reports of breaching international humanitarian law obligations in Gaza. The world is responsible for preventing the continuation of international crimes which are taking lives in Gaza.

We express our unwavering solidarity with Palestinians and demand an immediate ceasefire and adherence to international law.

This picture booklet which comprises legal provisions and official statements related to the humanitarian disaster in Gaza, demonstrates violations of IHL and IHRL through both artistic pictures and legal provisions as well as official statements from UN authorities.

We hope you find this booklet useful and impressive.

We stand in solidarity with Palestinians



angel boligan

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 59(1) of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions:

“It is prohibited for the Parties to the conflict to attack, by any means whatsoever, non-defended localities.”

Official statements:

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres:

UN premises, hospitals, schools and clinics must never be targeted.... The international community has a responsibility to use all its influence to prevent further escalation and end this crisis.

PALESTINE

2023



Mahdi Najimi

Gaza

Legal provisions:

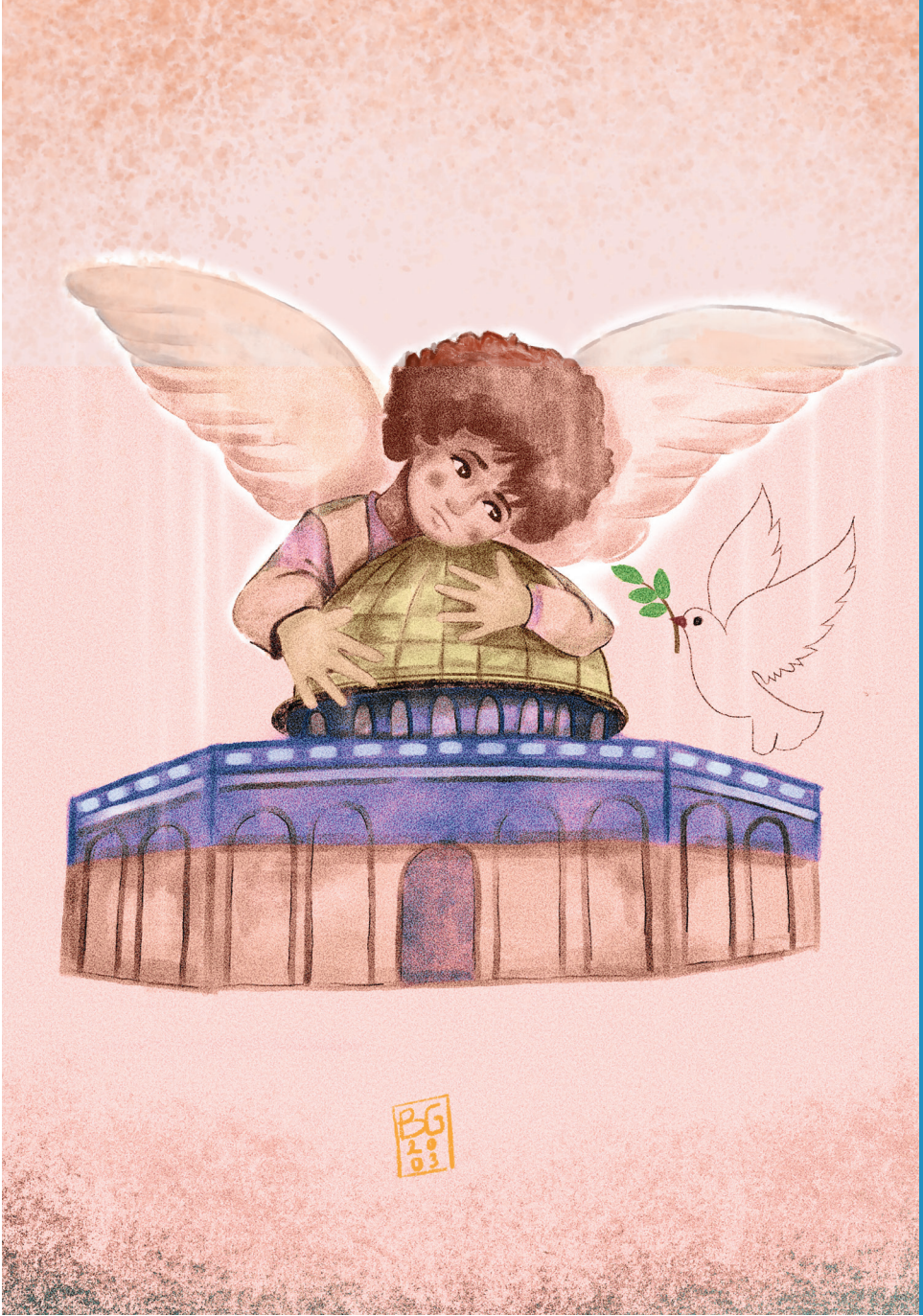
Article 1(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:

