

Open Call for a Ceasefire in Gaza, Lebanon and Israel and End to Impunity amid a Spiralling Humanitarian Catastrophe and Escalating Regional Conflict

24 October 2024

We, the undersigned organisations, appeal to all UN member states to secure an immediate ceasefire across Gaza, Lebanon, Israel and the region, and to end the impunity that has allowed atrocities by Israeli forces against civilians to continue and escalate. Without accountability, there will be no red lines and no rock bottom.

Israel's war in Gaza, following the deadly attacks by Palestinian armed groups on 7 October 2023, is the latest and most horrific onslaught of violence in the decades-long Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. After a year of unfathomable killing and destruction, patterns of civilian harm by Israeli forces are spreading and escalating from Gaza to Lebanon, while rocket attacks by armed groups in Lebanon continue. We are now on the precipice of even greater devastation across the region.

Failure to act now is a choice - a choice that will fail to stop and prevent future atrocities. The UN Commission of Inquiry [concluded](#) last week that Israel has committed war crimes and the crime against humanity of extermination with relentless and deliberate attacks on medical personnel and facilities in Gaza, and called on member states to "[cease aiding or assisting in the commission of violations](#)."

Over the last 12 months, the UN Security Council has passed four resolutions on Gaza, including one calling for a ceasefire, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has ordered Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of the Genocide Convention. The ICJ also issued an Advisory Opinion that found that Israel's occupation¹ and annexation of Palestinian territory is illegal, and the UN General Assembly passed a resolution demanding that Israel end its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) within 12 months. Despite this, none of these measures have been implemented or adhered to.

The international community's egregious disregard for international law and the government of Israel's unchecked impunity in Gaza, the West Bank and now Lebanon, has set dangerous new precedents for the conduct of war.

For civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory, Lebanon and Israel this has resulted in:

- Israeli military actions killing over [43,000 Palestinians](#) across the oPt and more than [2,000 people in Lebanon](#).
- Israeli forces issuing displacement orders covering over [84% of Gaza's territory](#) and now [25% of Lebanon's territory](#). These orders, combined with Israel's bombardment, have forcibly displaced [around 90% of Gaza's population](#) and [over 800,000 people in Lebanon](#).
- An estimated 400,000 Palestinians are under siege and relentless bombardment in northern Gaza without access to food, water, fuel, or medical care. ([UNRWA](#))

¹ For more on what international humanitarian law says about occupation, please see commentary by [ICRC](#).

- The killing of [over 300 Palestinian and international aid workers](#), and over [1000 health care workers](#) in Gaza and [95 in Lebanon](#). UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon are also coming under attack by Israeli forces ([UNIFIL](#)). Israeli military attacks on hospitals, clinics, and ambulances have decimated the health care system in Gaza, and are [destroying it in Lebanon](#) - leaving millions without access to care.
- Countless children and adults are dying of malnutrition and facing the risk of starvation, directly induced by the Israeli government's siege on Gaza, which includes systematic obstruction of humanitarian aid and essential services. ([IPC](#))
- The killing of nearly 1,200 people in Israel during the Palestinian armed group led attacks on October 7, 2023 ([OCHA](#)).
- Rockets fired by Palestinian and Lebanese armed groups have killed and injured dozens of people ([Amnesty International](#)) and displaced over [140,000 Israelis](#).
- [101 hostages](#) remain held by Palestinian armed groups, and thousands of Palestinians are unlawfully [detained](#) by Israeli forces in detention centers, including children, many whose whereabouts are unknown and have effectively disappeared.

Many among us have repeatedly called for a permanent and unconditional [ceasefire](#), [hostage release](#), a [halt to arms transfers](#), and [de-escalation of tensions](#) in the region, and yet the violence only appears to be intensifying. Again, we call on all Heads of State and Governments, the UN Security Council, and actors on the ground to prioritise the preservation of human life above all else by:

- Securing an immediate ceasefire by all parties to the conflict and an end to the indiscriminate attacks that kill civilians and destroy civilian infrastructure;
- Halting the transfer of weapons, parts, and ammunition to parties to the conflict that may be used to commit violations of international humanitarian law (IHL);
- Enabling unhindered humanitarian access for the delivery of lifesaving assistance, including food, medical supplies and fuel, and the safe movements of civilians and aid workers.
- Ensuring the protection of civilians from further forced displacement, and the right to return for those forcibly displaced. Civilians who choose to stay or are unable to leave remain protected under international law.
- Securing the release of all hostages and detainees.
- Immediately activating independent international investigations into all apparent violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes committed by all parties.

Governments must do everything in their power to end this growing catastrophe and cycle of impunity. It is not only a moral imperative but a legal obligation. All Member States must prevent further atrocities and ensure that those responsible for any violations of international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, are held accountable. Failure to act now risks further eroding international norms and emboldening perpetrators. The cycle of violence against civilians needs to stop.

