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**Human rights situation in Palestine and other
occupied Arab territories**

Joint written statement submitted by American Association of Jurists, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 August 2026]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli Continuing Crimes Must Be Stopped

1. The core message of HRC resolution 31/36

In adopting resolution 31/36 in April 2016, the Human Rights Council called upon Israel to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in particular article 49 thereof (prohibition of deportation/transfer of population from or to the occupied territory) and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all settlement activities in all the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Furthermore, the Human Rights Council demanded that Israel comply fully with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice (A/ES-10/273) on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Ten years ago, the Human Rights Council condemned the continuing settlement and related activities by Israel, including the expansion of settlements, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the confiscation and destruction of property, the expulsion and displacement of Palestinians, including entire communities and the construction of bypass roads, which change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories. It also condemned the construction of new housing units for Israeli settlers in the West Bank and around occupied East Jerusalem.

The Council called upon Israel to reverse the settlement policy in the occupied territories, to put an end to all of the human rights violations linked to the presence of settlements, to take immediate measures to prohibit and eradicate all policies and practices that discriminate against and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, to cease the requisition and all other forms of unlawful appropriation of Palestinian land, to end to all measures and policies resulting in the territorial fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory; to take and implement serious measures, including confiscation of arms and enforcement of criminal sanctions, with the aim of ensuring full accountability for and preventing all acts of violence by Israeli settlers; to halt all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment; and to cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

2. Israeli genocidal policy against the Palestinian people

Israel has consistently contested the analysis made by UN independent experts and bodies of the events that have taken place in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular the crimes committed by the Israeli army, the gravity and scale of which have led to the characterisation of a policy of genocide against the Palestinian people.

Israel never had any intention of complying with the decisions taken by UN bodies. On the contrary, it has threatened some of the experts and decided to boycott the work of the Human Rights Council.

2.1. Gaza Strip

Following the 7 October 2023 crimes and killings perpetrated by Hamas, according to UN data[1], as of 16 July 2026: more than 73,000 Palestinians have been killed (including more than 21,600 children and more than 33,000 women and girls), while thousands are still missing (many believed to still be buried under the rubble), more than 50,000 children are injured, 100,000 children under the age of ten are at risk of acute malnutrition, 660,000 children are deprived of their education, 92% of homes have been destroyed (1,4 people are displaced), 96% of agricultural land is now damaged and impossible to cultivate, more than 600 humanitarian personnel have been killed (including 400 UN personnel), and about 300 journalists have been killed (including 260 Palestinians).

According to UNRWA Situation Report #229 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied West Bank[2] drinking water was identified as the most pressing humanitarian concern, reported by 62% of households in the Gaza Strip. 86% of households reported barriers to accessing toilets and latrines, due to lack of water, privacy concerns, and poor cleanliness. Environmental health risks persist, with 52 per cent of households reporting sewage or sludge near shelters, and 43% reporting solid waste accumulation nearby.

Since the end of January 2025, all UNRWA international staff are prevented from entering the Occupied Palestinian Territory - the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This follows the implementation of laws passed by the Israeli parliament on 28 October 2024 to prohibit UNRWA's operations in areas that Israel considers its sovereign territory, including occupied East Jerusalem, and seek to bar any contact by Israeli officials with UNRWA. Since March 2025, the Israeli authorities have been blocking UNRWA from directly bringing humanitarian personnel and aid into the Gaza Strip.

Since the beginning of the war and up to 6 July, 982 incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported. 312 (or nearly all) UNRWA installations have been impacted by armed conflict-related incidents, some of them multiple times.

Despite the ceasefire agreed between Hamas and Israel in October 2025, military operations are still ongoing in the Gaza Strip. It is estimated that more than a thousand people have been killed (on average, one Palestinian child is killed every day) since then; hundreds of people are continuously forcibly displaced. Israeli authorities have recently declared that the occupation forces are not ready to leave the territory, of which it controls 64 per cent.

2.2. West Bank

Israeli colonisation of the West Bank is a strategic tool, developed with different styles by successive Israeli governments, aimed at impeding the geographical continuity of a Palestinian State and establishing control over vital passages in connexion with military zones, as well as water sources.

Settlements established independently by extremist right-wing colonists have been subsequently integrated in the general colonial scheme and protected by the Israeli Occupation Forces. In recent times, several settlements have been established this way, raising the question of whether, ultimately, this *modus operandi* is in fact a new technique for occupying the territory and gradually altering its demographic structure.

In 2025, the Israeli government accelerated its settlement project in the Occupied Palestinian Territory by advancing plans and policies that will deepen territorial transformation unprecedentedly. These developments suggest an acceleration of settlement activity and moves towards annexation. The most flagrant expression of this acceleration was the government's official approval of plans to establish 54 new official settlements in the West Bank; the highest number ever recorded in a single year. In parallel, 86 new outposts were erected throughout the year. The expansion of settlements was accompanied by increased levels of settler violence. UN OCHA documented 1,828 settler attacks resulting in casualties or property damage across approximately 280 communities in 2025. Nine Palestinians were killed by settlers and 838 were injured — an average of two per day.[3]

Conclusions

Israel's attitude towards the United Nations system as a whole (staff, bodies, and independent experts) is cause for particular concern. The threats made and sanctions taken against individuals entrusted with specific UN mandates, call for a firm response from the international community.

Israel's genocidal policy towards the Palestinian people and its colonialist policy within Palestinian territory and beyond must be brought to an end by all means available to the international community.

War crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocidal acts committed by Israel cannot remain unpunished. States supporting such crimes and acts must be held accountable.

Recommendations

- (a) All States must stop all military assistance and supplies to, and cooperation with Israel.
- (b) All States should implement disinvestment and effective sanctions' regimes towards Israel and its political and military rulers.
- (c) All States should impede national companies or corporations to supply Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Occupied territory and impose sanctions to those that continue to support the Israeli colonisation policy.
- (d) All States that have ratified the Rome Statute must proceed with the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court in relation to the war in Gaza.
- (e) All States must take the appropriate measures to ensure that the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 is respected by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and beyond and must take all appropriate measures to prevent any further genocidal acts.
- (f) Pursuant to Article 5 of the Charter, the UN General Assembly should impose to Israel a suspension from the exercise of the rights and privileges of its UN membership.
- (g) A UN-led military force should be deployed in all territories occupied by Israel to freeze the expansion of such occupation and protect the civilian population.

[1] <https://unric.org/fr/onu-et-la-crise-au-proche-orient-gaza/>

[2] <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-229-humanitarian-crisis-gaza-strip-and-occupied-west-bank>

[3] European Union, Office of the European Union Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA), 2025 Report on Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem (https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/2025-report-israeli-settlements-occupied-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem-reporting-period-january_en?s=206)