



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

ICSFT DEPLORES ISRAEL'S ONGOING AGRESSION ON PALESTINIANS IN GAZA



ICSFT strongly condemns the violations of international law committed during the recent Israeli military offensive in eastern Gaza that killed one and wounded two Palestinians. According to the Gaza health ministry, a Palestinian man by the name of Mahmoud al-Nabahin, 24, was killed while two other Palestinians were wounded, one of whom is in critical condition. This comes after the recent two days of Israeli aerial attacks on Gaza that killed 14 Palestinians.

Palestinians in Gaza have been protesting along the fence with Israel on a weekly basis since March last year asking for their right of return to their home land and an end to the 11-year Israeli blockade.

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The siege has devastated the local economy, severely restricting the entry of food, access to basic services, and the movement of more than two million people who reside in Gaza.

Palestinians continue to suffer at the hands of excessive force by the Israeli military. Since the Great March of Return protests began in March, the Israeli army has killed more than 230 people and injured more than 25,000 in Gaza alone. According to numerous rights groups monitoring the situation, many of the Israeli concerted attacks on the Gaza Strip are direct attacks on civilians, or disproportionate attacks.

Adding insult to injury, the dismantling of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, by the US and Israel threatens to leave more than five million Palestinian refugees struggling for basic and fundamental human rights. The US and Israel appear to be attempting to dissolve Palestinians' refugee status and to deny refugees a claim to return to present-day Israel or the occupied territories. It appears the parameters of the forthcoming US "deal of the century" will be wishing away millions of Palestinian refugees as these acts of aggression do not cater to Palestinian interests.

The silence of the international community toward Israel's flagrant violation of international and humanitarian laws is perpetrating crimes and racist measures against the defenceless Palestinian people. What Palestinians along the Gaza strip are witnessing is a new nakba catastrophe.

These violations are representative of Israel's disregard for its legal obligations towards the Palestinian people, which has been a continuous feature of its military occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. All grave violations of international law must be promptly brought to an end, investigated and punished in accordance with the standards set by international law. The failure of the international community to categorically condemn and ensure accountability for previous well-documented violations, including those included in the Report of UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, has indirectly sanctioned Israel's attacks against civilians including the recent military offensive.



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Boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS), along with pressure from rights groups and governments', are the most effective tool to hold the Israeli government and its allies accountable. As such airbnb's withdrawal of West Bank settlement listings is a clear example of how effective these movements can be.

ICSFT strongly condemns the criminal actions committed by the apartheid Israeli Occupation forces against the Palestinian people. Israel continues to ignore all international treaties, international human rights and humanitarian law.

ICSFT urges the international community to stop its silence and act immediately to protect civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, ICSFT believes that the mere condemnation of the Israeli violations is not sufficient, and demands effective pressure on Israel to ensure respect for international law and treaties, including the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War.

We especially call upon the international community to take immediate action to bring the Israeli perpetrators to international justice and call for an end of the ongoing occupation.

For 70 years, Palestinians have not given up on their hope to one day return to their homeland. This right was enshrined in international law and cannot be negotiated away.