Signatories:

1. ABCD Bethlehem
2. Access Center for Human Rights (ACHR)
3. Act for the Disappeared
4. Action Développement Parrainages Mondiaux
5. Action Research Associates
6. AFSC, American Friends Service Committee
7. ALEF - act for human rights
8. Alternative Jewish Voices/Sh'ma Koleinu
9. Alternatives Internationales
10. Amos Trust
11. Anera
12. Anglican Pacifist Fellowship
13. Another Europe is Possible
14. Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem
15. Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz (ACPP)
16. Asociación Otra Escuela
17. Association Switzerland-Palestine (Gesellschaft Schweiz-Palästina)
18. Avaaz
19. Baytna pour le soutien de la société civile
20. Belgium Palestine Mental Health Network
21. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
22. Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas - CCCM
23. CARE International
24. Caritas International Belgium
25. Caritas Internationalis
26. Caritas Lebanon
27. Caritas Maroc
28. Caritas MONA (Middle East and North Africa)
29. CCFD-Terre Solidaire
30. Central Pacific Conference of the UCC Palestine/Israel Network
31. Centre for Global Education
32. Children Not Numbers
33. Christian Aid
34. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
35. CIVICUS
36. Clowns Without Borders Sweden
37. Clowns Without Borders UK
38. CNCD-11.11.11
39. Collective Aid
40. Comisión de Justicia y Paz de Confregua
41. Cordaid
42. Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)

43. Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu)
44. DanChurchAid
45. Danish Refugee Council
46. DAWN
47. Egala Association
48. Embrace the Middle East
49. Emmaus International
50. Equal Legal Aid
51. Equality Now
52. EuroMed Rights Network
53. Europe Cares e.V.
54. European Alternatives
55. Fellowship of Reconciliation - USA
56. Femena
57. Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid
58. Fighters for Peace Lebanon
59. Firefly International
60. Forces Watch
61. FORO SALUD NACIONAL
62. Forum for the Memory and Future
63. Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V.
64. France Palestine Mental Health Network
65. Frantz Fanon Association
66. Frieda - the Feminist Peace Organisation
67. FSMAGH (Forum des alternatives Maroc - FMAS)
68. Fund for Global Human Rights
69. Generation for Rights Over the World
70. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
71. Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)
72. Global Witness
73. GOOD TO BE GOOD
74. Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)
75. HelpAge International
76. Hivos
77. Human Rights & Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"/Palestine
78. Human Rights Sentinel
79. Human Security Collective
80. Humanity & Inclusion/Handicap International
81. ICNA SISTERS CANADA
82. Ina outra senda - Swiss Friends of Combatants for Peace
83. Initiatives et Changement
84. International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)
85. International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
86. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

87. International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)
88. International Peace Bureau (IPB)
89. INTERSOS
90. Iranian Canadian Congress
91. Ireland Palestine Mental Health Network
92. Islamic Relief Worldwide
93. Jesuit European Social Centre
94. Jewish Network for Palestine
95. Jewish Voice for Peace-Health Advisory Council
96. KAIROS Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
97. Kenya Human Rights Commission
98. KinderUSA
99. Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law
100. Lebanese Center for human Rights
101. MADRE
102. Mayworks Kijipuktuk/Halifax
103. Médecins du Monde International Network
104. medico international
105. medico international schweiz
106. Medicus Mundi Italia
107. Mennonite Central Committee
108. Migrant Roots Media
109. Minnesota Peace Project
110. Movement for community-led Development
111. MPower Change Action Fund
112. Muslim Aid UK
113. Muslim Association of Brantford
114. Muslim Delegates and Allies
115. Musulmanas de Guatemala por Palestina
116. Network for Children's Rights
117. NO NAME KITCHEN
118. Nonviolence International
119. Nonviolent Peaceforce
120. Norwegian Refugee Council
121. Olof Palmes Internationella Center
122. Omega Research Foundation
123. Outright International
124. Oxfam
125. Palestinian Assoc. of Brantford
126. PAX
127. Pax Christi Australia
128. Pax christi Deutsche Sektion
129. Pax Christi England and Wales
130. Pax Christi Flanders

131. Pax Christi International
132. Pax Christi Scotland
133. Pax Christi USA
134. Peace & Justice - Scotland
135. Peace Boat
136. Peace Direct
137. Peace SOS
138. Peace Watch Switzerland
139. Peace, Justice, Sustainability, NOW!
140. People's Health Movement (PHM)
141. Permanent Peace Movement
142. Plan International
143. Plateforme des ONG françaises pour la Palestine
144. Polish Medical Mission
145. Première Urgence Internationale
146. Progressive Democrats of Pennsylvania
147. Protection International
148. PVE Works
149. Quakers in Scotland (Religious Society of Friends)
150. Refugees International
151. Resource Centre for human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED)
152. ReThinking Foreign Policy
153. Rethinking Security
154. Righting Relations Canada
155. RootsAction Education Fund
156. Saferworld
157. SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties
158. Save the Children International
159. Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
160. Secours Catholique - Caritas France
161. Secure Scotland
162. Seenaryo
163. Share The World's Resources
164. SOL Education Center
165. SOS Children's Villages UK
166. Ster Organization for human development
167. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR)
168. Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights
169. Terre des Hommes Netherlands
170. The Advocacy Academy
171. The Center for Mind-Body Medicine
172. The Circle
173. The Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security
174. The Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation

175. The International Federation for Rights and Development - IFRD
176. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
177. The Namibia NGO Forum Trust
178. The National Organization of Yemeni Reporters SADA
179. The socio-economic Justice Initiative-MAAN
180. The Syria Campaign
181. Train of Hope Dortmund e. V.
182. Turkiye - Palestine Mental Health Network
183. UK Palestine Mental Health Network
184. UMAM Documentation & Research
185. United Against Inhumanity
186. United Nations Association - UK (UNA-UK)
187. United Nations Association Scotland (UNAS)
188. University Network for Human Rights
189. UNOY Peacebuilders
190. US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)
191. USA Palestine Mental Health Network
192. Veterans For Peace
193. Veterans for Peace, Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter (Baltimore, MD)
194. Vision GRAM-International
195. Vrede vzw
196. Vredesactie
197. War Child
198. War Resisters League
199. Welfare Association
200. WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
201. WeWorld
202. WILPF US
203. Women for Women International
204. Women's International League for Peace & Freedom-Minnesota, USA, Branch
205. World BEYOND War
206. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
207. Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation
208. مؤسسة لاجلك للاستجابة والتنميه
209. مؤسسة مدافعات للحقوق والحريات