INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL ON PALESTINE

Barcelona, Catalonia

THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE,

Complainant,

-versus-

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, MEMBERS OF THE ISRAEL SECURITY CABINET, ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES,

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, FORMER PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN, THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, US SECURITY OFFICIALS,

UNITED KINGDOM PRIME MINISTER KEIR STARMER AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER RISHI SUNAK,

GERMAN PRESIDENT FRANK-WELTER STEINMEIER, FORMER CHANCELLOR OLAF SCHOLZ, AND CHANCELLOR JOACHIM-FRIEDRICH MARTIN JOSEF MERZ, and

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER GABRIEL ATTAL.

Defendants.

X- -X

For:

International Crimes of Genocide, Ecocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity Resulting from Grave Violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law

VERDICT

THE TRIBUNAL, consisting of jurors

- Abdessalam Kleiche, (France)
- Bouchra Khalil, (Lebanon)
- Ceren Uysal, (Turkey) – Presiding Juror
- David Minoves, (Catalonia)
- Iratxe Urizar, (Basque Country)
- Joris Vercammen, (The Netherlands)
- and
- Sagari Ramdas, (India)

after careful deliberation, delivers the following Verdict:

I. INTRODUCTION – NATURE AND LIMITS OF THIS DECISION

The International People's Tribunal on Palestine convened in Barcelona, Catalonia, to hear allegations concerning grave violations of international humanitarian law arising in the context of the ongoing genocide, ecocide and acts of starvation on the Palestinian people.

This document represents the Tribunal's *short-form findings*, delivered in advance of a longer, fully reasoned judgment to be published in due course.

In preparing this short-form decision, the Tribunal emphasizes that its mandate is the determination of material truth in circumstances where traditional judicial mechanisms have failed to function, or have been structurally prevented from doing so.

As an *ad hoc* people's tribunal, this body operates in a long tradition of international civil society initiatives that emerged specifically to address accountability gaps resulting from political paralysis within formal international institutions.

While the charges set out in the Indictment concern acts amounting to Genocide, Ecocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity, the Tribunal recognizes that this short-form decision cannot exhaustively address every factual and legal question raised over the two days of hearings. Rather, it presents the essential findings necessary to frame the forthcoming full judgment and to articulate the Tribunal's preliminary conclusions.

The Tribunal also acknowledges:

- that official international mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court and relevant United Nations organs, have been hindered by political obstruction, selective enforcement, and structural limitations;
- that such failures have allowed two years of continuous mass violence, streamlined genocide and large-scale environmental destruction to unfold without an effective legal response; and
- that, in this vacuum, the role of an *ad hoc* people's tribunal is precisely to establish the record, clarify the applicable legal standards, and articulate accountability where formal systems have been unable or unwilling to do so.

Finally, the Tribunal affirms that its short-form findings rely not only on the evidence presented during the hearings, but also on facts of common knowledge and publicly documented material of high reliability, consistent with international judicial practice in situations involving mass atrocities and widespread destruction.

II. THE SUMMARY OF INDICTMENT

The Indictment[1], brought by the People of Palestine against Israeli political and military leaders and the heads of several Western states, alleges that Israel, with the indispensable support of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, has committed Genocide and Ecocide through the intentional destruction of the natural environment, the deliberate inducement of famine, and the systematic targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The prosecution asserts that these acts—*including the devastation of agricultural land, water systems, food production facilities, and natural resources indispensable to life*—amount to gross violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as violations of the Genocide Convention, the Rome Statute, and customary international law.

The Indictment further contends that the long-standing military occupation and apartheid system imposed by Israel has been reinforced by the political, military, and economic involvement of its Western allies, thereby creating the conditions for mass starvation, ecocide, enforced displacement, and the destruction of cultural heritage.

It details acts such as the decimation of over 98 percent of Gaza's agricultural sector, the killing of nearly all livestock, the contamination of soil and water with toxic munitions, the destruction of wells, orchards, agricultural food infrastructure and fishing plans and greenhouses, and the imposition of a total blockade denying food, water, fuel, and medicine.

These acts are alleged to constitute a coordinated campaign to annihilate the Palestinian people by destroying both their means of survival and the ecological foundations of life itself, amounting to genocide, ecocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

III. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The Tribunal convened in Barcelona, Catalonia, over two consecutive days (22- 23 November 2025) to hear testimony and receive evidence submitted by the Prosecution. The Tribunal heard thirteen witnesses presenting emblematic cases evidencing the crimes of Genocide and Ecocide, together with three expert witnesses; all sixteen appeared before the Tribunal either in person, via videoconferencing, or by sworn written statements. Their testimonies were supported by documentary materials, satellite imagery, audiovisual evidence, and expert reports.[2]

While the Tribunal acknowledges that this short-form decision cannot reproduce all evidence presented across the two days of hearings, it affirms that the testimony of these sixteen witnesses forms a coherent and mutually reinforcing evidentiary record.

Each witness offered direct insight into crimes alleged in the indictment, and when read together, their testimonies provide consistent, credible, and corroborated accounts of both the scale of destruction and the nature of the policies underlying it.

IV. THE EVIDENTIARY FRAMEWORK

The Tribunal's evidentiary assessment is guided by the nature of the crimes alleged—Genocide and Ecocide, including forced starvation and famine —all of which involve large-scale destruction, dispersed forms of violence, and complex interrelated acts extending across vast geographical areas and time periods. In circumstances such as these, perfect or comprehensive documentation is neither possible nor required under international law.

As emphasized by expert /resource person Raji Sourani, the sheer scale of destruction in Gaza renders the full documentation of every incident practically impossible. Entire neighbourhoods, food systems, water infrastructure, and ecological zones were eradicated within days or weeks, leaving behind physical conditions in which evidence is often buried, incinerated, or inaccessible. This challenge is inherent to mass atrocities, and the Tribunal notes that international courts have long relied on partial, reconstructed, or pattern-based evidence where the magnitude of violence precludes exhaustive documentation.

Furthermore, the same expert underscored that the genocide on Gaza was "streamlined," integrated, and centrally directed—a characterization later reinforced by expert testimony and documentary submissions. Such evidence aligns with indicators of state policy, coordination, and continuity of operations, all of which are relevant to findings of genocide, crimes against humanity, and ecocide.

In assessing the totality of the evidence, the Tribunal adopts the internationally recognized principle that courts may take judicial notice of facts of common knowledge.
This includes:

- widespread and publicly documented destruction visible through open-source satellite imagery,
- casualty figures consistently reported by UN agencies and humanitarian organizations,
- the well-established facts of the blockade, starvation, enforced displacement and denial of humanitarian access,
- and repeated public statements by political and military officials demonstrating awareness, intent, or foreseeability.

The Tribunal's evidentiary approach therefore integrates:

- the live and written testimony of thirteen witnesses and three experts;
- expert analyses supported by scientific or technical data;
- documentary evidence including reports, photographs, and satellite images;
- and facts widely known and independently corroborated by reliable international human rights organisations and bodies.

Taken together, these sources form a coherent, mutually reinforcing evidentiary matrix, sufficient to support findings on the crimes alleged in the Indictment.

V. COLONIAL FRAMEWORK, APARTHEID, AND INTERNATIONAL COMPLICITY

From the evidence presented and from the historical record widely recognized in authoritative international sources, the Tribunal situates the present crimes within the broader architecture of a settler-colonial project established in Palestine over the past century.

The foundational Zionist narrative—crafted to justify the seizure of land, the dispossession of its inhabitants, and the permanent subjugation of an indigenous people—has consistently served to legitimize policies of demographic engineering, territorial fragmentation, and the erasure of Palestinian identity and history. This narrative is not merely ideological; it has functioned as an operational framework for state practice, shaping decades of systematic violence, displacement, and domination.

The Tribunal therefore takes judicial notice of these historical and structural conditions as forming part of the factual context necessary to understand the crimes alleged in this case.

Together with the historical facts, the evidence before the Tribunal confirm what the International Court of Justice has recently reaffirmed: the Palestinian people have lived for generations under a regime of apartheid, marked by differential legal systems, segregation, movement restrictions, expropriation of land and resources, and the denial of political, civil, and economic rights.

These structures are not incidental. They are the mechanisms through which long-term domination and fragmentation of an entire people have been achieved.
Such systemic domination and racial segregation form the contextual backdrop against which genocidal policies can be planned, implemented, and concealed within the bureaucracy of occupation.

Furthermore, the Tribunal recognizes that the prolonged occupation and violent repression inflicted upon the Palestinian people could not have been sustained without extensive international collaboration, particularly from the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

For decades—and with renewed intensity in the past two years—these states have supplied critical weapons systems, financial support, and political and diplomatic protection. This assistance has enabled the continuation of military operations, shielded perpetrators from accountability, and neutralized attempts within the United Nations system to halt the violence.

These acts and omissions amount to forms of complicity that materially contributed to creating the conditions in which genocidal and ecocidal practices could occur unchecked.

The Tribunal notes with particular concern that political vetoes, deliberate obstruction, and selective enforcement by imperialist states have rendered key international mechanisms—ICC, UNSC, and other UN bodies—unable to perform their mandates. This systemic paralysis has not

only emboldened the perpetrators but also entrenched a global double standard regarding whose lives are protected under international law.

In this context, the crimes alleged in the Indictment did not arise in a vacuum; they emerged from a long-standing matrix of domination, racial segregation, land dispossession, and international endorsement.

The Tribunal therefore recognizes that the genocidal, ecocidal and acts of starvation examined in this decision are inseparable from the broader political, military, and ideological structures that have shaped the lived reality of the Palestinian people for decades.

Accordingly, this contextual background forms an integral part of the Tribunal's assessment of intent, pattern, and foreseeability in the genocide and ecocide findings that follow.

VI. FINDINGS ON GENOCIDE

Applicable Legal Standard

The Tribunal recalls that genocide essentially consists of any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group:

- killing members of the group;
- causing serious bodily or mental harm;
- deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction;
- imposing measures intended to prevent births;
- forcibly transferring populations, particularly children.

These acts are covered under Article II of the 1948 Genocide Convention and Article 6 of the Rome Statute.

The Tribunal also notes that intent (*dolus specialis*) may be inferred from patterns of conduct, the scale and systematic character of the attacks, and the foreseeable consequences of state policy.

Background Pattern: Systematic and Prolonged Destruction

The evidence presented, together with widely known and independently verified facts, shows that Israel has pursued a long-standing system of racial domination and apartheid over the Palestinian people. This system manifested in segregation, movement restrictions, denial of medical treatment, seizure of land, destruction of civilian property, and the recurring bombardment of Gaza's civilian population.

This longstanding structure forms the context in which genocidal acts escalated after October 2023, and serves as a material indicator of intent: the destruction of Gaza's population occurs within a larger state policy aimed at fragmenting, displacing, and erasing the Palestinian people as a coherent group.

