



KC. Karim A. A. Khan

Date :13/06/2023

Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

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RE: Palestine Needs Justice Now More Than Ever

Dear Mr. Karim Khan,

On the 9th anniversary of the referral of crimes committed in Palestine to the International Criminal Court, we, the undersigned scholars, experts, members of parliament and human rights organisations, urge you, as the Public Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to address the ongoing breaches of international humanitarian law committed by the state of Israel against Palestinians living under its occupation.

Many of us had hoped that the ICC investigation, started under your predecessor, would continue under your leadership. However, despite mounting evidence of crimes committed by the Israeli regime, your office has apparently taken no further action.

The government of Palestine had first called for an ICC probe into allegations of crimes “in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, since June 13, 2014”, and became party to the Rome statute on 1 April 2015. On March 3, 2021, the former Prosecutor announced the opening of an investigation into the situation of Palestine. This followed the Pre-Trial Chamber’s decision on February 5, 2021, providing that the court territorial jurisdiction extends to Gaza and West Bank, including East Jerusalem.



Since you assumed the position as the **Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**, no one heard anything from you on the Palestinian case, while your office announced speedy investigations into the alleged war crimes committed by Russia during its ongoing war against Ukraine, and issued an arrest warrant for President of Russia Vladimir Putin.

Last May, Palestinians commemorated 75 years of Nakba (the Catastrophe), during which Zionists committed several horrendous crimes against the Palestinians, including mass massacres and house demolition, however, all those crimes went unpunished.

Palestinians now are worried of being subjected to the same incidents of 1948, as the current situations they are witnessing are similar to that of the Nakba.

Crimes like the systematic killing of civilians, ongoing building of settlements, collective punishment, open-ended occupation, laws targeting only Palestinians, the state-backed seizure of Palestinian land by settlers and the regular targeting of civilian infrastructure by bulldozers in the West Bank, and advanced missiles in Gaza continue without repercussions.

The far-right government of Benjamin Netanyahu –already under fire by Israelis themselves– has increased the state’s attacks on Palestinians as a means to boost his public approval.

In March, Israeli Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich, called for the Palestinian village of Hawara to be “wiped out” by the Israeli government. His comments followed what one IDF official called a “pogrom” in the village, where settlers killed one Palestinian, injured dozen and torched multiple homes.

In a speech during his visit to Franc, the same minister denied the existence of a Palestinian people,” there is no such thing as a Palestinian People”, indeed this is a very dangerous statement from a high official level paving the way for terrible crimes to take place.

The newly proposed Israeli government legislation would allow Palestinian prisoners to be executed – a clearly racist bill targeting only those living under occupation, who would be tried under a legal system that denies Palestinians the same rights as Israeli Jews.



On March 21, 2023, the Israeli parliament abolished the "disengagement" law enacted in 2015 to evacuate settlements in the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the northern West Bank. Abolishing this law would allow the rebuilding of the four settlements, hence annexing the whole of the West Bank.

This year has been marked as the deadliest yet, with the death toll reaching at least 145, including 28 children. This grim figure follows the 223 fatalities from 2022, with children making up 49 of the victims. This consistent pattern of violence against Palestinians by the Israeli Occupation Forces highlights a worrying trend that has been apparent since Palestine fell under the jurisdiction of the court in June 2014, with hundreds of Palestinians losing their lives or suffering injuries.

These disturbing statistics became even more concerning with the recent Israeli aggression in Gaza. The human toll of these actions was shocking: 33 lives were lost, including 6 children and 4 women, as reported by the Gaza Health Ministry and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The ripple effects of this aggression extended beyond these fatalities, causing varying degrees of injuries to an additional 190 Palestinians. The injured include a particularly vulnerable population: 64 children, 38 women, and 10 elderly individuals.

However, the violence has left more than just a human toll. The incessant attacks have also brought about widespread destruction, rendering approximately 1,000 Palestinians homeless. The effects on housing have been disastrous: around 2,800 units have suffered damage, with 140 completely flattened and another 128 rendered uninhabitable. Despite this, 1,820 damaged units are still deemed habitable. Altogether, the total number of partially damaged residences is a staggering 1,948, underscoring the devastating physical impact of this conflict alongside its horrific human cost.

Yet there has been no response to these horrific crimes from the ICC.

In announcing the investigation into alleged crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the ICC gave hope to those in Palestine that it would grant them a fair hearing on the global stage. However, given this standstill situation and with no actions being taken, those hopes have vanished.

We call on you to uphold the basic ideas of establishing a permanent international court to eliminate the spread phenomenon of impunity in serious crimes.



We urge you to have a bold and courageous stance against the world's powers, such as the US and the UK, in their attempts to discredit and oppose your investigation. Ironically, meanwhile these powers support ICC investigation in other situations including Ukraine!

We hereby demand that Palestinians are granted the same right to life and freedom as those in Ukraine and other areas under your jurisdiction.

