

**PEACEMAKING
REFLECTION GROUP**
OF FORMER UN SYSTEM STAFF
SUPPORTED BY THE
FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

To

The President of the UN General Assembly, H.E Dennis Francis

The President of the Security Council for the month of June, H.E. Hwang Joon-kook

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Antonio Guterres

cc

The President of the International Court of Justice, H.E. Judge Nawaf Salam

The President of the International Criminal Court, H.E. Judge Tomoko Akane

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, H.E. Karim A. A. Khan

3 June 2024

Excellencies,

Along with the rest of the world, we have been watching with increasing concern the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, where **the lives of innocent civilians are sacrificed in a conflict that has brought immeasurable pain to both sides**. This war threatens to **destabilize the entire region and the world**. Moreover, the apparent lack of any peaceful resolution, beyond lip service paid to the two-state solution, is **contributing to further loss of credibility and legitimacy** of “the international community”.

The humanitarian impact is dire, with severe shortages of medical supplies, food and water, disproportionately affecting children and other vulnerable populations. The United Nations and its collective organs, **under your leadership** must ensure that international law, peace and security are respected in word and deed by all state and non-state actors.

We wholeheartedly welcome the engagement of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). **These global judicial organs and their members should be able to carry out their responsibilities in implementation of international law according to their respective statutes, in full independence and free from threats, insults and intimidation**.

We draw attention to the latest **order issued by the ICJ** to the Israeli Government to immediately halt its military offensive in Rafah, an area where around one million civilians have been displaced by the Israel-Hamas war. The Court has also called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups. **The Prosecutor of the ICC requested the issuance of arrest warrants** against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant, and Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, and Ismail Haniyeh for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the occupied Gaza Strip and Israel. However, the hostilities continue, resulting in more killings and destruction, with no end in sight, in full contravention of the ICJ order, the ICC intent, and all rules of humanitarian access and civilized behaviour.

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To prevent the worst from happening, **it is imperative that the United Nations and its partners uphold the principles of international humanitarian law with resolve and without bias.** In the event that the Security Council is unable to reach a decision due to the use of a veto, the General Assembly should proceed to re-open the 10th Emergency Special Session on the Occupied Palestinian Territory to **ensure the fast-track implementation of the two-state solution.** The Secretary-General should appoint a **Special Envoy to engage with the parties**, their supporters, the neighbouring states and other influential actors, to implement a permanent ceasefire. **Discussions should commence for the transitional period and the reconstruction of Gaza, including the deployment of a UN-led peacekeeping force**, as also requested by the Arab League at its recent summit in Manama, Bahrain. The United Nations has to be at the centre of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, rather than be marginalized.

Excellencies,

We urge you and the UN principal organs that you represent to take immediate and decisive action regarding the situation in Gaza. It is essential to ensure that international humanitarian principles are respected and **that the rule of law is upheld**, also in terms of implementation of the decisions of international courts. Humanitarian assistance cannot be negotiated nor used as a bargaining chip, as both are clear violations of the principles of proportionality and humane treatment of non-combatants. **Now is the time for the international community to prioritize human lives over political agendas to achieve lasting peace and justice in the region.** Anything less can only further jeopardize the well-being of Palestinians and Israelis, and risks igniting a major conflict in the region and the world.

Yours sincerely,

{List of signatories}