



مرکز حقوق کیفری بین المللی ایران
Iranian Center for
International Criminal Law

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20 October 2023

Mr. Karim A. A. Khan QC
Office of the Prosecutor
International Criminal Court
Post Office Box 19519
2500 CM The Hague
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**Call for Urgent Action and Expediting Investigation into Serious Crimes against
the Palestinians**

Dear Prosecutor Khan,

We, the Iranian Center for International Criminal Law (ICICL), are writing to you today with a deep sense of urgency and concern regarding the most heinous and unimaginable crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. As a non-governmental organization dedicated to the advancement of international criminal justice and the promotion of a just peace, we believe it is crucial for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to expedite its investigation into the crimes committed against the Palestinians in the context of the recent armed conflict in Gaza.

The current conflict has resulted in a dire humanitarian crisis. The situation in Palestine continues to witness severe human rights abuses and grave violations of international humanitarian law, including unlawful killings, forced displacement and transfer of civilians, destruction of civilian infrastructure, intentional attacks against civilians, particularly children and women, disproportionate use of force, the bombardment of



densely civilian populated areas, hospitals and schools, and the use of starvation as a means of warfare. These criminal actions, committed in furtherance of the Israel's policy to target and persecute the people of Gaza, constitute the most serious international crimes, manifestly within the jurisdiction of the Court and admissible given their unique gravity, as they have caused immense suffering to the Palestinian population, resulting in loss of life, physical and psychological trauma, and a denial of their fundamental rights. The blockade imposed on Gaza has further exacerbated the situation, severely limiting access to essential services, including healthcare and electricity. The people of Gaza are living in constant fear and anguish, with limited means to protect themselves or seek refuge.

ICICL acknowledges the ongoing investigation by the ICC into the situation in Palestine. However, we are deeply concerned about the slow progress and lack of tangible results thus far. Justice delayed is justice denied. The gravity of the alleged crimes demands a swift prosecution that upholds the principles of justice and accountability. Moreover, we note with concern that the Office of the Prosecutor has abstained from issuing a preventive statement regarding the situation in Palestine. Failure to issue a preventive statement would send a message to the criminals and the international community and exacerbates the sense of impunity, undermining the legitimacy of the ICC's mission. Given the alarming number of human rights violations and the urgent need for accountability, we believe that a preventive statement would serve as a powerful tool to deter further violations and send a clear message that the international community will not tolerate impunity.

We, therefore, respectfully urge you, Mr. Prosecutor, to expedite the investigation into the crimes against Palestinians and take all necessary measures to ensure that justice is served and to take every possible preventive actions within OTP's power to deter further atrocities in Gaza until such investigations are completed. The ICC's mandate to investigate and prosecute the most serious crimes under international law entails a responsibility to act swiftly and decisively. By doing so, the ICC can fulfill its role as a beacon of justice and contribute to ending the cycle of violence and impunity that has persisted for far too long in the region. It is essential to hold accountable those responsible for the violation of international humanitarian law, regardless of their position. This step is not only necessary for justice to prevail but also for the restoration of hope and trust among the affected people in Palestine and Gaza.




Additionally, we respectfully call upon the Office of the Prosecutor to consider issuing a preventive statement regarding the situation in Palestine. Such a statement would reaffirm the ICC's commitment to the protection of human rights and send a strong message to all parties involved that the international community is closely monitoring the situation and will not tolerate further violations. Victims in Gaza deserve justice, which will not be achieved in the silence of international organizations, including the ICC.

We stand ready to provide any assistance and support necessary to facilitate the investigation process. The ICICL, with its expertise and network, is committed to working collaboratively with your Office to ensure the thorough and effective pursuit of justice for the Palestinian people. We also urge the international community and relevant stakeholders to support your Office's efforts and provide all necessary assistance, including financial contributions, to facilitate a fair and expeditious process.

In conclusion, we reiterate our urgent request from the Office of the Prosecutor to take further action and expedite its investigation into the crimes committed against Palestinians. You played a crucial role in expediting the investigation into the Ukraine situation, which led to the issuance of arrest warrants against high-profile individuals allegedly responsible for war crimes. We request that the same level of urgency and commitment be applied to the situation in Palestine, in the hope of holding senior officials of Israel accountable for international crimes. By doing so, the ICC can demonstrate its commitment to upholding the principles of international justice and its dedication to effectively addressing international crimes in Palestine and paves the way for a just and lasting peace in the region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly await your response and the decisive action that will bring us closer to a more just world.

Sincerely,

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