“All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”

Official statements:

Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs:

“The UN position is clear. We reaffirm the UN commitment to supporting the Palestinian people achieve their inalienable rights and self-determination, as well as to advancing a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.”



bahattin güleç

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”

Official statements:

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor:

“Israel has targeted dozens of mosques and churches in the Gaza Strip as part of its ongoing assault, which is now in its second month. Israel’s bombing of places of worship is in clear violation of international humanitarian law and the laws of war.”



bahattin güleç

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 1 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:

“The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.”

Official statements:

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons:

“Time is running out to prevent genocide and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza,” UN experts warned expressing deep frustration with Israel’s refusal to halt plans to decimate the besieged Gaza strip. “We remain convinced that the Palestinian people are at grave risk of genocide,” the experts said. “The time for action is now. Israel’s allies also bear responsibility and must act now to prevent its disastrous course of action.”



Dinaj fityani

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 48 of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Convention:

“In order to ensure respect for and protection of the civilian population and civilian objects, the Parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives.”

Official statements:

Head of the UN Human Rights Office for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ajith Sunghay:

“Gaza’s housing and civilian infrastructure have been razed to the ground, frustrating any realistic prospects for displaced Gazans to return home, repeating a long history of mass forced displacement of Palestinians by Israel.”




Zulchim

Muzaffar Yulchiboev

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 59(1) of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Convention:

“The situations referred to in the preceding paragraph include armed conflicts in which peoples are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist régimes in the exercise of their right of self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations”

Official statements:

On Nov. 16th. 2023, about 40 UN Experts¹ :

Grave violations committed by Israel against Palestinians in the aftermath of 7 October, particularly in Gaza, point to a genocide in the making, UN experts said today. They illustrated evidence of increasing genocidal incitement, overt intent to “destroy the Palestinian people under occupation...”.

¹ Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 and 21 other Special Rapporteurs and working groups



Nawaf almulla

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 38(4) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

“In accordance with the obligations of states under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.”

Official statements:

Child Rights Committee

“No child should grow up in fear, pain and hunger. Yet, today, no child in Gaza is free from fear, pain and hunger. In fact, they will be considered lucky if they can even survive this war and have the chance to grow up.”



Agim Sulaj

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 8 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:

“Any Contracting Party may call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such action under the Charter of the United Nations as they consider appropriate for the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III.”

Official statements:

Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)

“Acts and omissions by Israel, are genocidal in character, as they are committed with the requisite specific intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza as a part of the broader Palestinian national, racial and ethnic group.”



Sara Gholizadeh

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 7(1)(d) and (2)(d) of the Rome Statute:

“Deportation or forcible transfer of population means forced displacement of the persons concerned by expulsion or other coercive acts from the area in which they are lawfully present, without grounds permitted under international law”, which is counted as a “crime against humanity”.

Official statements:

Head of the UN Human Rights Office for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ajith Sunghay:

“In Rafah, I saw displaced people who had been ordered by Israeli authorities to leave their homes, with no provision for their accommodation, literally living on the street, with sewage running in the streets and conditions of desperation conducive to a complete breakdown in order.

The principles of proportionality and distinction between civilians and combatants have been completely disregarded. Hospitals, schools, and shelters have been deliberately targeted without credible evidence that they are military objectives, or attacked without precautions to minimize incidental loss of life or injury to civilians.”



Roghayeh Jadidoleslami

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 7 of the Rome Statute:

«The crime of apartheid» means inhumane acts of a character similar to those referred to in paragraph 1, committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime.

Official Statement:

Michael Lynk, the former Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories:

“...the imposition of this system of institutionalized discrimination with the intent of permanent domination had been built upon the regular practice of inhuman(e) acts. This was apartheid. With the eyes of the international community wide open, Israel had imposed upon Palestine an apartheid reality in a post-apartheid world”.



Carlos Falco

Gaza

Legal provisions:

UN General Assembly resolution 3318 (XXIX) on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict:

“Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law.”

Official statements:

Tess Ingram, UNICEF Communications Specialist:

“Becoming mother should be a time for celebration. In Gaza, it’s another child delivered into hell. Humanity cannot allow this warped version of normal to persist any longer. Mothers and newborns need a humanitarian ceasefire.”



carlos Latuff

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 77(1) of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions:

“Children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault. The Parties to the conflict shall provide them with the care and aid they require, whether because of their age or for any other reason”

Official statements:

UNICEF (Feb. 2024):

Half of the 1.7 million displaced people in the Gaza Strip are children, who need water and food, have lost their homes and their families are torn apart.