Killing Members of the Group

Throughout the proceedings, the Tribunal received credible and mutually reinforcing evidence of deliberate, widespread, and systematic killing of Palestinians, including entire families wiped out in single strikes.

A witness testified that:

> *"People were torn into pieces in the streets; shells rained down on our tents without warning. My son, age 13, was shot in the head. My daughter, age 12, was struck by shrapnel from a guided bomb."*

Another witness reported:

> *"Three hundred and eighty members of my extended family were killed, and every home and farm belonging to us was destroyed."*

The conduct by the Israeli government has been ongoing since the foundation of the Israeli state and these acts of killing have occurred both in Gaza and the West Bank. In the West Bank over 1,648 people, including 468 kids were killed between 2005 and 2023[3]. In the past two years alone, over 1,000 Palestinians including 213 children have been killed in the West Bank[4].

The Tribunal finds that Israeli forces intentionally targeted civilians in homes, shelters, UNRWA schools, farms, seas, fishing boats, displacement camps, hospitals, aid distribution points and other public spaces. These killings meet Article II(a) of the Genocide Convention.

Causing Serious Bodily and Mental Harm

Testimonies described the severe trauma, mutilation, repeated displacement, and psychological terror inflicted on survivors. Women and children were especially harmed through the collapse of medical services, the absence of reproductive care, and the constant exposure to bombardment. Hunger and the lack of food is also causing bodily and mental trauma which results to physiological imbalance._For children, hunger and starvation stunts mental and physical growth, among others. Starvation also induces infertility in women and impacts the viability of pregnancies.

One witness stated:

> *"Death, killing, and bombing have continued unabated for two years. There is no safe place in Gaza."*

Another described:

> *"Hospitals—Al-Shifa, Al-Nasr Children's Hospital, Kamal Adwan—were targeted, leaving the wounded without treatment and mothers giving birth in life-threatening conditions."*

Gaza now has the highest per-capita rate of child amputees in the world, with estimates reaching up to 4,000 children[5], with many undergoing surgeries with no anaesthesia. This builds

on the epidemic of traumatic injuries that was prevalent in Gaza pre-genocide, where one in five families had at least one person with disabilities[6].

In the West Bank, Palestinians have also faced escalating bodily and mental harm through intensified arrests, settler violence, destruction of livelihoods, and restriction of movement. Since 1967, more than 800,000 Palestinians have been detained in Israeli prisons[7]. As of September 2025, The Israeli government has also arbitrarily detained and imprisoned over 11,100 people[8]. Palestinians have been subject to rape, torture and extremely cruel circumstances while under Israeli custody. As of today's date, over 3,577 Palestinians remain in Israeli prisons, they are being held under "administrative detention" meaning without any charge, and there are many reports on the severe bodily and mental harm of the prison population as well as the population as a whole as a result of this culture.

These testimonies and the supportive evidence satisfy Article II(b)of the 1948 Genocide Convention

Deliberately Inflicting Conditions of Life Calculated to Bring About Destruction

The evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that Israel imposed conditions of life incompatible with survival, including:

- total electricity shutdown;
- destruction of energy infrastructure, water plants, wells, desalination facilities; and sewage treatment systems
- destruction of agricultural, animal and poultry sectors, industrial, and fishery sectors;
- systematic obstruction of food, fuel, medicine, and baby formula;
- denial of humanitarian access;
- bombardment of hospitals, schools, universities, churches, mosques, shelters, camps, and remaining habitable areas; and
- Increased risk of epidemics.

A witness described:

> *"Since October 7th, electricity has been completely cut off. Water no longer reaches buildings, sewage cannot be disposed of, and all aspects of life have stopped."*

A human rights lawyer testified:

> *"Food, medicine, water, and fuel were deliberately blocked; aid workers and humanitarian convoys were targeted as part of a systematic starvation policy."*

The Flotilla witness confirmed the intentional nature of the starvation:

> *"We were intercepted at night before reaching Palestinian waters. Equipment was destroyed, communication cut, volunteers assaulted. The aid did not reach Gaza. The blockade and starvation continued."*

The Tribunal concludes that these measures constitute deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the Palestinian people, in whole or in part, under Article II(c).

Intent to Destroy (*Dolus Specialis*)

Intent can be inferred where the pattern of conduct is:

- systematic,
- targeted against the group as such,
- foreseeably lethal, and
- implemented through state policy.

The Tribunal finds, among other things, that:

- The scale of killing, multiple forced displacement, and destruction was not incidental but planned and coordinated, as evidenced by the encirclement of civilian populations, repeated attacks on evacuation sites, and elimination of survival infrastructure.
- Starvation, siege, and deprivation were not military necessities but *deliberate policy choices*.
- The repeated targeting of journalists, humanitarian workers, and civil institutions indicates a parallel intent:
  to silence witnesses, erase evidence, and ensure that the destruction remains unrecorded.
- The destruction of homes, schools, archives, inherited properties, family farms, and community institutions reveals an intent not only to kill Palestinians, but to erase their lineage, identity, and memory.

One witness summarized this reality:

> *"They destroyed our history and memories. Everything our family built was erased."*

This constellation of acts and patterns demonstrates—beyond any reasonable doubt—that the intent to destroy the Palestinian people, in whole or in substantial part, is present.

Conclusion on Genocide

Applying the definition of genocide to the established facts, the Tribunal finds that the Defendants committed genocide against the Palestinian people through, among others:

- killing members of the group;
- causing serious bodily and mental harm;

- inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about their destruction;
- preventing births by collapsing healthcare and reproductive services.

The Tribunal therefore holds the Defendants guilty of the crime of genocide under Article II of the Genocide Convention and Article 6 of the Rome Statute.

VII. FINDINGS ON ECOCIDE

Legal Approach: Ecocide vs. Environmental Damage

The Tribunal distinguishes between ordinary environmental damage—even when severe—and Ecocide, which consists of widespread, long-term, and severe destruction of the *environment*, carried out with knowledge that such destruction will render life impossible for the affected civilian population. Ecocide does not require proof of a separate intention to harm nature for its own sake. As expert witness Dr. Omar Nashabe testified:

> *"Intent does not require wishing for environmental harm, only knowing it would occur, and proceeding anyway."*

In this sense, Ecocide is both a stand-alone wrong and a method that amplifies genocide: destroying the environment destroys human life by eliminating the material conditions required for survival.

Widespread, Long-Term, and Severe Damage

The evidence demonstrates that Gaza has undergone environmental devastation on a scale unprecedented in contemporary conflicts.

The Tribunal finds that Israel systematically destroyed the ecological foundations of Palestinian life including: water systems, biodiversity (flora and fauna) of land and sea, and the coasts.

i. Destruction of water systems and soil

The Tribunal heard testimony of how the use of toxic herbicides and industrial pollution dumped in areas across the West Bank and on the periphery of Gaza for many years has leaked toxins into the soil. Moreover, toxins leaked into the soil in both Gaza from exploded and unexploded ordnances, including radioactive materials and white phosphorus[9] (the use of which is unlawful in populated areas[10]) from routine bombing campaigns, impact humans[11] as well as the environment and will continue to do so for generations to come. Israel's land and air attacks have also damaged and/or destroyed numerous solar panels and other industrial objects; after October 7, 2023, more than 70% of sewage pumps and all five wastewater treatment plants have been directly targeted or collapsed. Untreated sewage - over 120,000 m^3 per day - flows directly into soil and the sea, compounding the disastrous public health and sanitation situation (including, without limitation, the health of marine life and the soil) for generations to come. The bombing also created approximately 61 million tonnes of rubble now covering Gaza, an estimated 15% contaminated with toxic materials such as asbestos and heavy metals. Out of

necessity and lack of alternatives, approximately 225 makeshift waste disposal sites have been created across Gaza, destroying local ecosystems and also leading to the proliferation of rodents, disease and insects.[12] Witness M.M described the scale succinctly:

> *"One hundred thousand tons of explosives—equivalent to nine nuclear bombs—were dropped on Gaza. Every environmental sector was shattered."*

Moreover, the Israeli military destroyed soil integrity with use of military vehicles and attempted to flood hundreds of miles of tunnels underneath Gaza after October 7, 2023 with seawater and hazardous compounds, which could contaminate the groundwater underneath and have long term disastrous impacts on the soil. All of these render the land "unlivable" by preventing plants from growing and destroying the biodiversity, potentially leading to permanent desertification, and moreover rendering any crops that can grow toxic and unfit for human and animal consumption.

These actions are mirrored in the West Bank - over 13,000 structures have been destroyed since 2009 (more than 1,750 in 2025) and over 100 related water structures have been destroyed since 2023.

ii. Destruction of biodiversity and ecosystems

Israeli attacks in Gaza post October 7 are responsible for the destruction of more than 95% of shrubland and 97% of all trees in Gaza (including fruit bearing trees).[13] In addition to feeding humans, trees are integral for a healthy environment, including rich biodiversity because they serve as habitats for other plants and animals, prevent desertification, and purify the air. Coupled with the amount of dust, debris and chemical releases from explosions as well as fires burned due to the lack of access to adequate fuel sources, the air quality in Gaza is likely to have been severely lowered, impacting human health and the health of the environment.[14]

The Wadi Gaza wetlands in southern Gaza were the only source of freshwater in Gaza and also an important refuge for migratory birds and other wildlife, serving as an important stopover for species between Africa, Europe and Asia.[15] The Israeli government dammed this area before October 7, restricting the flow of water; despite this, there was extensive effort to conserve the area and maintain its rich biodiversity.[16] Because of Israeli attacks and the displacement of Palestinians leading to improper waste disposal, it was estimated that 50% of the ecosystem there was destroyed as of June 2024.[17]

The Mawasi, a narrow strip of sand dunes, was also rich in wildlife before October 7. Palestinians were displaced to this area by orders of the Israeli military and the area was subsequently targeted by Israeli bombs; satellite imagery shows a total loss of trees in the area, which were replaced by craters from bombardments.[18]

Satellite images presented by Dr. Nashabe showed that neighborhoods historically defined by vegetation—such as Beit Hanoon and Al-Zeyroon—are now barren wastelands.

In the West Bank , the routine burning and theft of trees has led to loss of livelihood for the communities inhabiting these areas as well as destruction of biodiversity and soil degradation. Moreover, the diversion of water, over 80% of water in the West Bank, means that there is not enough water to sustain life for the communities and can potentially lead to desertification, impacting generations to come.

iii. Destruction of Regional and Global Environment

In addition to the catastrophic impact on the ground in Palestine, Israeli actions have disastrous impacts on the regional environment as well as globally. By the direct and indirect impacts of its catastrophic bombing campaigns (including destroying Gaza's wastewater treatment plants, and the proliferation of inadequately treated sewage and improper waste disposal exacerbated by the forced displacement of people, as well as contaminating the land and sea with toxins from the bombs themselves), Israel has threatened the local environment as well as Mediterranean marine environment and coastal region, violating its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and Barcelona Convention.[19] Moreover, the leaking of transboundary hazardous wastes runs counter to the protections afforded in the Basel Convention; albeit it has a carve out for leaks during hostilities and war, the prohibitions indicate the inconsistencies with international law and that Israel should be held responsible for the consequences.

