



Statement of the Bureau of the UN Committee
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

600 Days of Israeli War on Gaza: UN Committee Urges Immediate, Unhindered Humanitarian Access

New York, 30 May 2025 – As the Israeli military attacks on Gaza enter its 600th day, the Bureau of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights expresses grave concern over the escalating casualties, worsening humanitarian emergency, catastrophic devastation and destruction and continued obstruction of life-saving assistance to the Palestinian people.

Described by UN Secretary-General António Guterres as “the cruelest phase” of the conflict, the situation has left Palestinian civilians enduring unbearable suffering and widespread and engineered deprivation and mass displacement. The UN Humanitarian Chief Tom Fletcher echoed this dire assessment in his Security Council briefing of 13 May and emphasized: “When you face starvation, you don’t need air drops and floating piers, you need roads open, convoys moving, and a ceasefire that lasts.” The Committee Bureau strongly shares these sentiments in light of the worsening of unprecedented and grave humanitarian conditions.

The Bureau joins the United Nations and countless countries firmly opposing the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). This initiative is an attempt to circumvent the UN and its agencies on the ground, foremost UNRWA, that have long delivered humanitarian aid and basic services in assistance to the Palestinian people in accordance with international law, including humanitarian law, relevant UN resolutions and the humanitarian principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The GHF fails the test of the humanitarian principles, employing, inter alia, a food and essentials rationing system described by OCHA as “engineered scarcity” and “a policy of deprivation by design” that must be firmly rejected.

The destruction of Gaza’s essential infrastructure, including hospitals, bakeries, and water systems, alongside the destruction of over 90% of housing and the mass displacement and forced encampment of civilians, represents not only a humanitarian crisis but a profound erosion of the human dignity of the Palestinian people. The International Court of Justice’s provisional measures in the case of South Africa v. Israel under the Genocide Convention remain unheeded, compounding the breaches of international law by Israel, the occupying Power.

Humanitarian organizations, including the UN and its partners, are prepared and capable of delivering assistance effectively to the Palestinian people in Gaza to alleviate this humanitarian catastrophe. What stands in the way is not capacity, but political obstruction and systematic violations of obligations under international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.

This somber milestone must be a moment of reckoning and moral clarity. The international community must act decisively to uphold the rights of a population facing starvation, mass displacement, and death, as the world watches on. While the June 2025 International Conference on the implementation of the UN resolutions pertaining to the question of Palestine and the two-State solution is a vital step forward towards ending the illegal occupation, and achieving a just and peaceful resolution to the historic injustice, the

immediate humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people in Gaza and in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, under constant Israeli assault, cannot wait.

The Bureau calls on all Member States to take urgent, meaningful action to bring an end to the Israeli siege and to ensure immediate, unimpeded and full humanitarian access to save the endangered lives of 2 million Palestinian children, women and men, halt their forced displacement and end this unbearable human suffering. Urgent international efforts are also required to bring a halt to the violence and bloodshed with an immediate and permanent ceasefire in accordance with Security Council resolution 2735 (2024) and all other relevant resolutions, and ensure accountability for all violations of international law, including all war crimes and crimes against humanity, perpetrated in this horrific conflict.

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