No child should be cut off from essential services, nor fall from the reach of humanitarian hands. No child should be held hostage or used by any means in armed conflict. Hospitals and schools must be protected from bombings, and they must not be used for military purposes, in accordance with international humanitarian law. The cost to children and their communities of this violence will be borne out for generations to come.



Mohsen Soleimani

Gaza

Legal provisions:

UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/38/17 (22/11/1983):

“Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for their independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination, apartheid and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle”

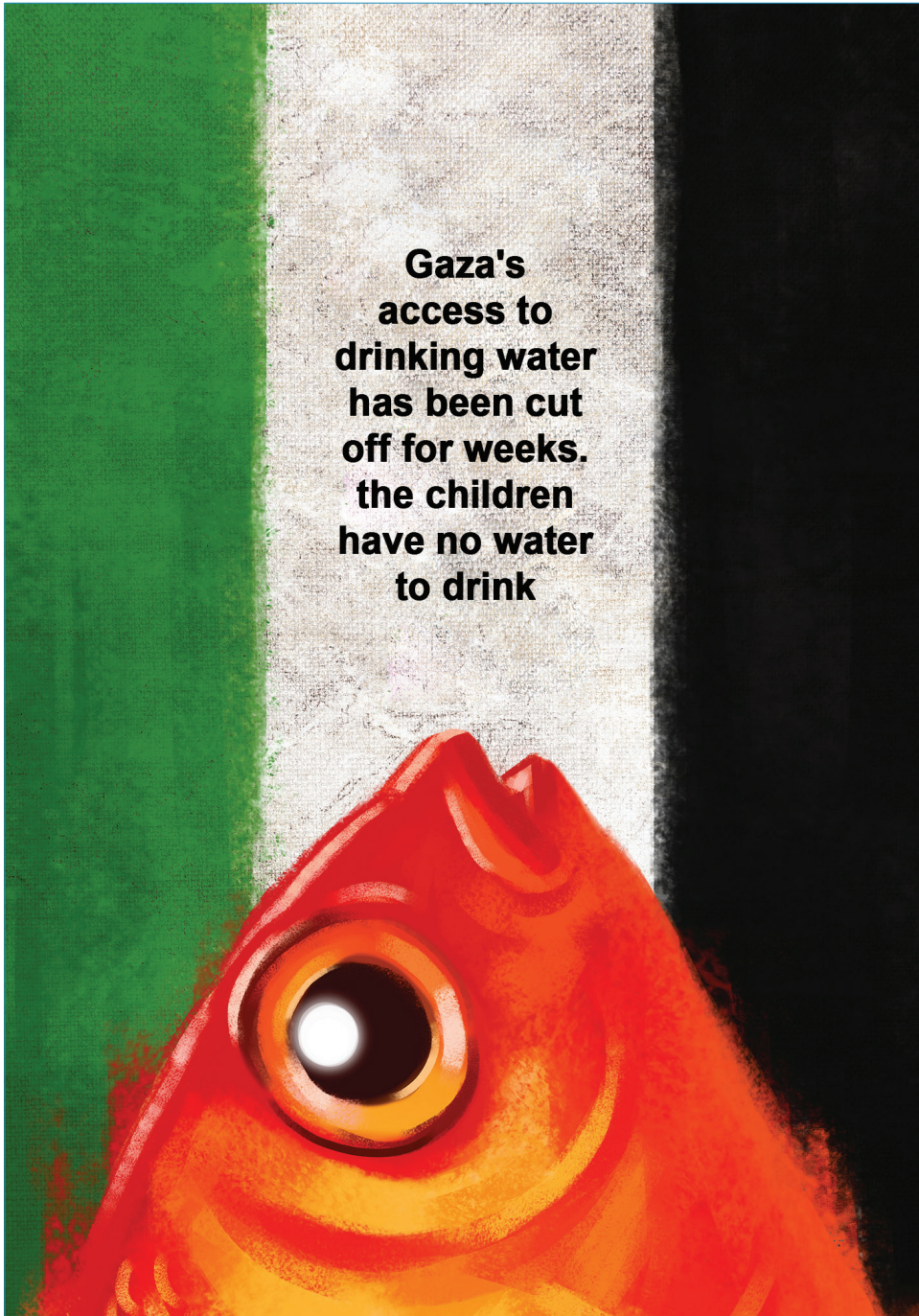
Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory:

“The right to resist is guaranteed under international law, although this resistance does have limits.”

Official statements:

UNRWA (Jan. 10th, 2024) :

“Whenever there is an air raid nearby, you can hear children of all ages screaming and the adults trying to calm them down.”