Moreover, Israel has violated its obligations to lower its carbon footprint pursuant to the Paris Agreement. The carbon emissions just from the bombing campaign in the first 60 days after October 7, 2023 alone was close to 300,000 tons of carbon dioxide and equal to the annual emissions of between 20 and 33 low-emitting countries.[20] This estimate does not even include the cost of extracting the fuel required for Israeli military attacks nor emissions from the supply chain outside of weapons transportation - if they were, the true estimate of carbon emissions would be five to eight times larger than the 300,000 tons estimated.[21] Moreover the removal of the 40 million tons[22] of rubble containing human remains, asbestos and other hazardous materials, and unexploded ordnances, let alone rebuilding Gaza, will require even more carbon emissions. It is estimated that reconstructing Gaza will generate nearly 60 million tons of carbon dioxide, which would make it higher than the annual emissions of over 135 countries (if done in one year) [23] This highlights how destructive Israel is, not just against Palestine but against the whole world, and, therefore is leading to world destruction.

iv. Knowledge and Intent

Intent for ecocide may be inferred from:

- the *foreseeability* of catastrophic environmental collapse;
- the *systematic nature* of the destruction;
- *public declarations* by Israeli officials expressing intent to deprive Gaza of food, water, and fuel;
- the *persistence* of such destruction over two years;
- the targeting of ecosystems essential for human survival.

Statements by senior Israeli officials show not only political authorization but intent to employ environmental destruction as a tool of war. On 12 October 2023, Israeli army reservist Major General, former head of the Israeli National Security Council, and adviser to the Defence Minister said "Gaza will become a place where no human being can exist." and "[C]reate such a huge pressure on Gaza, that Gaza will become an area where people cannot live. People cannot live, until Hamas is destroyed, which means that Israel not only stops to supply energy, diesel, water, food . . . as we did in the last 20 years . . . but we should prevent any possible assistance by others, and to create in Gaza such a terrible, unbearable situation, that can last weeks and months". On 28 October 2023, Lieutenant Colonel Gilad Kinan, head of the Israeli army's Air Operations Group, described the Air Force as "work[ing] together with all the bodies in the IDF when the goal is clear — to destroy everything that has been touched by the hand of Hamas". On 4 November 2023 Colonel Erez Eshel (Reserve), commented that: "Vengeance is a great value. There is vengeance over what they did to us . . . This place will be a fallow land. They will not be able to live here".

These policies were carried out with full awareness that the result would be widespread, long-term and extensive damage to the environment and the long-term uninhabitability of Gaza.

As expert M.M stated:

> *"The objective is to make Gaza uninhabitable for humans from an environmental standpoint."*

The Tribunal finds that the environmental destruction was not a side effect of military operations, but part of a coordinated strategy to collapse Gaza's life-supporting systems.

v. Ecocide as War Crime, Crime Against Humanity, and a Stand-Alone Wrong

Under Article 35(3) and Article 55 of Additional Protocol I of the Fourth Geneva Convention, methods of warfare causing widespread, long-term, and severe environmental damage are prohibited. The Rome Statute criminalizes attacks causing excessive damage to the natural environment in relation to anticipated military advantage.

However, the scale of destruction in Gaza exceeds even these thresholds. The devastation is: widespread (covering the entirety of Gaza's ecosystem), long-term (projected to last decades or generations), and severe (obliterating agriculture, water systems, soil, biodiversity, and air quality).

Moreover, evidence shows that environmental destruction was predictable, intentional, and strategically used to inflict conditions of life incompatible with survival. This elevates the conduct from environmental war damage to Ecocide—a crime the Tribunal recognizes as part of evolving international law and as an aggravating component of crimes against humanity.

vi. Conclusion on Ecocide

On the basis of extensive expert testimony, satellite evidence, witness accounts, UN reports, and scientific analyses, the Tribunal finds that:

- Israeli forces caused widespread, long-term, and severe environmental destruction in Gaza;
- This destruction was deliberate or carried out with knowledge of its inevitable consequences;
- The ecological devastation was used as a method to starve, displace, and ultimately destroy the Palestinian people;
- Gaza has been rendered, in the words of one witness, *"an environment no longer suitable for human life."*

The Tribunal therefore holds the Defendants guilty of Ecocide, amounting to War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and a stand-alone crime of exceptional gravity.

VIII. FINDINGS ON STARVATION

1. Legal Approach

Under the Rome Statute, it is a war crime to intentionally use starvation of civilians as a method of warfare whether depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival or by wilfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under the Geneva Conventions. Scholars argue that depending on the severity of the starvation conditions, this could be heightened to a crime against humanity or even genocide.[24] In enabled defiance of IHL and international customary law , the occupation has been enabled to curate "the fastest starvation campaign documented in modern history"[25] through its longstanding use of weaponization of starvation as a means of accelerating and finalising the Israeli settler colonial project of erasing and replacing the indigenous Palestinian population. Accordingly, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) declaration of an entirely man-made famine that took hold in Gaza in August 2025, having killed 459, including 154 children, by October 2025[26], must be approached in relation to this trajectory.

2. Deprivation of Objects Indispensable to Survival

The Tribunal finds substantial and consistent evidence that the Palestinian people have been systematically deprived of objects indispensable to their survival.

Historical records show that tactics has been extensively recorded under the British Mandate as a means of collective torture, siege of villages and starvation deployed as torture tactic[27]. These same tactics of siege were intensified during the Nakba, where death squads systematically destroyed and pillaged Palestinian agro-ecosystems.

In 2007, the Israeli occupation imposed a blockade on Gaza restricting many types of imports into Gaza, preventing access to land and sea, and attacking Gaza's water and food production

infrastructure. The restriction of objects was dictated by the "Red Lines" document devised by the Israeli government which calculated the minimum caloric intake needed to keep food levels for Gazans just above starvation[28].

Fishing access has also been arbitrarily restricted, from 15 nautical miles, to 6, to full maritime closure[29]. A fisherman testified:

> *"The sea has been closed to us for over two years. Ninety-five percent of boats were destroyed. Workshops, engines, fish markets—everything. We lost 230 fishermen, including 65 killed while trying to feed their families."*

This was not incidental damage. Fishing is the second most vital productive sector in Gaza, supporting 60,000 people. Its elimination aligns with a policy of enforced starvation.

Similarly, orchards, olive groves, greenhouses, citrus trees, irrigation systems, and wells have been systematically crushed.

Some highlights from Gaza since October 7 are below:

- Over 97% of trees have been destroyed, many of which were fruit bearing trees.[30]
- At least 98.5% of cropland is either damaged, inaccessible or both. Over 70% of crops have been destroyed and of the farmlands that have not been totally destroyed.[31] Many are inaccessible by threat of gunfire and expanding buffer zones.
- As of April 2025, 83% of agricultural water wells[32] and 85% of greenhouses have been damaged or destroyed. [33]
- Over 80% of Gaza's fishing sector assets have been destroyed.[34]
- While the livestock industry constituted 46% of Gaza's net agricultural output prior to October 2023[35] livestock numbers have been severely diminished such that 97% of Gaza's animal wealth was destroyed[36]. Since Israel's total blockade on humanitarian and commercial inputs was reinstated in March 2025, this has resulted in the further deaths of an estimated 20 to 30% of remaining livestock.[37]

3. Willfully Impeding Relief supplies

The siege tactics that have been honed by the occupation over the duration of its settler colonial regime have been deployed to accelerate starvation in Gaza. Following the reinstatement of the occupation's total aid blockade in March 2025, the man-made famine in Gaza intensified rapidly. In the first two weeks of August 2025, 61% of pregnant women and new mothers were malnourished—nearly seven times the rate recorded in the first two weeks of March. Moreover, the risk of death for children from acute malnutrition in August 2025 more than doubled since May of the same year[38].

The occupation's intentional deprivation of resources essential to civilian survival is structured to inflict both immediate starvation and long-term impediments to recovery. This includes the

denial of fodder, seeds, agricultural inputs, and infant formula, frequently justified under legally questionable 'dual-use' classifications[39]. As chronic malnutrition among children not only increases their immediate susceptibility to famine-related mortality, but also inflicts long-term developmental and health impairments, this clearly indicates the occupation's intent to maximise the intergenerational impact of starvation[40].

The impediment of aid supplies is further operationalised through the direct targeting and bombing of aid workers. As of October 2025, the UN estimates that Israel has killed at least 562 aid workers and arbitrarily detained over 300 workers[41], the most publicized being the killing of seven Word Food Kitchen workers in three different targeted attacks all on April 1, 2024. There is evidence that aid workers and aid agencies locations have been systematically targeted despite their convoys being marked[42] and aid agencies giving the Israeli military their exact coordinates.[43] There have also have been multiple accounts of such attacks at distribution sites and at the so-called 'humanitarian corridors' all across Gaza.[44] Such attacks have led to halting humanitarian aid distributions[45], as well as instilling fear and chaos[46] and exacerbating famine conditions.

4. The Militarisation of Food Aid – Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and US Plan

Since the establishment of the US-Israeli administered Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) in 2025, the occupation shifted from depriving objects indispensable to the survival of civilian populations, to directly weaponising them as a means of containing, massacring and forcibly displacing Palestinians.

An estimated 3000 Palestinians have been killed seeking aid,[47] with near daily massacres recorded at GHF sites between May and July 2025[48]. The architecture of GHF sites indicates the deliberate weaponisation of aid and the desperation of Palestinians enduring a starvation campaign, to enforce displacement. Namely, the majority of GHF sites were located in the South of Gaza, with opening times reduced to only 10 minutes by August 2025[49]. The sites functioned as a vector of forced displacement to the South, where Palestinian aid seekers had no choice but to traverse long and highly militarised territories to access often rotting and deficient food supplies[50]. Accordingly, over 80% of households reported safety risks while looking for food in August 2025, more than doubling since March. [51]

While the GHF sites are said to have been dismantled with the US-led "20 Point Peace Plan" that has now been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, the weaponization of aid continues to be legitimised[52]. Specially, Point 17 of the Plan stipulates that, "In the event Hamas delays or rejects this proposal, the above, including the scaled-up aid operation, will proceed in the terror-free areas handed over from the IDF to the ISF." As the determination of what constitutes a "terror-free" zone occurs on the terms of the occupation and international bodies operationalising "peace", the occupation can operate in flagrant breach of the prohibition of starvation and protract the conditions of its "slow genocide" of Palestinians.

