



Message of solidarity on behalf of the Republic of South Africa
The UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian
People (CEIRPP)
75th anniversary of the Nakba
15 May 2023

Chairperson,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Nakba that took place in 1948, which led to the destruction of Palestinian societies, dispossession of land, demolition of properties and the subsequent displacement of Palestinians. Palestinians were forced to become refugees in their own land and more than 75000 were made refugees beyond the borders.

The Israeli government as the occupying power continues to violate international law and human rights of Palestinians with impunity, through successive implementation of discriminatory policies that champion the supremacy of some over others.

As the occupation continues, the Israeli authorities continue to expand settlements on the Palestinian land and replace Palestinian streets with Jewish names with the aim at erasing the Palestinian history, culture, and heritage. The recent airstrikes on Gaza, once again highlights the brutality and force Palestinians are subjected to by the Israeli authorities, often as was the case last week, at the expense of innocent Palestinian women and children.

South Africa condemns in the strongest terms these Apartheid-like practices and inhuman acts committed by Israel for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination and systematically oppressing Palestinians.

South Africa holds the view that the selective application of international law undermines the effectiveness of collective responses to global security threats. Israel must be held legally and politically accountable for the structural violence and suffering its occupation inflicts on Palestinians.

As the international community we have a responsibility to work tirelessly towards supporting and calling for the immediate and unconditional end to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine. Our collective human duty to act cannot be avoided. We must proceed together with due regard to International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and International Resolutions. South Africa remains committed to this just cause and to promote efforts that will result in the establishment of a two-State-solution where Palestinians and Israelis can live side by side where justice and peace prevails.

I thank you.