

## Justice for the Palestinian People; Action to Stop Impunity!

**Recalling** FIDH's June 2025 resolution unequivocally condemning Israel's unprecedented military assault across Southwest Asia (Middle East), including its brutal attacks on Palestinians, Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, and rejecting Israel's illegal and aggressive use of force under the guise of "pre-emptive self-defence", and denouncing the ongoing genocide in Gaza and international crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian people.

**Recalling** FIDH's June 2024 resolution on solidarity with the Palestinian people, condemning Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity rooted in settler-colonialism and apartheid, including mass forced displacement, torture and denial of rights. The resolution reaffirmed the commitment of FIDH's member organisations to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and return, while denouncing the repression of Palestinians and their supporters, and the silence and complicity of many Western governments that provide political and military support to Israel. Further, it called for mobilisation against the ongoing Nakba of the Palestinian people, and urged pressure through sanctions, arms embargoes, divestment and suspension of agreements to hold Israel and complicit states accountable.

**Recalling** FIDH's November 2023 resolution affirming Israel's commission of genocide in Gaza, making FIDH the first international organisation to recognise genocide against Palestinians there. It detailed Israel's systematic targeting of civilians, destruction of life-sustaining infrastructure, mass displacement, and blockade policies as part of broader grave international crimes, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. It emphasised the role of civil society, urging human rights organisations, grassroots movements and legal advocates to intensify documentation, pursue universal jurisdiction cases, mobilise public pressure through advocacy, and build global solidarity with Palestinians.

**Recalling** FIDH's October 2022 resolution on Israel's apartheid regime against the Palestinian people, affirming that Israel has established and maintained an apartheid regime over the Palestinian people through a system of institutionalised racial domination, segregation and oppression. Israel's regime is characterised by discriminatory laws, the strategic fragmentation of Palestinians across regions and refugee communities, and systematic repression, including arbitrary detention, excessive force and smear campaigns against civil society. Affirming that apartheid is a crime against humanity, the resolution called on Third States to fulfil their obligations and not to aid or recognise the illegal situation.

FIDH has consistently urged Third States to uphold their international legal obligations by imposing sanctions, enforcing arms embargoes, and supporting accountability mechanisms, including those of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The resolutions demand the cessation of all political, military and economic complicity in Israel's crimes and call for decisive steps to dismantle the systems of occupation and apartheid. Such measures are essential to ending impunity and securing the rights of the Palestinian people.

This year, while we meet in Bogotá, the genocide in Gaza has marked two years. Israel has intensified its settler-colonial apartheid practices across all of Palestine and escalated its use of starvation as a method of warfare and a tool to inflict genocide in Gaza, blocking the entry of essential goods, medicine and fuel. This has left the population in Gaza facing an apocalyptic humanitarian catastrophe, with children, women, men and the elderly dying from hunger and lack of medical care.

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The Israeli–US-backed “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” has, in reality, functioned as a death trap, with Israeli Occupying Forces firing on starving Palestinians attempting to access aid for their families, constituting deliberate attacks on civilians and acts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as scenes unfold of people being targeted and killed while exercising their fundamental right to humanitarian assistance.

In the illegally occupied West Bank, state-backed settler violence has reached unprecedented and alarming levels. Armed settlers, often operating with the support or protection of the Israeli military, carry out daily attacks on Palestinian communities, vandalising properties, attacking homes and setting fire to agricultural land, homes, vehicles and infrastructure. Over 15 communities were forcibly displaced due to settler violence. Israel also intensified its military campaigns targeting Palestinian refugee camps, especially in the northern West Bank. It is estimated that over 40,000 Palestinians have been forcibly displaced in the northern West Bank, particularly from refugee camps and surrounding cities, marking the largest displacement since the beginning of Israel’s occupation in 1967.

Land confiscation has also accelerated, with 2024 witnessing the largest land appropriation in over 30 years. In 2025, Israel’s annexation policies accelerated further, with the current Israeli government laying the groundwork for de jure sovereignty over the West Bank through legislation, infrastructure control and the approval of new settlements.

Israel has intensified its political and legal attacks on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), effectively outlawing its operations in the occupied Palestinian territory. UNRWA is essential for Palestinian refugees, especially in Gaza, as it provides critical services such as education, healthcare and emergency aid to millions of refugees who would otherwise have no access to basic humanitarian support.

In July 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a historic advisory opinion affirming that Israel’s occupation is illegal due to its prolonged nature, Israel’s annexationist policies, and the denial of the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination. The ICJ further found that Israel’s policies and practices breach Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which prohibits racial segregation and apartheid. The advisory opinion called on all states to ensure that the unlawful situation is brought to an end, in line with their obligations under international law. States must now take concrete action in response to the ICJ’s recommendations. This includes refraining from any act that implies recognition of the unlawful situation, ending all forms of complicity, and ensuring respect for international law, including by supporting accountability measures and imposing effective consequences for Israel’s continued violations.