5. Intent

The Israeli strategy "to put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger", was articulated by Dov Weisglass in 2006, then senior advisor to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert[53]. More recently, as part of the package of evidence submitted to the ICJ in its Case on the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa vs. Israel), South Africa documented over 10 pages of expressions of genocidal intent by Israeli officials and others. Many directly relate to the starvation of the civilian population in Gaza.[54] Even after a ceasefire was agreed to in early 2025, Prime Minister Netenyahu's office announced that "all entry of goods and supplies into the Gaza Strip will cease" until Hamas accepted new terms for a ceasefire. In addition to the calls for collective punishment, these statements clearly call for deprivation of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

Moreover, Israeli conduct depriving the civilian population of objects indispensable to their survival satisfies the consequence test for intent to commit starvation because of the knowledge that such deprivation would leave civilians in a state of starvation.[55] Even disregarding their statements of intent to starve the civilian population, there is no way that Israel can claim it had no knowledge. international organizations, states, and non-governmental organizations alike have all warned of the widespread starvation and looming famine across Gaza. For example, even after receiving a letter from the U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense in October 2024 demanding progress on concrete measures to reverse the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza, Israel further escalated its attacks and curtailed even more aid from entering Gaza.[56]

6. Conclusion on Starvation

On the basis of historical documentative, expert and witness testimony, UN nutritional and agricultural reports, the Tribunal finds that,among others:

- Israeli occupation has systematically deprived the Palestinian people of objects indispensable to their survival, including food, water, agricultural resources, medical supplies, and means of livelihood;
- Such deprivation has been deliberate, structured, and sustained, implemented through policies of siege, blockade, destruction of food and agro-ecosystems, and the obstruction of humanitarian relief;

The Tribunal therefore holds the Defendants guilty of Starvation as a Method of Warfare, constituting a War Crime and a Crime Against Humanity as part of a broader strategy of domination, displacement, and destruction of the Palestinian people.

IX. RESPONSIBILITY AND COMPLICITY OF THE DEFENDANTS

Israel as the Principal Perpetrator

The Tribunal finds that the State of Israel—through its Prime Minister, Security Cabinet, and the upper command of the Israeli Defense Forces—is the principal perpetrator of the genocide, ecocide and forced starvation established in these proceedings. The mass killings, deliberate starvation, systematic destruction of civilian infrastructure, environmental devastation, and the targeting of hospitals, shelters, schools, and places of refuge were carried out as a matter of state policy and with full knowledge of their lethal consequences. Israeli leadership therefore bears direct and primary responsibility for the crimes adjudicated.

The United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany

The Tribunal further finds that the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, among others, played an indispensable role in enabling and sustaining the atrocities committed against the Palestinian people.

Their contribution is reflected in:

- supplying the weapons, munitions, and equipment used throughout the assault;
- providing intelligence, logistical support, and financial aid;
- offering political and diplomatic protection, including shielding Israel from accountability mechanisms;
- obstructing ceasefire efforts and blocking humanitarian access; and
- normalizing mass atrocities through selective application of international law.

This degree of support constitutes indispensable cooperation. In the words that capture the reality before the Tribunal: These states stocked Israel's armory, filled its war chest, and shielded it from accountability, making possible the destruction of Gaza and the massacre of its people. Their responsibility is therefore one of complicity—not primary perpetration but aiding, abetting, and enabling the crimes found in this Verdict.

Awareness of Wider Responsibility Beyond the Indictment

Evidence presented to the Tribunal shows that the network of actors contributing to the crimes in Gaza extends beyond the Defendants named in the Indictment. Testimony and documentation revealed additional states, corporate suppliers, and institutional actors whose assistance, political cover, or enforcement of the blockade played a role in sustaining the atrocities. The Tribunal acknowledges this broader landscape of responsibility. However, consistent with its mandate, its formal judgment is confined to the individuals and states specifically charged before it.

Final Determination on Responsibility

Accordingly, the Tribunal concludes that:

- Israel bears primary and direct responsibility for genocide, ecocide and forced starvation;
- The United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, among others, bear complicity responsibility, having provided indispensable cooperation that materially enabled and politically protected the commission of these crimes; and
- Their actions and omissions substantially contributed to the continuation, escalation, and impunity of the genocidal and ecocidal campaign.

The Defendants named in the Indictment are therefore **GUILTY**, individually and collectively, in accordance with the charges brought before this Tribunal.

IX. CONCLUSION AND CALLS TO ACTION

After reviewing the totality of the evidence, the Tribunal finds that the crimes committed against the Palestinian people are not isolated acts, nor are they the product of the fog of war. They are the result of deliberate policy, executed over years and intensified into a genocidal and ecocidal campaign unprecedented in scale and severity.

The Tribunal is acutely aware that even the most comprehensive judgment cannot encompass the magnitude of what has been inflicted. As one witness said:

> *"They destroyed our history and memories. Everything our family built was erased."*

The Tribunal also recognizes that truth itself has been a battlefield. Witnesses, journalists, and human rights organizations—those who documented the crimes adjudicated here—have been killed, censored, deported, or sanctioned. The Tribunal takes notice that several of the very institutions whose reports were relied upon in these proceedings have been placed on sanctions lists, a political act aimed not at legality but at erasing the documentation of atrocity.

This Tribunal rejects such attempts at silencing. It affirms that the recording of truth is an act of resistance, and that its own work forms part of the collective memory that aggressors have sought to obliterate. In this sense, the jury members understand their duty not only as one of legal determination, but of preserving the historical record where others have attempted to bury it.

This Tribunal is not oblivious to the paradox in advocating international law while detailing the countless injustices visited upon the Palestinian people. The Verdict names a handful of individuals and governments, doubtless, the ones most responsible for these crimes. But it is,

nevertheless, a judgment of the entire world. To state that international law is rendered meaningless when applied selectively is an understatement.

We cannot celebrate human rights while bombs continue to fall on Gaza. We cannot speak sincerely of the right to self-determination even as Palestinians are denied the chance to chart their own destiny.

And we cannot lay claim to universal values while watching Palestinian children die before they even have the chance to truly live.

Palestine is a true test of our humanity, and our actions now would demonstrate to future generations whether or not we have abandoned it.

And it is for this very reason that this judgment stands—where others have stepped back, it steps forward.

Calls to Action

In light of its findings, the Tribunal calls upon states, institutions, and peoples of the world to, among others:

(1) End the assault and siege on Gaza immediately. Ensure the unimpeded entry of food, water, fuel, medicine, and humanitarian aid; open all crossings; dismantle all barriers preventing survival.

(2) Hold to full account the defendants and all other actors that are complicit in the genocide, ecocide, acts of forced starvation, and the destruction of everything ("metacide") against the Palestinian People.

(3) Implement and cooperate with arrest warrants and judicial measures relating to genocide, ecocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity—including those against the named Defendants.

(4) Rescind all international resolutions and measures that are contrary to the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, to peace and to development.

(5) Oppose the targeting, censorship, sanctioning, or criminalization of journalists, human rights organizations, and international monitors. Their work is essential to truth, memory, and future accountability.

(6) Call upon scientists and ecologists to support the Palestinian people in their efforts to restore, rehabilitate, and reconstruct their territory and natural resources.

(7) End all military, financial, technological, and diplomatic support to the Israeli government until the genocide and ecocide cease and full accountability processes are initiated.

(8) Uphold the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to resist against genocide, ecocide, illegal occupation, apartheid, and acts of aggression.

(9) Ensure the Right of the Palestinian People to return and for the restitution, rehabilitation and rebuilding of their destroyed property and land, and the enjoyment of permanent sovereignty over their natural and environmental resources.

(10) Mobilize civil society, unions, institutions, and peoples worldwide to resist genocide, ecocide and "metacide", and to act where states have failed.

(11) Call the international community to fight the discriminatory nature and use of international law against the Palestinian people and campaign for new instruments or mechanisms consistent with the fundamental and basic rights of peoples.

As one witness reminded this Tribunal with painful clarity:

"There is no safe place in Gaza."

The Tribunal affirms:
It is the responsibility of the world to ensure that safety is not a privilege reserved for some peoples, but a right guaranteed for all. #

23 November 2025, Barcelona, Catalonia

PANEL OF JURORS

Ceren Uysal (Turkey)

Presiding Juror

Abdessalam Kleiche (France)

Bouchra Khalil (Lebanon)

David Minoves (Catalonia)

Iratxe Urizar (Basque Country)

Joris Vercammen (The Netherlands)

Sagari Ramdas (India)

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Defence Minister, tweeted: “Humanitarian aid to Gaza? No electrical switch will be turned on, no water hydrant will be opened and no fuel truck will enter until the Israeli abductees are returned home. Refer to Case on the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa vs. Israel), Application instituting proceedings and request for the indication of provisional measures, I.C.J., Dec. 29, 2023,

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THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE,

Complainant,

For: GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW and HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Versus

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, MEMBERS OF THE ISRAEL SECURITY CABINET, ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES,

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, FORMER US PRESIDENT BIDEN, THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, US SECURITY OFFICIALS,

UNITED KINGDOM PRIME MINISTER KEIR STARMER AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER RISHI SUNAK,

GERMAN PRESIDENT FRANK-WELTER STEINMEIER, FORMER CHANCELLOR OLAF SCHOLZ, AND CHANCELLOR JOACHIM-FRIEDRICH MARTIN JOSEF MERZ, and

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER GABRIEL ATTAL.

Defendants.

X----------x

INDICTMENT

COMPLAINANTS, by counsel, aver that:

I. PREFATORY STATEMENT

The ongoing genocide and ecocide in Palestine are the continuation of the mutually reinforcing projects of settler colonisation, capital accumulation, and dehumanisation.

From the Crusades to Napoleon's imperial campaigns across Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, the region has long been a target of Western geostrategic ambition, resource extraction, and orientalist mythmaking. Come the 1800s, Western imperial powers were already aiming towards colonizing the region and strategising Zionist settlement there. British and French consulates (est. 1838, 1849) functioned as imperial outposts to freeze land for colonial settlement.

Colonial capitalism was advanced under the British Mandate (1917), which sought to dismantle indigenous communal tenure (*musha'a*) through the levy of heavy taxes on Palestinian farmers and the distortion of agricultural markets by enforcing the production of cheap export crops, driving farmer indebtedness, and the sale of land to immigrating Zionists.

To erode the *sumud* of Palestinians revolting against the dismantling of their land and agricultural way of life, British forces employed curfews, movement restrictions, property seizures, forced labor, and arbitrary detention. Collective punishment took shape through home demolitions, raids, and forced starvation.

Ecologies were not spared from British colonial violence. Wetlands were recast as malarial swamps and drained, driving species to extinction. Water courses, lakes, and groundwater were re-engineered or disappeared through water reclamation projects serving settlement infrastructure.