**Gaza's
access to
drinking water
has been cut
off for weeks.
the children
have no water
to drink**

Mohsen Faraji

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

“States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international cooperation based on free consent.”

Official statements:

The Secretary-General of the United Nations:

“Crucial life-saving supplies – including fuel, food and water must be allowed into Gaza. We need rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access now.”



Mohammad Sabaaneh

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention:

“Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.”

Official statements:

UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA):

By Feb. 2024 over 65000 housing units have been destroyed in Gaza.





Mohammad Sabaaneh

Gaza



Legal provisions:

Article 18 of the Fourth Geneva Convention:

“Civilian hospitals organized to give care to the wounded and sick, the infirm and maternity cases, may in no circumstances be the object of attack, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the Parties to the conflict”

Official statements:

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres:

“The international community has a responsibility to use all its influence to prevent further escalation and end this [Gaza] crisis.”



Mohammad Sabaaneh

Gaza



Legal provisions:

Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention:

“No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited. Pillage is prohibited. Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited.”

Official statements:

*Head of UN Human Rights Office Occupied
Palestinian Territory, Ajith Sunghay, 21, Jan.:*

“We are reaching yet another staggering milestone in Gaza – nearly 25,000 people reported killed, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health. Seventy percent of them women and children. Another 61,500 – at least – have been injured. Several thousands more are under the rubble, many presumed dead.”



sharif arafa

Sharif Arafah

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:

“In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

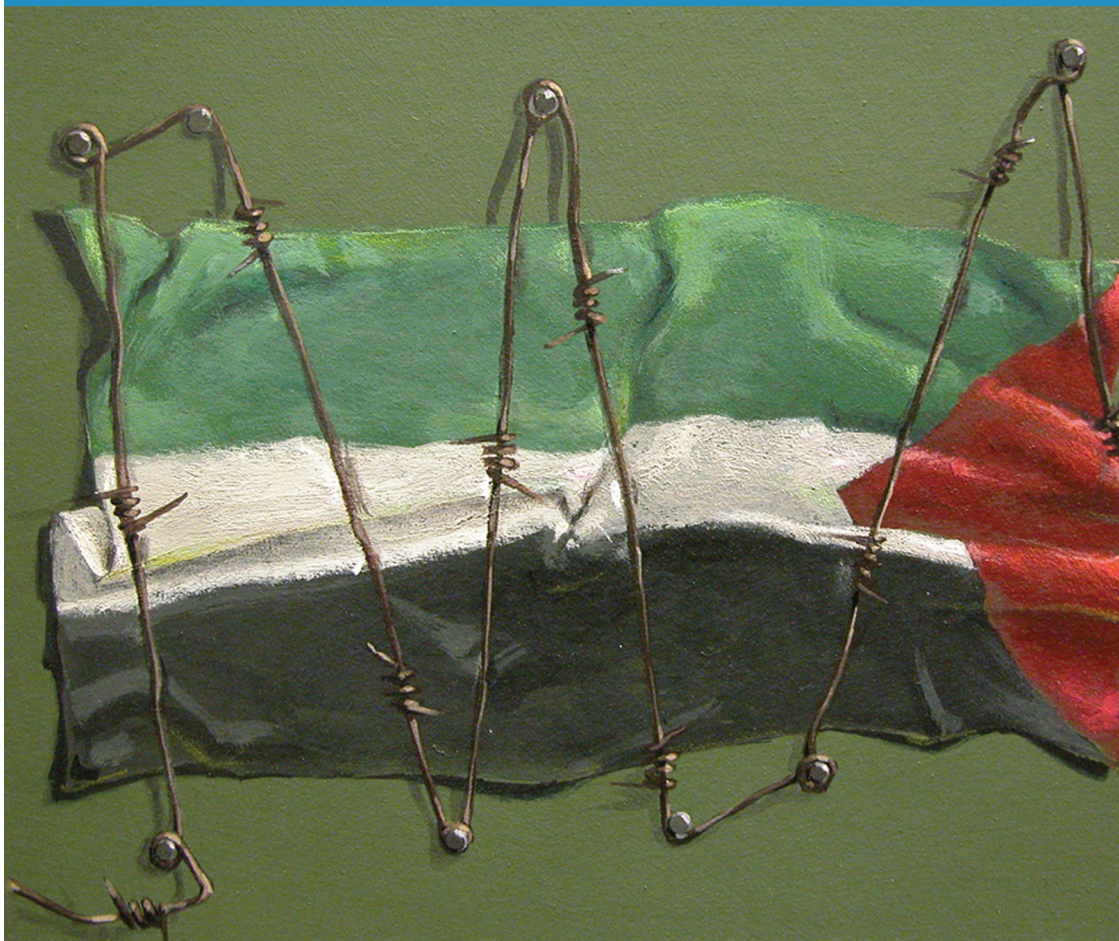
- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”

