



CAPE TOWN OFFICE

Block D, Ground Floor, Aintree Office Park,
cnr Doncaster & Loch Roads,
Kenilworth, Cape Town, 7708

Tel: +27 21 879 2398
Fax: +27 21 423 0935

info@lrc.org.za

To: Ambassador Mathu Joyini (UN Permanent Mission of South Africa in New York and Geneva), Dr Naledi Pandor (Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa), Ambassador Fatima Kyari Mohammed (Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations).

Subject: The Legal Resources Centre calls on States to respect human rights and humanitarian law: UN action on Israel & oPt

Excellencies,

Ahead of the 10th emergency special session of the UN General Assembly under the resolution 377A(V), “Uniting for Peace” scheduled on Thursday 26th October 2023 at 10 AM EST, where States will meet to discuss the human rights and humanitarian crisis in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory particularly the Gaza Strip, The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) makes eleven key calls to protect civilians and address root causes of the violence and conflict.

LRC urges you to raise these calls in your governments delegations’ statements. At this watershed moment in the UN, we urge your governments to stand for the upholding of the integrity of the UN human rights system as [civil society](#) and UN experts ring the alarm of the [risk of genocide against the Palestinian People](#).

LRC considers that all situations should be dealt with on their merits through the consistent and principled application of objective criteria that treat respect for human rights and humanitarian law and principles as paramount.

Applying these criteria to the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly the Gaza Strip, and as the UN General Assembly meet to discuss the situation, LRC calls for:

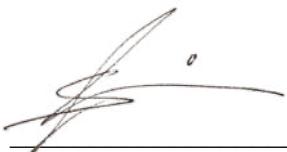
1. All States to implement their duty to [prevent genocide](#) and protect civilian populations from genocide;
2. An [immediate ceasefire](#), including but not limited to a cessation of all attacks that target or indiscriminately affect [civilians and civilian infrastructure](#);
3. Unimpeded access to fuel and humanitarian aid to all areas in Gaza, including medical supplies, and the immediate restoration of access to food, water, electricity and other essential needs, to alleviate the [humanitarian crisis](#);
4. An end to the 16-year-old illegal siege and closure of the Gaza Strip, which constitutes collective punishment;
5. The immediate and unconditional release of all persons deprived of liberty without due process, enabling them to return to their families – including through the assistance of neutral intermediaries such as the ICRC, who have been offering their support through traditional channels and publicly on social media;
6. The protection of human rights defenders, journalists and humanitarian workers;
7. Investigation and steps towards accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other grave violations and abuses committed by both State and non-State actors;
8. Concrete steps to address the [root causes of violations and abuses](#) and the ongoing Israeli military aggression, including through reaffirming the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and return, and calling for an end to, and accountability for, Israeli policies and practices of apartheid and settler colonialism;

9. An immediate cessation by third States of the provision of military equipment and aid that may foreseeably be used in the commission of war crimes or otherwise contrary to international humanitarian law;
10. Clear and unequivocal calls by third States for respect for human rights and humanitarian law, denunciation of all war crimes and crimes against humanity without discrimination, and cessation of statements that may be interpreted as supporting the use of force contrary to international law; and
11. Action by the UN Security Council to implement sanctions and other countermeasures until Israel adheres to its obligations under international law.

For further information, please find [here](#) a collation of human rights and humanitarian responses published to date.

LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE

Per:



SHERYLLE DASS

Regional Director

Legal Resources Centre