Zionists were given preferential treatment by colonial powers to continue the colonization of Palestine. In 1870, the agricultural school Mikveh Israel, founded by French philanthropist Charles Netter, trained settlers in local cultivation. French financier Edmond de Rothschild later funded agricultural colonies to absorb the first wave of Jewish colonial settlement between 1881 and 1903.

In addition to the foregoing policies, the British Mandate discriminated against Arabs and trained Zionists in their army and colonial government. Moreover, they encouraged the sale of land to Zionists and Zionist organizations. Through the British-established land market, the Jewish National Fund amassed nearly one million dunums by 1948.

Over the years, Zionist terrorist gangs used the same ecocidal and starvation tactics as the British government during the *Nakba* of 1948, resulting in the massacre and forcible expulsion of over 95% of the indigenous population.

To drive ethnic cleansing, entire villages were razed, food stores destroyed, livestock slaughtered, orchards and olive groves burned, and trees systematically uprooted.

Zionist militias besieged villages, killing those who dared to resist the blockade and smuggle food into the territory. Indeed, starvation – as a tool of displacement and erasure – was an inaugurating feature of the Israeli colonial state. Since then, the Israeli government continued to use food as a weapon during periods of uprising in Palestine.

Following the formal establishment of the Israeli government in 1948, a series of laws were enacted to lend a veneer of legitimacy to ethnic cleansing.

The Absentees' Property Law (1950) and Land Acquisition Law (1953) enabled the occupation to legalize the expropriation of over 5.7 million dunums of Palestinian land by 1954, under pretexts of absenteeism, development, and security. In parallel, Israel manipulated the Ottoman Land Code of 1858 to reclassify "uncultivated land" as state property. This facilitated the seizure of nearly 40 percent of the West Bank.

Legal terms like "absentee" and "uncultivated land" operated to veil processes of forced displacement as well as institutionalise colonial mythmaking around Palestinian rootlessness and ecological ineptitude. These devastating impacts have only deepened over time.

The 1995 Oslo Accords institutionalised Israeli control over Palestinian land, resources, and agricultural prospects by dividing the West Bank into Areas A, B, and C. Area C, comprising over 60 percent of the territory and its most arable land, is under full Israeli military and administrative control.[1] Oslo further accelerated the regression of

Palestinian agriculture through neoliberal restructuring, deepening trade imbalance, and encouraging politicised aid to supplant sovereign food production.

The 712 km annexation wall stands in stark contrast to the so-called “peace” that Oslo claimed to bring. Alongside its function of enclosing Palestinian villages into isolated and surveilled bantustans, the construction and maintenance of the wall led to the uprooting of over 100,000 trees, as well as the appropriation of agricultural lands and aquifers that sustained Palestinian life and livelihood.

Illegal settlements occupy elevated land, not only for surveillance but to allow industrial runoff and untreated sewage to permeate Palestinian communities below.[2] Where wastewater flows, rising rates of illness, cancer, mosquito-borne diseases, and birth defects were recorded, rendering the land increasingly uninhabitable. Resistance is met with settler violence, often meted out by colonial outposts functioning as vehicles of *de facto* annexation.

The Israeli occupation is well-versed in greenwashing to rewrite its colonial footprint. National parks and nature reserves are planted over ethnically cleansed villages and are strategically concentrated in areas slated for settlement expansion. Many of these projects uproot native trees and replace them with non-native plant species to erase the local ecosystem, leading to a loss of biodiversity and making the area susceptible to wildfire.

The myth that the Zionist regime marketed to the world of “making the desert bloom” is undone by the ecological catastrophes curated by the occupation, including the draining of the Huleh wetlands, leading to biodiversity collapse. To “make the desert bloom,” Israel’s 120km National Water Carrier diverts water from the Sea of Galilee to southern settlement infrastructure and agricultural enterprises – killing the ecology in the Jordan River and manufacturing water scarcity.[3]

Palestinians bear the brunt of water apartheid: 85 percent of the West Bank’s water is stolen and resold at prohibitive rates. Through punitive demolitions of water harvesting infrastructure, rainwater has also been weaponised.

Gaza’s biosphere, too, was re-engineered through colonial erasure and the destruction of Palestinian agriculture. Following the Israeli-imposed blockade in 2007, 35 percent of Gaza's farmlands were seized to expand "military buffer zones".

Systematic bombardment, the use of incendiary weapons, and the spraying of pesticide targeted Palestinian land, contaminating the soil and the ecosystem. Israeli-controlled dams and reservoirs near the Gaza Strip were strategically opened during harvest time to flood Palestinian crops. Fishing activities were arbitrarily limited from 15 to just six nautical miles, before being banned altogether.

Land, sea, and groundwater were held hostage by toxic sewage flows. Israeli bombing of wastewater infrastructure and restrictions on reconstruction made cholera and typhoid outbreaks recurrent in pre-October 2023 Gaza, where 97 percent of water sources were rendered undrinkable.

The Israeli policy of putting "the Palestinians on a diet but not to make them die of hunger", as infamously phrased by Dov Weisglass, calculated the bare minimum caloric intake needed to keep Gaza's population starved and malnourished. By 2022, 64.3 percent of Gazans faced moderate to severe food insecurity.

Gaza's agricultural economy was kept underdeveloped to serve Israeli-controlled export markets. Imperial powers and international organizations pushed programs encouraging Gaza's farmers to grow perishable crops like strawberries and cut flowers, further destabilizing Palestinian food sovereignty and making Gaza more susceptible to starvation, genocide, and ecocide.

Existing international tribunals and mechanisms have declared the illegality of Israel's continuing occupation of Palestinian territories.

On 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rendered an Advisory Opinion[4] upon the request of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, addressing the legal consequences of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem (the Occupied Palestinian Territories) since 1967 and the legal obligations of Israel, other states, and the United Nations in relation to the occupation.

The ICJ ruled that Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territories since 1967, including Israeli state policies and practices maintaining it, such as the establishment and expansion of settlements, is illegal and constitutes a wrongful act under international law. Prolonged in nature, the said occupation amounts to annexation, in violation of the prohibition against the acquisition of territory through force and the Palestinians' fundamental and inalienable right to self-determination enshrined in the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

The ICJ held further that Israel has maintained a regime of laws and practices that systematically discriminate against the Palestinians with the aim of segregation, in violation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as well as the ICCPR and ICESCR.

The Palestinian people's right to self-determination, said the ICJ, includes the right to territorial integrity and the integrity of the people themselves, who have been forcibly dispersed because of Israel's discriminatory laws. The same right also includes the Palestinians' permanent sovereignty over the land's natural resources, including water, land, and natural gas reserves, which the Israeli state is exploiting for the benefit of Israel and her settlements, thus, depriving the Palestinian people of their right to enjoy these resources.

The ICJ further stated that Israel has a legal obligation to end the occupation, cease all settlement activities, and give full reparation for the damage caused by its internationally wrongful acts. All other countries, meanwhile, are legally obligated to respect the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to ensure that all impediments to this right are brought to an end. Such an obligation on the part of other states includes the non-recognition of changes in the status of the occupied territories, the non-recognition of the legality of Israel's occupation, and the obligation not to render any aid or assistance in maintaining the occupation.

As a consequence, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution[5] on 18 September 2024 at the 10th Emergency Special Session, endorsing the ICJ's Advisory Opinion of July 2024 and urging member states to abide by their commitments to comply with the obligations under international law.

The orders of the ICJ in the case of *South Africa v. Israel*[6] also reflect a serious concern about the perpetration of the crime of genocide in Palestine. A significant and diverse number of States have intervened in *South Africa v. Israel*, demanding the condemnation and immediate cessation of the ongoing genocide against the people of Palestine.

The ICJ found cause to issue provisional measures against Israel, among others, "to take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope

of Article II of [the Genocide] Convention"[7] in Gaza and "immediately halt its military offensive, any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."[8]

On 21 November 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants against President Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for "reasonable grounds to believe that Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Gallant each bear criminal responsibility as civilian superiors for the war crime of intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population...the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare...and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts."[9]

Meanwhile, UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese illustrated in her reports how Israel has deliberately rendered the Occupied Palestinian territory useless and uninhabitable through the systematic destruction of critical civilian infrastructure.

Stressing the genocidal intent of Israel's massive operations in the whole of Palestine, Albanese, in her October 2024 report, called on the United Nations to formally recognize Israel as an apartheid state and consistent violator of international law.[10] She stressed that "[i]ndividuals clearly identifiable as perpetrators should be prosecuted. However, it is the entire State apparatus that has engineered, articulated, and executed genocidal violence, through acts which in their totality may lead to the destruction of the Palestinian people."[11]

In her report of 16 June 2025,[12] Albanese called out corporate entities, including major multinational corporations in the technology, weapons, and even hospitality industries, for their complicity in the genocide and unlawful occupation in Palestine, raising their responsibilities under international law as envisioned in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

On 31 January 2025, the representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Malaysia, Namibia, Senegal, and South Africa met in The Hague, Netherlands, to form the Hague Group. The said formation aims to propose concrete measures to end the genocide and to uphold various international rulings concerning the illegal Israeli occupation of Gaza and the whole of Palestine, including the ICJ's July 2024 Advisory Opinion and its orders in the case of *South Africa v. Israel*. The Hague Group

also seeks the implementation of the September 2024 UN General Assembly Resolution, and supports the enforcement of the ICC warrants of arrest against Netanyahu and Gallant.

The Hague Group led the mass walkout of diplomats during the UN General Assembly on 26 September 2025, leaving Prime Minister Netanyahu speaking to a near-empty hall. The Hague Group afterwards hosted a meeting of representatives from 34 countries to consolidate existing state measures into a global coordinated strategy to end genocide in Palestine.[13]

The strategy includes the convening of an Emergency Special Session (ESS) of the UN General Assembly under its "Uniting for Peace" resolution earlier proposed by Colombia's President Gustavo Petro, the adoption of a binding resolution on full UN membership of Palestine, and the imposition of a UN-led arms embargo, economic boycott and other concrete measures designed to force Israel to comply with international law, international court rulings and UN resolutions on Palestine.

The UN ESS under the Uniting for Peace resolution will undercut the veto power of the United States in the Security Council on resolutions to stop the war and Israeli genocide in Gaza, and to hold Israel accountable for war crimes and genocide even after the ceasefire.

To break the Israeli blockade, a host of organizations and individuals from various countries launched the Global Sumud Flotilla to deliver much-needed medicine, food, and water to Gaza. The Flotilla began in Barcelona on 31 August 2025, joined by about 52 ships carrying some 500 parliamentarians, activists, lawyers, and aid workers. Following Israeli drone attacks, the Flotilla was later assisted by naval vessels from Turkiye, Italy, and Spain.

The Flotilla was intercepted by the Israeli navy, leading to the arrest, detention, and deportation of the participants. Reports indicate that the participants, while in detention, suffered ill-treatment and humiliation at the hands of Israeli forces. This drew widespread condemnation all over the world, leading to a general strike in Italy and massive rallies in Spain, Dublin, Kuala Lumpur, Colombia, Paris, and the United States.