Official statements:

UN experts,¹ 16 Nov.:

Grave violations committed by Israel against Palestinians in the aftermath of 7 October, particularly in Gaza, point to a genocide in the making. “We are deeply disturbed by the failure of governments to heed our call and to achieve an immediate ceasefire. We are also profoundly concerned about the support of certain governments for Israel’s strategy of warfare against the besieged population of Gaza, and the failure of the international system to mobilise to prevent genocide,”

1. The experts: Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967; Margaret Satterthwaite, Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers; Dorothy Estrada Tanck (Chair), Claudia Flores, Ivana Krstić, Haina Lu, and Laura Nyirinkindi, Working group on discrimination against women and girls; Surya Deva, Special Rapporteur on the right to development; Ravindran Daniel (Chair-Rapporteur), Sorch MacLeod, Chris Kwaja, Jovana Jezdimirovic Ranito, Carlos Salazar Couto, Working Group on the use of mercenaries; Barbara G. Reynolds (Chair), Bina D’Costa, Dominique Day, Catherine Namakula, Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights; Farida Shaheed, Special Rapporteur on the right to education; Damilola Olawuyi (Chairperson), Robert McCorquodale (Vice-Chairperson), Elżbieta Karska, Fernanda Hopenhaym, and Pichamon Yeophantong, Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; Siobhán Mullally, Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; Livingstone Sewanyana, Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing; Ashwini K.P. Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; Ben Saul, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; Irene Khan Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression; Ms Reem Alsalem, Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences; Tomoya Obokata, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; Damilola Olawuyi (Chairperson), Robert McCorquodale (Vice-Chairperson), Elżbieta Karska, Fernanda Hopenhaym, and Pichamon Yeophantong, Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.



Aleksanf gato

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 47 of the Fourth Geneva Convention:

“Protected persons who are in occupied territory shall not be deprived, in any case or in any manner whatsoever, of the benefits of the present Convention by any change introduced, as the result of the occupation of a territory, into the institutions or government of the said territory, nor by any agreement concluded between the authorities of the occupied territories and the Occupying Power, nor by any annexation by the latter of the whole or part of the occupied territory.”

Official statements:

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, 9 Oct.:

“I am deeply distressed by today’s announcement that Israel will initiate a complete siege of the Gaza Strip, nothing allowed in – no electricity, food, or fuel.”





Zahra Marandi

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 7 of the Rome Statute:

When “Murder” is committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, it amounts to a “crime against humanity”.

Official statements:

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor (Nov. 2023)

In total violation of the rules of war, Israel targeted dozens of mosques and churches in Gaza...

recent Israeli attacks have resulted in the total destruction of 66 mosques and partial damage to 146 others, accounting for approximately 20% of all mosques in the Gaza Strip.





Effat Amjadipour

Gaza



Legal provisions:

Article 52 of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Convention:

“Civilian objects shall not be the object of attack or of reprisals.”

Official statements:

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor:

“Israel’s escalation of violence and widespread bombardment, including civilian objects without respecting the principle of proportionality, in the Gaza Strip is utterly appalling.”



Ali Shabani

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 18(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

Official statements:

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres:

“Looking around the world, we tragically know that this is not a reality for millions of people. It is totally unacceptable in the twenty first century for people to face discrimination and intimidation for their beliefs. The persecution of religious minorities is utterly intolerable. The full scope of their human rights is guaranteed, and States have an obligation to implement policies that ensure their identities are respected and that they feel fully part of society as a whole.”





Witold maisirowicz

Gaza

Legal provisions:

Article 1(1) of the UN Charter,

One of the Purposes of the United Nations is:

“To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.”

Official statements:

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East:

“The people of Gaza must have freedom of movement, freedom of access, freedom to trade, freedom from aid dependency and freedom from the fear of death and destruction. They have been living under the Israeli-imposed blockade for seven years. We say with one voice: “Yes to reconstruction, yes to lifting the blockade and yes to #Freedom4Gaza.” Safeguarding Israel’s security must come with respect for the dignity and humanity of the Palestinian people. Palestinians, too, have legitimate security concerns and the right to live free from death, destruction and fear. They are being denied a future. That future must be restored.”



أَمَّنْ بِحَبِيبِ الضُّطَرِّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَبَكْشِفِ السَّوْءِ

Hosein Barati

**PRAY
FOR
GAZA**

