

*Permanent Observer Mission
of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations*



البعثة المراقبة الدائمة
لدولة فلسطين
لدى الأمم المتحدة

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Statement by Loureen Sayej, Third Secretary, before the 77th Session of the General Assembly Meeting of the Sixth Committee on Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (Agenda Item 84)

This is like a bottomless pit of hell that keeps getting more satanic, more evil.

Two days, and live on TV and with full view of the world, Israel bombed Al-Ahli Anglican Hospital, while families were sleeping, killing over 500 Palestinians.

A carnage. A Massacre. A War crime by an occupying Power against a people under its occupation. Against a people it is supposed to protect.

A father carrying the rests of his son in two plastic bags. Waving them to the camera for the world to see. A paramedic uncovering the burned corpse of another baby. Women decapitated. Doctors terrorized. Wael Al-Dahdouh, a journalist who broadcasted the massacre from the hospital described: "The bodies, are scattered in limbs. It is rare to find a fully body with all its parts.Truly, we do not know what to say. No words can describe what we saw."

In a press conference, like never seen before, and among the piles of massacred children and burned corpses, the doctors said, "This brutal massacre rarely happens in the present world, we hear about it from the dark ages of brutality and fascism." Ghassan Abu Sita, a volunteer doctor with Doctors without Borders wrote, "This was the most advertised crime in history. It was a massacre by appointment. The Israeli government has been openly saying it was going to target hospitals for the last week and the world just stood by and did nothing. The number of children who were killed exceeds 50%."

A day before Israel's massacre, and as Israel's Prime Minister incited against children of Palestine by calling them "children of darkness", Mohammed Sami (RIP), a Gazan artist posted a video of tens of children at Al-Ahli Hospital playing, dancing, jumping, clapping, smiling, and dancing to "Salam la Gaza Salam/ Peace for Gaza Peace. Peace to all the sad eyes.". The details of the video are haunting.

Celebrating this carnage, Israel's Digital Spokesperson, was the first to post a tweet of the hospital with caption: "A multiple number of terrorist are dead". Israel's Minister of National Security tweeted, "the only thing that will enter Gaza is hundreds of tons of explosives from the air, not an ounce of humanitarian aid."

Israel's massacre and systematic targeting of hospitals is part and parcel of a well-documented policy. Currently, 24 hospitals are under imminent threat of bombing by Israel. Besieged, denied fuel, water, electricity, food, patients are dying and morgues are filling. Israel has killed over 16 health workers, injured 28. Prior to bombing Al-Ahli, Israel attacked health facilities over 59 times, killing 491 Palestinians who were inside the facilities or in vicinity.

Few hours before this carnage, Israel also bombed a UN school in Al-Maghzi refugee camp, where families were sheltering, killing 6 Palestinians. And few hours after, Israel bombed Nuseirat bakery, a major source of bread for the people, killing 3 Palestinians. And after this massacre, OCHA reported that Israeli airstrikes and shelling continued, additional residential buildings were targeted and destroyed, killing 62 Palestinians.

11 Palestinians are killed every hour. 5 children are killed every hour.

Crimes are too long to list; too graphic to describe.

The rule of law underpins universal humanity; it guarantees freedom, dignity, equality, justice, and stability; it protects the powerless and challenges the powerful. But Palestine has always exposed the hollowness of the applicability of the rule of law. Palestine has always exposed the selectivity of the rule of law. Palestine has always been the litmus test for the viability and authority of the rule of law. 75 years should have been enough time for the international community to hold Israel accountable for its crimes, but to no avail.

And two nights ago, as millions of people around the world watched with horror Israel's massacre, they took the streets in outrage and anguish calling for justice. They took the streets trying to make sense of the senseless, how did humanity allow this to happen? Will humanity recover from this? Will the rule of law recover from this? Will the efficacy of the law recover from this unchecked human will to destroy?

There is much to be gained and much to be lost. Until Israel's settler colonialism, occupation, dispossession, ongoing Nakba, and apartheid end, the promise of international law will not be fulfilled. Only when Israeli officials are held accountable for their crimes we can restore international legality. And it has never been more urgent. The world is watching.