There was a rapid groundswell of international political pressure after the bombing of the Qatar peace talks by Israel and the attack on the Global Sumud Flotilla. These include the recognition of Palestine by the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Portugal, and later on by France, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Andorra, and Belgium during the 80th session of the UN General Assembly.

Members of the European Union and various Arab countries also imposed trade and economic sanctions against Israel. During the 80th UN General Assembly, particularly after Israel targeted and bombed the venue hosting peace talks negotiators in Qatar, representatives of Arab countries pressured Trump take action on the Israeli genocide and war as it entered its second year.

The aforementioned development led to the ceasefire deal brokered by Egypt, Turkiye, and Qatar. Phase one of the agreement includes the release of the remaining Israeli prisoners in Gaza, the immediate cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from a large part of Gaza, the opening of the Rafah and other crossings, the entry of humanitarian aid, the release of 250 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, and release of some 1,200 detainees who were arrested in Gaza.

Despite and in clear violation of the agreement, Israel continues to carry out attacks and airstrikes against Palestinians in Gaza. The Palestinian prisoners who were released also gave harrowing accounts of torture and inhumane treatment under Israeli custody. Moreover, the bodies of deceased Palestinian prisoners released by Israel also bore indications of assault and ill-treatment by Israeli forces.

A wave of international protests came in the aftermath of the ceasefire deal, asserting that Israel be held to account for its numerous violations of international humanitarian law and human rights standards, denouncing the genocide, and demanding the rapid and uninhibited flow of aid, food, and medicine to Gaza, which Israeli forces continue to block or severely limit.

Massive rallies were held in the major cities of London, Florence, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Berlin, Paris, Oslo, Maastricht, Jakarta, Seoul, and Tokyo. The protests also called on their own governments to cease all weapons sales and military aid to Israel, and to take practical and concrete action to ensure a just and lasting peace in Palestine.

Even as the ceasefire deal is threatened by Israel's ongoing attacks in Gaza and restrictions on the entry of much-needed aid for a starving population, Israel's crime of genocide must be stopped as demanded by the Palestinians and by the world. Its culpability for these crimes, as well as that of the United States and Israel's Western backers, is apparent from the findings of various international legal mechanisms.

However, these international mechanisms have yet to address the monumental impact of the evident and intentional destruction of the natural environment by the Government of Israel and its armed forces as a means to destroy the people of Palestine.

The present Indictment containing the charges enumerated hereunder is brought before the **International War Crimes Tribunal on Forced Starvation and Ecocide in Palestine.**

II. PARTIES

The indictment is brought by the **People of Palestine**, at the instance of individual victims and their families, particularly women, children, the elderly, peasants, workers, and future generations of Palestinians who will suffer from the long-term and irreversible destruction of the natural environment.

The charges are made against the government leaders of the occupying power, **Israel,** led and represented by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, members of Israel's security cabinet, and the Israeli Defense Forces.

The other respondents include government leaders of the **United States,** led and represented by its current President Donald J. Trump and former President Joe Biden, as well as the leaders of the **United Kingdom**, **France**, and **Germany.**

III. CHARGES

Intentionally inducing starvation and famine through the destruction of the natural environment, with an intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the people of Palestine, amounting to gross violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law;

Commission of unlawful or wanton acts with the knowledge that these will cause long-term, widespread, and/or severe damage to the environment,

and the targeting and destruction of cultural heritage, all amounting to serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law,

committed in the context of Israel's assault on Palestine, aided and supported by the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, **and all other leaders of States, private corporations and enablers complicit in the genocide and ecocide.**

IV. ALLEGATIONS

The State of Israel continues to illegally occupy Palestinian territory and enforce laws and measures that maintain a system of apartheid and systematically discriminate against Palestinians.

During this decades-long occupation, the government of Israel deliberately targeted, killed, and injured individual Palestinian civilians and the civilian population in general, who are all protected under international humanitarian law (IHL). Israel has also deliberately targeted, destroyed, and damaged civilian objects belonging to Palestinians, likewise in violation of IHL.

Beginning in October 2023, Israel intensified its military campaign against the Palestinian people and relentlessly employed means and methods of warfare targeting the natural environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This unprecedented destruction and degradation of the natural environment exacerbated the suffering of Palestinians.

Set against the backdrop of the decades-long Zionist occupation, it is clear that Israeli military operations that deliberately cause massive destruction of Palestinian ecosystems and the exploitation and depletion of natural resources in Palestinian territories, and other official acts targeting and resulting in the destruction of civilian infrastructure essential for food, water, and energy distribution and the delivery of medical and humanitarian aid serve no other purpose but to annihilate the entire Palestinian people.

The aforementioned acts likewise constitute violations of international human rights law (IHRL) including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The intentional destruction of the natural environment

The natural environment is accorded protection under IHL regardless of the classification of the armed conflict. Agricultural lands and other natural resources indispensable to the survival of civilian populations form part of the natural environment.

As an occupying power, Israel is prohibited from destroying all real or personal property, including means of livelihood for vulnerable civilians such as agricultural lands, crops, waterways, and all components of the natural environment. Derogation is only allowed where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.

When hostilities break out in an occupied territory, such as in Palestine, the occupying power bears the onus of applying IHL. Israel is therefore bound to respect the customary special protection for objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. Israel, in direct contravention of such legal protections, has and continues to deliberately attack, destroy, and render useless these protected objects.

Israel unlawfully destroyed or severely damaged Palestinian land, rendering it unsuitable for agriculture, food and water production, and other beneficial uses by the Palestinian people. Estimates show that over 98.5 percent of the agricultural sector has been deliberately decimated or made inaccessible, including the destruction of over 60 percent of agricultural facilities, 80 percent of trees, and 83 percent of water wells since October 2023.

After 7 October 2023, over 70 percent of crops were destroyed, and of the farmlands that remained, many were rendered inaccessible due to the threat of gunfire and expanding military buffer zones imposed by Israeli forces. In addition, almost 99 percent of all poultry and 95 percent of all cattle were killed by Israeli attacks or perished from food shortages and disease.

In the West Bank, Israel continues to employ “agricultural warfare,” a deliberate and multifaceted strategy of ecological violence long used by the Israeli settler-colonial regime to displace Palestinian communities and sever their ties to the land.

Infrastructure crucial to food production and water access is routinely targeted or restricted through bureaucratic permit systems, military attacks, or settler violence.

Toxic runoff from elevated settlements contaminates Palestinian soil and water, spreading disease and rendering the environment unlivable.

These tactics – ranging from the spraying of pesticide targeting Palestinian land and vegetation to the denial of access to freshwater sources – are aimed not only at weakening food sovereignty but also forcing Palestinians off their land under the guise of environmental management and security. These tactics turn the land itself into a weapon of occupation.

Mass afforestation campaigns to "green the desert" have uprooted over three million trees including olive trees central to Palestinian identity and sustenance. Israeli settlers, protected by Israeli security forces, routinely burn, poison, and vandalize farmlands and uproot trees, displacing Palestinian farmers and families.

Israel's use of heavy metal munitions has contaminated the soil, thus, preventing its use for agriculture, food and water production, and other beneficial purposes, as well as endangering the lives of Palestinians residing in the occupied territories.

Israel's aforementioned actions are aimed at and have the effect of rendering the occupied territories unsuited for agriculture, food and water production, and human habitation. This has resulted in the entirety of Gaza's population facing a food crisis, with the entire territory classified in the emergency phase according to the IPC Food Security Classification, and similar threats against Palestinians living in the West Bank.

Famine and starvation in Gaza resulting from the destruction of the environment

The inducement of famine in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, through Israel's continuing attacks that destroy and render useless agricultural land and other natural resources, is aimed at denying sustenance to the Palestinian population and effecting their destruction as a people.

This willful and intentional starvation of Palestinians can be ascertained from the nature of Israel's actions and policies and the public pronouncements of its high-ranking officials to the effect that the population of Gaza will be deprived of basic commodities as part of its military offensives against Hamas. The destruction of agricultural land, water sources, and other natural resources is an act of reprisal against the civilian population designed to annihilate it.

The destruction of natural resources, coupled with the conduct of its total siege, barring the entry of food, water, fuel, and medicine into the occupied territory, is in clear breach of the customary prohibition against the use of starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare.

Among the affected, 64 percent of Gazans eat only once a day, 95 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding women endure severe food poverty, and 90 percent of children suffer from malnutrition, facing severe threats to their survival, growth, and development. It has been reported that at least 57 children have died from malnutrition caused by the blockade. The actual figures are likely higher, with many deaths going unreported.

The widespread and systematic starvation left Palestinians no choice but to seek aid. The limited access to food has been weaponized by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) to lure Palestinians to their demise. GHF is a non-governmental organization created by Israel in February 2025, with the support of the United States.

The "humanitarian" operations undertaken by the said group led to the deaths of scores of Palestinians after security forces shot and killed them as they were seeking food at GHF sites.

The widespread, long-term, and severe effects on the environment of the attacks

The targeted and intentional destruction of the environment and natural resources by the Zionist occupation in Palestine has manifested in widespread ecological devastation, including rampant deforestation, pollution, and the contamination of water and soil through toxic pesticides.

The plunder and depletion of land and other natural resources have led to the mass extinction of plant and animal species, while the diversion of water sources away from Palestinian use caused extreme flooding, over-concentration of pasture lands within severely constricted areas, and desertification of formerly productive agricultural land.

Untold amounts of unexploded ordinance, landmines, and discarded military hardware have scarred Palestinian environment and are obstructing its future rehabilitation. This is coupled with the relentless bombing of Gaza's densely populated and rural

areas. Israel dropped over 100,000 tons of explosives, more than six times the destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb.

Toxins and contamination from exploded and unexploded ordinances on the land and in the water will impact Gaza's food security and health for years to come. As of February 2024, satellite imagery documented that 28 percent of cropland was razed or destroyed, as well as 488 agricultural wells and at least 21 percent of Gaza's greenhouses. By September 2024, the figures increased to 67 percent of all cropland, 1,188 agricultural wells, and 44 percent of greenhouses.

The same conventional and chemical weapons that lay waste to Gaza's natural environment have been sinisterly presented as "battle proven" in global markets. The greenhouse gas emissions generated during the first two months alone exceeded the annual carbon footprint of more than 20 countries.

The relentless bombardment of Gaza has caused widespread destruction to buildings, roads, and critical infrastructure, creating over 39 million tons of debris. Much of this debris is contaminated with hazardous materials, including unexploded ordnance and asbestos, which lingers in the air, soil, and bloodstreams. Rebuilding Gaza is expected to generate nearly 60 million tons of CO2 emissions, an amount that surpasses the yearly emissions of over 135 countries.