Israel has continued its smear campaigns, intimidation tactics, and other forms of repression against civil society actors and human rights defenders, including surveillance, harassment, arbitrary detention, and criminalisation. Globally, complicit states have increasingly suppressed dissent against Israel’s genocidal campaign and its commission of international crimes, and targeted individuals and institutions seeking to hold it accountable. In an alarming escalation, the United States imposed sanctions on the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, as well as on ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan and three ICC judges. FIDH affirms that these punitive measures severely undermine efforts to pursue justice for Palestinians and reflect a broader strategy to silence and punish those advancing accountability, effectively denying Palestinians access to international justice mechanisms. These actions risk collapsing the international legal order, undermining accountability efforts globally and enabling further impunity for powerful states. They expose the depth of Third States complicity and the systemic deficiencies within the global system.

Crucially, all Palestinians must be afforded international protection, not only those under direct occupation in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza, but also the millions of Palestinian refugees in exile who remain stateless, disenfranchised and at risk. For example, Palestinian refugees displaced by Israel 77 years ago, and their

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descendants in Lebanon, face a tragic reality. Lebanon considers itself a transit country rather than a permanent host, denying these refugees basic rights such as working in chosen professions or owning property outside isolated camps. Repressive policies leave many with no choice but to seek migration through irregular means, including dangerous sea journeys across the Mediterranean, where many have lost their lives. A sustainable resolution to the plight of Palestinian refugees is both essential and long overdue. However, it must not undermine the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right of return, as enshrined in international law and United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194. The displacement and dispossession of Palestinians cannot be resolved through erasure or containment. Justice, dignity, and the full realisation of their collective and individual rights, including the right to return, must be central to any future solution.

**FIDH and its members affirm** that at this moment, when Palestinians are being collectively targeted for the very nature of their identity, the international community must respond with a unified demand for protection, justice and accountability. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) must be fully supported to continue its life-saving humanitarian operations, including the provision of healthcare, education and emergency assistance. Its role is essential, especially at this time of undeniable and unprecedented crimes broadcast live for the world to witness.

Now more than ever, states must uphold their legal obligations, end complicity and take meaningful action to dismantle the structures of apartheid and occupation. International law must not remain rhetorical; it must be enforced.

Today, as we gather in Bogotá, Colombia, we recall the formation of The Hague Group, the first multilateral initiative of its kind since the genocide in Gaza began. In July 2025, 30 states from Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Europe convened an Emergency Ministerial Conference here in Bogotá, at the end of which The Hague Group members agreed on coordinated diplomatic, legal and economic measures to restrain Israel's violations against the Palestinian people and defend international law, a step we, as FIDH member organisations, welcome. We further call on other states to join the group and act in line with measures to be taken to end Israel's impunity.

As states work to reorganise themselves and develop strategies to combat injustice and impunity, we too, as members of the global human rights movement, must find ways to contribute to ending the historic oppression of the Palestinian people and upholding international law. The international community has consistently failed to take effective measures to hold Israel accountable for its grave human rights violations, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. It has also failed to address the root causes of the ongoing dispossession, displacement, domination, and persecution of the Palestinian people, failures that have contributed to deepening waves of genocidal colonial violence. This lack of enforcement of international law does not exist in isolation; it sets a dangerous precedent for oppressive regimes everywhere and reflects the failure, and in many cases the complicity, of numerous Third States.

The weapons and tactics tested on Palestinians will inevitably reach others. The tools of surveillance, suppression and mass violence will extend beyond Gaza and into our own societies. These measures will impact how we all live, how we see the world, and the kind of global order we accept. Dystopian realities such as starvation, the bombing of schools, hospitals and places of worship should never become normal. Not for Palestinians, and not for any people, anywhere.

We, the member organisations of the FIDH, affirm both the responsibility and the mutual accountability of the human rights movement to stand firmly for the principles of universalism and for the equal rights of all people to live in dignity, freedom and practice self-determination. FIDH member organisations assert the collective urgency to resist any attempts to weaken the international legal protections that safeguard these values. We call on all states, and persons of conscience, to do their utmost, including activating national mechanisms for accountability,

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to stop the suffering and unprecedented horrors that weaken and jeopardise our collective humanity and shared values.

Israel's settler-colonial apartheid and the Zionist project must not be allowed to proceed with its plans of Palestinian erasure.

Today, we affirm our collective stance against impunity, and stand united in the fight for a better world, a just world, where freedom is a right that belongs to everyone, without exception.