

**PREVENTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING
EARLY WARNING AND URGENT ACTION PROCEDURE**

Decision 2 (2024)

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, meeting in Geneva at its one hundred-fourteenth session from 25 November to 13 December 2024,

Acting under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure;

Recalling its Statement 5 (2023) of 27 October 2023¹ and its Decision 2 (2023) of 21 December 2023² on the ongoing armed conflict in Israel and the State of Palestine, the scale of violence and the human rights and humanitarian catastrophe in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,³ in particular in the Gaza Strip;

Recalling the report of the Ad hoc Conciliation Commission on the inter-State communication of the State of Palestine against Israel under article 11 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (the Convention), adopted on 26 February 2024, and the recommendations contained therein, including its conclusion that the guarantee of self-determination for Palestinians is critical for sustainable peace between Israel and the State of Palestine and the full enjoyment of all the rights enshrined in the Convention by both communities, and that Israel, as the occupying Power, has the duty to ensure that there is no racial discrimination, precarity and lack of prospect for self-determination, and has the utmost responsibility to protect civilians in the conduct of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;⁴

Alarmed by the flagrant disregard by Israel of the Decision and recommendations of this Committee and the Ad Hoc Conciliation Commission, the several binding orders on provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ),⁵ the advisory opinion issued by the ICJ on 19 July 2024,⁶ as well as the recommendations included in recent reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied

¹ [Statement on Israel and the State of Palestine](#), 27 October 2023.

² [Decision on Israel and the State of Palestine](#), 21 December 2023.

³ International Court of Justice, [Legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Advisory Opinion](#), 19 July 2024, para. 78.

⁴ [Report of the Ad hoc Conciliation Commission on the inter-State communication submitted by the State of Palestine against Israel under article 11 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#), released on 22 August 2024.

⁵ International Court of Justice, *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*, [Order of 24 May 2024](#), [Order of 28 March 2024](#), and [Order of 26 January 2024](#).

⁶ International Court of Justice, [Legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Advisory Opinion](#), 19 July 2024.

Territories,⁷ the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁸ the Independent International Commission of Inquiry,⁹ the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967¹⁰ and other human rights mechanisms;

Appalled by the brutal indiscriminate attacks on innocent women, children, and men, mainly in Gaza, and the killing of more than 44,500 Palestinians, the injuries of more than 105,000 as well as over 10,000 reportedly being missing or trapped under rubble;¹¹ the near total and deliberate destruction of the homes and other protected infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools;¹² the displacement of about 1.9 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip;¹³ the unprecedented levels of starvation in Gaza, where over 1.2 million people are facing emergency or catastrophic levels of food insecurity;¹⁴ the killing of at least 343 aid workers, including 253 staff of the United Nations, 1,047 health workers, 88 civil defence staff while on duty, and 183 journalists and media workers,¹⁵ which raises serious concerns regarding the obligations of Israel and other State parties to prevent war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

Deeply concerned by the deteriorating human rights situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, over the past year particularly by reports that, on average, three Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli forces in the region every week,¹⁶ by the increased use of military methods and weapons to policing that have resulted *inter alia* in the killing of over 180 Palestinians by airstrikes,¹⁷ by the more than 800 Palestinians killed and over 6,000 injured by Israeli forces or settlers,¹⁸ as well as the displacement of more than 6,300 Palestinians, including Bedouin and other herding communities;¹⁹

Highly concerned by the spread of violence and hostilities in other countries in the region, particularly by the large-scale airstrikes by Israeli forces in Lebanon, resulting in the death of more than 4,000 people, the injuries of over 16,000 and the displacement of over 1.4 million during the conflict, as well

⁷ [Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, A/79/363](#), 20 September 2024.

⁸ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report [A/HRC/55/28](#), 4 March 2024; [Thematic report - Indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks during the conflict in Gaza \(October – December 2023\)](#), 19 June 2024; [Thematic Report: Detention in the context of the escalation of hostilities in Gaza](#), 31 July 2024; [Six-month update report on the human rights situation in Gaza: 1 November 2023 to 30 April 2024](#), 8 November 2024.

⁹ Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, [A/79/232](#), 11 September 2024, and [A/HRC/56/26](#), of 14 June 2024;

¹⁰ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, [A/79/384](#), 1 October 2024 and [A/HRC/55/73](#), 1 July 2024.

¹¹ [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip](#), 3 December 2024.

¹² [World Health Organization, oPt Emergency Situation Update, World Health Organization](#), 20 November 2024; [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip](#), 3 December 2024. [UNICEF, Humanitarian Situation Report No. 32, UNICEF](#), 29 November 2024.

¹³ [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip](#), 3 December 2024; [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | Population and internal displacement since 7 October 2023 | Gaza Strip](#), 29 November 2024.

¹⁴ [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip](#), 3 December 2024; [Conditions in Gaza 'unfit for human survival,' acting UN relief chief tells Security Council | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#), 13 November 2024.

¹⁵ [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip](#), 3 December 2024.

¹⁶ [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Humanitarian Situation | Update #240 | West Bank](#), 21 November 2024.

¹⁷ [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | West Bank | Monthly Snapshot: Casualties, Property Damage and Displacement](#), 12 November 2024.

¹⁸ [World Health Organization, Health Cluster, oPt, World Health Organization](#), 1 December 2024.

¹⁹ [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | West Bank | Monthly Snapshot: Casualties, Property Damage and Displacement](#), 12 November 2024; [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | Humanitarian Situation Update #240 | West Bank](#), 21 November 2024.

as by reports of more than 150 attacks on healthcare facilities, the death of 241 health workers and the injury of at least 292, limiting people's access to critical health support,²⁰ as well as by the recent incursions by Israeli forces in Syrian territory;

Disturbed that the continued lack of compliance with and lack of accountability for violations of international law is undermining the law-based international order;

Urges all parties to the conflict in Gaza to institute an immediate and sustained ceasefire;

Urges the release of hostages taken by Hamas and other armed groups as well as the release of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and Palestinian citizens of Israel who are arbitrarily detained by Israel;

Urges all parties to fully respect the Lebanon ceasefire agreement of 27 November 2024;

Calls upon Israel to fully respect its obligations under international law, notably those arising from the Convention, and ensure that all Palestinians across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, enjoy all the rights under the Convention without discrimination, especially the right to life and security of person and protection against violence or bodily harm, the right to freedom of movement and residence, the right to freedom of opinion and expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the rights to housing, to medical care and education, and enjoy full access to justice and reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered;

Urges Israel to implement immediately and effectively the orders on provisional measures issued by the ICJ in the *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)* on 26 January, 28 March and 24 May 2024;

Calls upon Israel and the State of Palestine to fully cooperate with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in his investigation on the situation in the State of Palestine;

Calls upon all State parties to ensure that all those suspected of being responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as any other international crimes committed in the ongoing armed conflict, especially persons with command responsibility, are promptly brought to justice, including by respecting and complying with the currently extant International Criminal Court arrest warrants of 21 November 2024 by the Pre-Trial Chamber I for the alleged commission of crimes against humanity and war crimes as applicable;

Calls upon all State parties to fully respect their international obligations, in particular those arising from the Convention, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and common article 1 of the four Geneva Conventions, to cooperate to bring an end the violations that are taking place and to prevent war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, including by ceasing any military assistance if there is a clear risk that such assistance could be used in violation of international law.

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²⁰ [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs | Flash Update #45 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon](#), 18 November 2024; [Lebanon: At a Glance - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon| OCHA](#), 7 December 2024.