Destruction and willful damage of Palestinian cultural and historical heritage

Israel has targeted and destroyed numerous cultural and heritage sites all over Palestine despite their protected status under international humanitarian law. As of August 2025, UNESCO estimated that 110 archaeological, historical, and religious sites had been destroyed in Israeli attacks since October 2023. Historical artifacts from Gaza were stolen by the Israeli army, and later displayed in the Knesset.

Israel's continuing assault on the natural environment reinforces this systematic destruction of the culture, religion, and identity of the Palestinian people. Knowing that Palestinian culture is intrinsically intertwined with the preservation of the natural environment, including agricultural lands and their cultivation practices, Israel intentionally targeted and destroyed these civilian properties in the guise of imperative military necessity.

A report[14] from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) indicates that more than 98 percent of agricultural lands in Gaza are no longer usable. Olives, one of the main agricultural products of Palestine that symbolize its national identity, have not been harvested and reaped, impacting about 160,000 Palestinians whose livelihood depends on planting olives.

With almost all agricultural and natural reserves gone, Israel's staunch ally and principal, the United States, proposed in February 2025 to take over Gaza and develop it into the "Riviera of the Middle East."[15] The February 2025 reconstruction plans make it apparent that Israel and its allies plan to remove any trace of Palestinian heritage within the occupied territory.

Ecocide and the Palestinian Peoples' Right to Development

Israel's unlawful occupation, policies, and military operations deny and violate the Palestinian peoples' right to development and right to self-determination.

Reports show that the escalated and continued attacks against the natural environment in Palestine have impoverished the land, rendering it uninhabitable and useless for any agricultural production. Systematic bombardments targeting agricultural and pasture lands employ hazardous chemicals, causing soil, crop, and livestock contamination. These bombardments also caused water and air pollution. These, in turn, cause fatal diseases and endanger natural flora and fauna.

Other than direct attacks on the natural environment, the Zionist occupation also puts in place certain policies that allow the dismantling of communal lands through the imposition of heavy taxes, the expropriation of Palestinian lands to make way for settlements and military expansions and the reclassification of "uncultivated land" to "state property", among many other regulations that altogether limit, if not ultimately deny, the Palestinian people access to their land and resources.

All these strategies, whether in the form of military offensives or state policies, are carried out precisely to deny the Palestinian people the exercise of full sovereignty over their rich natural resources.

The destruction of the ecological equilibria necessary for the survival of species naturally leads to the loss of food sources and water access, which in turn results in malnutrition, starvation and, ultimately, death. The blockade in Gaza greatly

contributed to this forced famine as it restricts the entry of badly needed humanitarian goods and medical services to the people of Gaza.

Such conditions of destruction, contamination and repression could not in any way support the life and sustenance of the Palestinian people, much less nurture their holistic development, both as individuals and as a people, thus, depriving them of the "opportunities for intellectual, moral, social and spiritual growth" that the Stockholm Declaration identified as components of genuine development.

Moreover, the systematic attacks on the natural environment did not spare the cultural heritage of the Palestinian people from damage and destruction. Like the rest of the indigenous peoples and pre-colonial societies from around the world, the life, culture, traditions, and belief systems of the Palestinian people are very much rooted in their natural surroundings. The destruction of their natural habitat highly endangers the life, development, and prosperity of the Palestinian people, and would inevitably lead to their destruction.

Israel's deliberate attacks against the Palestinian natural environment and the imposition of policies that exacerbate this destruction with long-term, widespread and severe impacts on the ecology and on the health and life expectancy of the Palestinian people constitute the crime of **Ecocide**, which among other things, violates the Palestinian people's right to development, and for which Israel and its forces and agents must be held accountable.

The participation and complicity of the United States and other countries

The government of the United States, led by former president Joe Biden and current president Donald Trump, continues to support the Zionist occupation of Palestine and the ongoing genocide by Israel through arms transfer, other forms of military and financial aid, diplomatic cover, and political protection.

The US government has provided at least $17.9 billion of security assistance to Israel since October 2023, according to an October 2024 study by Brown University. In February 2025, the US State Department announced its plan to sell a total of $7.4 billion worth of arms to Israel. The arms included 166 small-diameter bombs, 2,800 500-pound bombs, and thousands of guidance kits, fuses, and other bomb components and support equipment, and 3,000 Hellfire missiles and related equipment.

Similarly, the governments of other states like the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Hungary, and The Netherlands, among others, directly supplied Israel with components for its arms and aircrafts, as well as provided political cover, domestically and before international bodies, for Israel's assault and genocide against the Palestinian people.

These governments' support for Israel fueled the growth and expansion of its military-industrial complex, which has since been tapped by governments, such as the Philippines, Israel's third-largest defense buyer, to defeat peoples' struggle for self-determination through the use of illicit surveillance technology and military hardware procured from Israel.

Their continuing support and complicity with Israel's unlawful and inhuman acts violate their obligation to ensure respect of IHL and IHRL, their due diligence obligations under international human rights treaties to which they are parties, and their obligation to respect and support Palestinian self-determination.

Characterization of the Acts

The Palestinian people in Gaza and the other occupied territories are protected under treaty and customary IHL as a civilian population. The presence of Hamas or its armed component does not remove its civilian character. Additionally, all persons enjoy the protection of their human rights standards even in times of armed conflict.

The natural environment, made of the lands, flora, fauna, and other components, is a civilian object protected by IHL, and cannot be the legitimate target of attacks. The natural environment and its elements are also intertwined with a people's cultural and historical heritage, which parties to a conflict must respect and protect under IHL and human rights norms.

The actions of the Israeli state have resulted in loss and deterioration of the environment by adversely impacting the ecosystem in Gaza, including both its non-human and human components.

Israeli military operations resulted in the widespread destruction and damage of the environment, the land, crops and food supplies, and infrastructure necessary for the production and distribution of food and water; the exploitation of natural resources; and the dispossession of land.

All these acts were committed to deprive the Palestinian people of access to food and of the means of survival.

Israeli military operations destroyed the land and infrastructure, and restricted access to food, water, and other basic needs, all aimed at making Gaza uninhabitable for the Palestinian people and calculated to bring about their extermination or forced displacement.

In the guise of targeting Hamas and other Palestinian resistance groups, Israeli military operations resulted in the widespread, long-term, and severe damage to Gaza's natural environment, as well as the extensive and widespread destruction of Palestinian property. These acts, patently excessive in relation to any military objectives that Israel claims they supposedly served, prevent the Palestinian people from enjoying and exploiting Gaza's natural resources for their benefit and deprive them of the beneficial use of their land.

The Israeli state purposely blocked and impeded the entry of food items, water, agricultural products and implements, and other material necessary for the subsistence of the Palestinian people and the cultivation of the land and exploitation of natural resources.

The actions of the Israeli state have led to starvation and death among the Palestinian people, in violation of their right to life, right to physical and mental health, right to a healthy environment, right to food and water, and right to development, among other fundamental rights recognized under international law.

The above-described actions are neither demanded nor justified by military necessity.

Thus, the acts committed by Israel and its armed forces are grave violations of IHL and gross violations of human rights in times of armed conflict, amounting to **WAR CRIMES**, namely:

Use of Starvation as a Method of Warfare;

Willfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health;

Intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives;

Extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly;

Use of methods or means of warfare that are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread, long-term, and severe damage to the natural environment;

Using the destruction of the natural environment as a weapon;

Attacking, destroying, removing, or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

The acts also constitute the crime of **GENOCIDE** and a violation of the Genocide Convention as the intentional destruction of the environment is a means of deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.

These acts also qualify as **CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY**, which includes extermination through the intentional infliction of conditions of life, *inter alia*, the deprivation of access to food and medicine, calculated to bring about the destruction of part of a population.

Finally, such unlawful and wanton acts were committed by Israel and its defense forces with the knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment, constituting **ECOCIDE**.

V. VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The aforementioned acts attributed to the Defendants result in grave violations of IHL and gross violations of IHRL and standards applicable in situations of armed conflict forming part of conventional or customary international law and reflected in the following instruments, among others:

1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols;

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD)

1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);

1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its Optional Protocols;

1966 International Convention on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);

1966 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD);

1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols;

1984 Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);

1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols;

1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property;

UN General Assembly Resolution 95(I)(1946) Affirmation of the Principles of International Law recognized by the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal;

2005 UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law;

2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

UN General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions, such as UN Security Council Resolution 2417 and UN General Assembly Resolution 41/128 on the Right to Development;

1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; and

1972 Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment.

Furthermore, the acts attributed to the Defendants are serious violations of customary IHL, binding on states and parties to an armed conflict irrespective of treaty obligations, and of *jus cogens* norms, as well as generally accepted principles of law.

During the proceedings and in subsequent submissions, references shall be made to the relevant convention, instrument, legal provision, or rule vis-à-vis the specific violation being addressed.

VI. EVIDENCE

The charges will be substantiated and proven by the emblematic or illustrative testimonies of representative witnesses, namely, victims and other persons with knowledge thereof, including individuals with established and qualified expertise in the subject matter. Their testimonies will be corroborated by verified reports, documentation, and other pieces of evidence.

The evidence would cover the factual and legal allegations in this Indictment, particularly, Israel's actions, carried out with the indispensable support, participation, and complicity principally of the United States as well as the United Kingdom, Germany, France, among others, as well as individuals and private entities operating with or enabling them, that amount to war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and other gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

The evidence, expert opinions, independently relevant statements, and submissions would cover *inter alia:*

65.1. the intentional destruction of the environment;

65.2 the unlawful seizure of Palestinian land and resources;

65.3. the destruction of crops and vegetation;

65.4. the contamination of Palestinian land to prevent cultivation and food production;

65.5. the imposition of restrictions on Palestinian activities related to the production, storage, and distribution of food, water and other items necessary for survival;

65.6. the destruction or severe damage of critical infrastructure, facilities and equipment for the cultivation, production, storage, and distribution of food, water and other basic needs;

65.7. the targeting of civilians and organizations engaged in the said processes and in the delivery of aid and services to the Palestinian people;

65.8. the destruction, damage, and pillage of cultural and historical sites; and

65.9. the imposition of a blockade and the denial of entry of life-saving aid and services into the occupied territories.

The evidence will prove that Israel engaged in a campaign to induce famine and starve the Palestinian population, to expropriate land and resources belonging to the Palestinian population and necessary for their survival, to destroy the environment and critical infrastructure to render the occupied territories unfit for habitation by the Palestinian people.

It will prove that all the aforementioned actions deliberately targeted the civilian population of the occupied territories, were widespread and committed systematically, and were undertaken pursuant to a state policy aimed at maintaining the occupation and destroying the Palestinian people.

The evidence would also show that Israel's aforementioned actions, that amount to international crimes and gross violations of international law, could not be carried out and sustained without the direct involvement and support of the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, among others, as well as individuals and private entities working with the Israeli government and its security apparatus.

