



20 December 2023

Mr. Karim Khan KC  
Office of the Prosecutor  
International Criminal Court

**Subject: Urgent need for arrest warrants to prevent the continuing commission by Israeli officials of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against Palestinians [regarding Investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine (ICC-01/18)]**

***Human rights groups worldwide support Palestinian human rights organizations and demand that arrest warrants be immediately issued***

Dear Prosecutor Khan,

The undersigned group of human rights organizations and social movements across the world write to you in support of Al-Haq, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights. On Wednesday, 8 November, the three Palestinian human rights organizations submitted a legal filing before the International Criminal Court (ICC) calling for “urgent attention to:

- the continuous barrage of Israeli airstrikes on densely populated civilian areas within the Gaza Strip,
- the suffocating siege imposed on this territory,
- the forced displacement of its population,
- the use of toxic gas, and
- the denial of necessities, such as food, water, fuel, and electricity.”

We echo the demand for your immediate action necessary to prevent the continuing commission of these modes of the crimes of genocide, incitement to genocide, crimes against humanity --including apartheid--and war crimes, such as indiscriminate destruction of Palestinian homes and fundamental public services, including schools and hospitals, via seeking arrest warrants from the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber for officials at the helm of the Israeli military and other relevant forces and personnel: President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. The legal filing of Al Haq, Al Mezan, and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights details the commission of these crimes and how they are ongoing, substantiating the need for arrest warrants under Article



58(1)(b)(3) of the Rome Statute. We also urge you to plead with State Parties to adequately fund the investigation and ensure timely and effective access to justice.

We note the [referral](#) of the Situation in Palestine by five States Parties to the Rome Statute on 17th November, requesting the Prosecutor to “vigorously investigate” crimes related to Israel’s settlement regime, in particular, policies, laws and official decisions, the crimes against humanity of persecution and apartheid, and genocide, amongst others. In addition, the recent financial contributions of Ireland and Belgium in consideration of the investigation into the Situation in Palestine, place ample resources before the Office of the Prosecutor to immediately proceed.

As a global network working to advance economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, interdependently and indivisibly with all human rights, including the right to life, ESCR-Net [condemns](#) the widespread and systematic killing of civilians in the Gaza Strip (and elsewhere across the occupied Palestinian territory) – at least 16,248 Palestinians were killed in Gaza between 7 October and 5 December, 70 percent of whom are said to be women and children. Reports indicate that at least 100 people were killed on 6 December alone [according](#) to the United Nations. Many, possibly thousands, remain unidentified, stuck under rubble, killed or injured through relentless bombings and military strikes from air, land and sea for the past 40 days, much of which targeted civilians, civilian objects and infrastructure. Israeli government and military have repeatedly made their intent clear: large-scale destruction, full siege, forcible displacement and transfer of more than 1.5 million Palestinians, using starvation as a mean of warfare while denying other basic needs, including water, medicine and medical care supplies such as fuel for hospitals, shelter, sanitation, public utilities, among others.

We recognize the significant role that ICC arrest warrants could play a significant role in deterring these ongoing violations and crimes by Israeli officials. The failure to issue arrest warrants for cases identified in the initial stages of the investigation is entrenching the impunity that is fueling Israeli occupation with open disregard for the rule of law. Action by the ICC would also have a significant impact on other States by reaffirming legal obligations to prevent crimes and deter further conduct that may amount to aiding and abetting, such as the United States’ substantial military, intelligence and diplomatic support as well as military support by the UK, the Netherlands and Canada.

We note your [statement](#) on 6 December where you emphasized “ the imperative that humanitarian relief be allowed into Gaza immediately and at scale” and “that wilfully impeding relief supplies to civilians may constitute a war crime under the ICC Rome statute.” Israel continues to impede access to humanitarian relief and it is evident that words of deterrence are not enough. Arrest warrants must be issued immediately.

The Court must act now to hold Israeli officials and complicit actors accountable, lest it undermine the pillars of the rule of international law.



Signatories

**Organizations**

1. A11 - Initiative for Economic and Social Rights - Serbia
2. Abahlali baseMjondolo Movement SA - South Africa
3. Adaleh Center for Human Rights - Jordan
4. Afterwatch - DRC
5. Agrimovement in Lebanon - Lebanon
6. ALTSEAN-Burma - Burma
7. Ambiente, Desarrollo y Capacitación - Honduras
8. Anti-Jindal & Anti-POSCO Movement (JPPSS) - India
9. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) - Thailand
10. Bread and Freedom Party (under establishment) - Egypt
11. Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) - Jordan
12. Centre de Recherche sur l'Environnement, la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme (CREDDHO) - RD Congo
13. Comité Ambiental en Defensa de la Vida - Colombia
14. Community Empowerment and Social Justice Network (CEMSOJ) - Nepal
15. Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras (COPINH) - Honduras
16. Consejo de Pueblos Wuxhtaj - Guatemala
17. Consejo del Pueblo Maya - Guatemala
18. Corporación SOS Ambiental - Colombia
19. Dibeem for Environmental Development - Jordan
20. Economic and Social Rights Centre - Hakijamii - Kenya
21. Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights - Egypt
22. Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) - Egypt
23. ElSeidi Law Firm - Egypt
24. Emergent Evaluation Consulting - USA
25. EMPIRE WOMEN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE - Nigeria
26. FIAN International - International
27. Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (Fundeps) - Argentina
28. Independent Chambers - International
29. International Accountability Project (IAP)
30. International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP AP) - Malaysia
31. Justiça Ambiental JA! - Mozambique
32. Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice - USA
33. Karapatan - Philippines
34. Kisumu Social Rights Association (KISORA) - Kenya
35. Legal Resources Centre - South Africa
36. Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LADDH) - Algeria



37. Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN) - Maldives
38. Manushya Foundation - Thailand
39. Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens - Brazil
40. MUFRAS-32 (Movimiento Unificado Francisco Sánchez 1932) - El Salvador
41. Muungano wa wanavijiji federation Kenya
42. Nairobi Peoples Settlement Network - Kenya
43. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement - Sri Lanka
44. NATIONAL UNION OF DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES - Trinidad and Tobago
45. Natural Resource Women Platform - Liberia
46. Noura Organization for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Sudan
47. Observatori DESCA - Spain
48. Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña (OFRANEH) - Honduras
49. Otros Mundos AC 50. PAH (Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca) - Mexico
50. Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum - Pakistan
51. Peace Movement Aotearoa - New Zealand.
52. Peace Track Initiative - Yemen
53. Phoenix Center - Jordan
54. Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER) - Mexico
55. Red Acoge - Spain
56. Red Chimpu Warmi - Bolivia
57. Seed In A Box - Lebanon
58. Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa - South Africa
59. Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights - Jordan
60. The Democracy and Workers' Rights Center in Palestine (DWRC) - Palestine
61. The El Molo Forum - Kenya
62. The Jus Semper Global Alliance - USA.
63. The Shift - International
64. Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights - Tunisia
65. Union of Palestinian Workers Struggle (UPWS) - Palestine
66. World Forum of Fisher Peoples - International
67. Zimbabwe People's Land Rights Movement - Zimbabwe

#### Individuals

1. Kranti LC
2. Claudia Lazzaro
3. Faleh Hammoudi
4. Rasha Jarhum
5. Miriam Miranda
6. Ahmed ElSeidi



7. Ahmed Awad
8. Mounir Hassine
9. Murielle Mignot
10. Nidal Mansour
11. Marie Joyce Godio
12. Shanti Uprety
13. Pavind Permnath
14. Tahani Abbas
15. Erickson Sunday Aboka
16. Hala Murad
17. Constanza Pauchulo
18. Irene Escorihuela
19. Natalia Slepoy Benites
20. Linda Alkalash
21. Danilo Curcic
22. Liz Theoharis
23. Arturo Ignacio Castillo torres
24. Zacharia Barghouti
25. María Benilde Carreño Gaitan
26. Roqayah Tbeileh
27. Camilo Bermúdez
28. Shatha Abdulsamad
29. Leilani Farha
30. Judy Kodaimati
31. Martha Devia Grisales
32. Urieb Abdalsamad
33. Giorga Gusciglio
34. Sally Abu Sakha
35. Ruben Caballero
36. Buthaina El Hagggar
37. Daniya Rahman
38. Nor Warczinski
39. Mahar Musleh
40. Enriqueta Mercader Camps
41. Susan Mbori
42. Kaat Schlitz
43. Deborah Lawson
44. Namratha Kolla
45. Maria Laura Fons Camarena



46. Shaimaa Mubarak
47. Mira Samara
48. Sarah Kodaimati
49. Frederico Casiraghi
50. Prabinda shakya
51. Marie Pompei
52. Álvaro de Regil Castilla
53. Gustavo Castro
54. Erika Mendes
55. Jen Nessel
56. Michele Dano
57. Alison Feuerwerker
58. Klea Markollari
59. Ibrahim Ismail
60. Giulia Sorcini
61. Ryan Schlieff
62. Andrea Laforest
63. Paula Isabel Macias Flores
64. Eduardo Aguilar
65. Claudia Diaz
66. Jorge Varelo
67. Emlyn Medalla
68. Luzia Guillerin
69. Aye Aye Win Lemmers
70. Rajaa Kassab
71. Luz Torres
72. Mohamed Aloush
73. Ludzia Guillerin
74. Sadiq Aziz
75. Amna Shawkat
76. Doris Loy
77. Iman Soliman
78. Nassim POURGHAZIAN
79. Melissa Levaillant
80. Muziwakhe Mdlalose
81. Isabelle Müller
82. Alaa Talbi
83. Héctor Garcia
84. Julia Rognifard

الشبكة العالمية  
للحقوق الاقتصادية  
والاجتماعية والثقافية



ESCR-Net  
Red-DESC  
Réseau-DESC

85. Prasant Paikray
86. Debbie Stothard
87. S'bu Zikode
88. Christiana Louwa
89. Eman Shahoud