The evidence will establish the complicity and responsibility, under international law, of the impleaded states, entities, and individuals for the crimes charged in this Indictment.

November 8, 2025: Barcelona, Spain.

THE PANEL OF PEOPLE'S PROSECUTORS
Counsel for the Complainants
c/o palestinetribunal@internationalsolidarity.org

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INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

The People of Palestine vs The Zionist Occupation

and the US Government

Barcelona, Spain

RULES OF PROCEDURE[1]

COMPOSITION, ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF TRIBUNAL PARTICIPANTS

Convenors

Composed of international organizations that will initiate, organize and constitute the Tribunal.

It shall appoint upon invitation the members of the Panel of Jurors, the Clerk/s of Court, Amici Curiae, Legal Team and the Secretariat.

Jurors

Composed of an international panel of eminent or prestigious individuals from different disciplines, known for or with proven competence, integrity, probity and objectivity, especially those with familiarity or experience on issues on human rights, rights of peoples, and international humanitarian law.

At least one of the Jurors must have a legal background.

The Panel of Jurors shall choose among themselves prior to the Tribunal proper who shall be the Presiding Juror that shall preside during the Tribunal proceedings.

It shall hear, examine and evaluate the testimonies of witnesses, experts and resource persons as well as the data, information, facts, analyses and other evidence presented before it, orally or in writing, in person or through some other efficient mode of communication.

It shall determine the facts and decide on the bases in support of or against the grounds or issues in the Indictment, after which it shall render a Verdict either for or against the Defendants.

3. Complainants

3.1. Composed of Palestinian individuals representing human rights victims and basic sectors of the Palestinian society that appealed to the Convenors to organize the Tribunal.

3.2. They shall prepare or cause to prepare the Indictment and the grounds or

charges against the Defendants and collate the evidence in support of the Complainants' case.

4. Defendants

4.1. Individuals or entities that are being charged by the Complainants for alleged crimes against the people of Palestine.

4.2. Subject to these Rules and time limitations and other practical and compelling security considerations, the Defendants must be served actual or constructive notice and/or furnished copies and/or informed of the Indictment in the most effective manner.

4.3. With utmost consideration of the safety and security of the participants to the Tribunal, the Defendants may, as far as practicable, be given a fair and reasonable opportunity to defend themselves during and even after the Tribunal concludes its open sessions.

4.4. Subject to the same compelling considerations and peculiar circumstances, they may present its or their evidence and arguments, orally or in writing, personally or through counsel, during and even after the Tribunal concludes its open sessions.

4.5. In any event, the Defendants or their counsel or representative/s must give actual or constructive notice preferably to the Panel of Jurors through the Convenors or Clerk of Court whether they intend to participate in the Tribunal Proceedings and in what mode and manner. Failure to do so shall constitute a waiver to adduce evidence in its or their behalf during the open sessions.

5. Prosecution

5.1. A Panel of People's Prosecutors made up of human rights lawyers shall represent the Complainants and their witnesses and, with the help of the Legal Team, shall prepare the Indictment, and present witnesses and other evidence, orally or in writing, in person or through some other efficient mode of communication.

6. Defense

6.1. Lawyers or agents of Defendants who shall represent them, present witnesses and other evidence, orally or in writing, in person or through some other efficient mode of communication, during or even after the open sessions of the Tribunal.

7. Witnesses

7.1. Victims, relatives and individuals with personal knowledge, familiarity or expertise on the cases and issues covered by, and relevant and material to the grounds or charges in the Indictment.

8. Clerk of Court

8.1. Lawyers or individuals with legal background, knowledge and experience who will be providing direct and confidential legal and administrative support to the Panel of Jurors.

8.2. The Clerk of Court may also act as official spokesperson of the Tribunal when and if authorized or requested by the Convenors and/or the Panel of Jurors.

8.3. The Clerk may appoint or designate a deputy or deputies as may be necessary to assist her/him. They shall have the power to administer oaths to the witnesses.

9. Amicus Curiae

9.1. An *amicus curiae or amici curiae* (friends of the Tribunal) invited by the Convenors may be appointed by the Panel of Jurors to assist, help, inform or give advice or legal opinion before, during and after the proceedings, including those in open or executive sessions.

10. Legal Team

10.1. A Legal Team of people's lawyers shall help in the drafting, research, and vetting of legal documents of the Tribunal. They may be invited by the Panel of Jurors to give legal support as may be necessary.

11. Secretariat

11.1. Individuals requested by the Convenors to provide technical, logistical, administrative and other support to the Tribunal.

INDICTMENT

The Indictment shall clearly state the grounds or charges constituting the alleged crimes or offenses against the Defendants.

It shall outline the context or overview of the grounds or charges, include the general and specific allegations and list the international laws or instruments allegedly violated.

The specific provisions of the said international instruments vis-a-vis the corresponding alleged violations shall be cited during the course of the Tribunal sessions and in the Verdict and Decision.

Subject to Rule 4.2. above, the Indictment shall, by authority of the Panel of Jurors through the Clerk of Court, be served by the Convenors on the Defendants or through their duly-authorized representatives within a reasonable period before the start of the initial Tribunal session.

III. PROCEDURE

The Tribunal shall be formally opened by the Convenors.

2. The Tribunal session shall be called to order by the Presiding Juror.

3. The case title shall be read by the Clerk of Court.

4. The appearances of the parties and their counsel, if any, shall be noted and, after verification of their standing or authority, be recognized by the Panel of Jurors.

When applicable, proof of actual or constructive service of the Indictment on the Defendants must be shown by the Clerk of Court or the Convenors and put into the record.

An abstract of the Indictment shall be read by the by the Clerk of Court.

Brief Opening Statements may be delivered respectively by the Chief Prosecutor and, when applicable, by the lead lawyer for the Defense before the presentation of their respective evidence.

The presentation of evidence for the Complainants or, when applicable, by the Defendants per ground or charge shall be made by the Panel of People's Prosecutors or the lawyers for the Defense, respectively.

Each witness, expert or resource person for the Prosecution or, when applicable, by the Defense shall testify orally or in writing, in person or through some other efficient mode of communication.

The Clerk or his/her deputy shall swear each witness before the oral testimony is taken. For economy of time, however, the witnesses, experts or resource persons may be sworn simultaneously or in groups.

The Panel of Jurors may - at its discretion and subject to time limitations and other practical considerations - ask clarificatory or searching but brief questions to the witnesses, experts, resource persons and their lawyers, either after each testimony, or after every ground or charge is covered, or before the respective Summations by the Panel of People's Prosecutors or, when applicable, by lawyers for the Defense, as the case may be.

Both Complainants and, when applicable, Defendants may, before respectively resting their case in chief, submit all documentary evidence or make written

submissions to the Tribunal even of other cases or incidents not orally presented as well as other additional documentary evidence in support of their respective allegations.

Both the Complainants and, when applicable, Defendants through their counsel may make their respective brief Summations after the completion of both presentations of their respective oral and written testimonies and other evidence.

After the Complainants and Defendants have rested their respective cases, the Panel of Jurors shall withdraw and hold their deliberations in executive session. The Panel may, at its sole discretion, invite *amici curiae* and the Legal Team as well as translators to join them in said executive session.

The Panel of Jurors shall reach a Verdict and the same or an Executive Summary or Abstract thereof shall be publicly pronounced and promulgated in open session at the end of the proceedings.

After such promulgation, the Tribunal shall be adjourned and the Verdict shall be served on the Defendants and made public.

The customary rules of procedure and evidence and the generally accepted basic minimum standards of due process of an impartial tribunal and its proceedings shall be adopted as may be applicable and as are warranted by the circumstances and overriding security considerations.

Adjustments in procedure shall be made and flexibility exercised to achieve substantial justice and that a determination of the facts and reception of evidence in a fair, verifiable, simple and expeditious manner without undue regard to technicalities shall be an overriding guiding principle.

IV. EVIDENCE

Selected testimonies and oral or written accounts from victims, relatives, witnesses, experts and resource persons and other individuals directly involved or knowledgeable in the areas or issues covered by the Indictment may be summarily presented or submitted in person or into the record.

Documentary evidence, photos, audio/videos, special reports, expert analyses and summaries of evidence, general accounts and reports on the charges or grounds in the Indictment from governmental and non-governmental organizations may also be submitted in person or into the record.

The particulars and specifics of the general and specific allegations for all the charges or grounds shall be substantiated and proven - orally or in writing - in the course

of the Tribunal proper by the testimonies of victims, relatives, witnesses and opinions of experts.

At the very minimum, the standard of proof for the Verdict shall be credible, clear and convincing substantial evidence that a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.

Evidence from both Parties to be given any weight by the Panel of Jurors shall not only be credible in itself but must come from a credible source.

Failure on the part of the Complainants or, when applicable, Defendants to so notify and/or non- appearance or participation in the sessions or proceedings of the Tribunal shall be deemed a waiver of its/their right to present evidence in the open session and the Panel of Jurors shall issue a Verdict on the basis of the available evidence if so sufficient either for or against the Complainants or Defendants.

Delaying tactics, superfluous presentation of evidence, stringent or obstructive technicalities as to form and procedure, or anything inconsistent with or contrary to ferreting out the truth within the framework of the Tribunal and these Rules as well as in disregard of time limitations and other practical and security considerations shall not be favored.

V. VERDICT

The Panel of Jurors shall, upon due deliberation and consensus, and consistent with these Rules and time limitations and other practical considerations, render a Verdict on the basis of the facts and evidence adduced - guided by and measured against the pertinent international laws, instruments, principles and standards and using the standard of proof of the Tribunal.

The Verdict shall make a ruling or determination by consensus on whether or not the evidence presented before the Tribunal shows that one, some or all of the Defendants has/have been complicit in and therefore guilty of the alleged violations, by either pursuing or promoting measures violating the rights of the Complainants; or remaining practically or absolutely silent to stop or stem such violations and thereby perpetuating them; or systematically and habitually failing to act to alleviate such violations or the conditions of the Complainants.

At the end of the Tribunal proceedings, an Executive Summary or Abstract of the Verdict shall be publicly pronounced and promulgated in open session.

The Panel of Jurors may at its discretion avail of the assistance and support of the Clerk of Court or *amicus curiae* during its deliberation/s, drafting and promulgation of the Verdict and/or its Executive Summary or Abstract.

The Panel of Jurors shall sign the Verdict and/or its Executive Summary or Abstract and may authorize that the same be served by the Convenors or the Complainants on the Defendants through their duly-authorized representatives.

Copies of the Verdict and/or its Executive Summary or Abstract shall also be furnished the pertinent, concerned or interested individual, organization, or State as may be ordered by the Panel of Jurors. #

October 7, 2025.

By:

International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS)

International Peoples' Front (IPF)

People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)

1. Per recommendation of the Convenors upon consultation with the Legal Team and Amicus Curiae.