There can be no more delays. Every day more rights are breached, more lives are taken, and more territory is seized.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Signatories

1. **Noam Chomsky** - American Public Intellectual
2. **Moncef Marzouki**- Former President of Tunisia
3. **Norman Finkelstein** - American Political Scientist and Activist
4. **Miguel Urban** - MEP – Spain
5. **PINEDA Manu** - MEP- Spain
6. **Leïla Chaïbi**- MEP - France
7. **Pierre Larrouturou**- MEP- France
8. **Idoia VILLANUEVA RUIZ**- MEP- Spain
9. **Patrick Le Hyaric**- French Columnist- Former MEP
10. **Emer Costello**- Former MEP & Lord Mayor of Dublin
11. **Paul Murphy**- Former MEP and Irish Politician
12. **Massimo Ungaro**- Former Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy
13. **Kateřina KONEČNÁ**- MEP Czechia
14. **Francis Black**- Irish Senator Seanad Éireann
15. **Gino Kenny** – Deputy of the Dáil – Ireland
16. **David Patrick Bernard Norris**- Irish Independent Senator and Civil Rights Activist
17. **Catherine Dunne** - Chair of Irish PEN
18. **Ilan Pappé** - Expatriate Israeli Historian and Socialist Activist
19. **Avi Shlaim** - Emeritus Professor of International Relations St Antony's College Oxford
20. **Sarah Leah Whitson** -Executive Director of DAWN
21. **Richard Falk** - American Professor of International Law and Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor's Chairman of the Board of Trustees
22. **Mark Seddon**- Director, Centre for UN studies, University of Buckingham & Former Speechwriter to UN Secretary Ban Ki-moon



23. **Alexei David Sayle** - English Actor, Author, Stand-Up Comedian and Television Presenter
24. **Anna Baltzer** - American Public Speaker, Author and Activist
25. **Stephen Zunes** - Politics Professor, University of San Francisco
26. **Daniel Gerard Morrison**- Irish author and activist
27. **William Schabas** - Canadian Professor of International Law
28. **Mouin Rabbani** - Co-editor of Jadaliyya
29. **Abdel Razzaq Takriti**- Founding Director of the Arab-American Educational Foundation Center for Arab Studies
30. **Jim Moran**- Former Democratic member of the US House of Representatives
31. **Hugh Miles** – British Journalist and the Founder of Arab Digest
32. **Philippe Leruth** - Former President of International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)
33. **Kjersti G. Berg**- Norwegian Post-doctoral Research Fellow at Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)
34. **Laila Parsons** - Specialist in the History of the 20th-Century Middle East
35. **Lex Takkenberg** – Dutch Professor of International Law and Humanitarian Affairs and Senior Advisor with Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD)
36. **Pierre Stambul** - French activist and writer, Member of French Jewish Union for Peace
37. **Rashid Khalidi** - American Historian and the Editor of the Journal of Palestine Studies
38. **Hatem Bazian**- Professor at Berkeley Center for Race and Gender
39. **Mara Ahmed** -American Filmmaker and Artist
40. **Zoe Lawlor** – Irish Rights Activist
41. **Marwa Daoudy**- Swiss associate professor of international relations at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University
42. **Diana Buttu** - Palestinian-Canadian lawyer and a former spokesperson for the Palestine Liberation Organization
43. **Dr Esam Omeish**- American physician and chief of the Division of General Surgery at Inova Alexandria Hospital
44. **Ayman Nour**- President of Egyptian National Alliance
45. **Yasin Aktay**- Turkish politician and Professor of Sociology
46. **Roba Salibi**- Postdoctoral Fellow at Oxford University
47. **Dr. Ramzy Baroud** - Palestinian author and Journalist
48. **Nadia Naser-Najjab**- Senior lecturer, University of Exeter
49. **Professor William Gallois**- Senior Lecturer in the History of the Modern Middle East, University of Exeter
50. **Ghislain Poissonnier**- French Magistrate
51. **Nick Rahall**- Former Democratic member of the US House of Representatives
52. **Maryam Namazie**- Iranian Human Rights Activist
53. **Hamid Dabashi**- Iranian-American Scholar, Cultural critic, and Author
54. **Prof. Conor Gearty KC** - Professor of Human Rights Law at LSE
55. **Daniel Machover**- Head of Civil Litigation for Hickman & Rose Solicitors in London
56. **Dr. Conor McCarthy**- A lecturer in Middle Eastern politics at Trinity College Dublin
57. **Dominique Vidal**- French Journalist and Historian



58. **Miko Peled**- Israeli-American Activist and Author
59. **Professor Bilal M. Ayyub** - University of Maryland College Park
60. **Prof. Lejeune Mirhan**- Sociologist, Writer - Brazil
61. **Lian Bell**- Irish Activist
62. **Ziyaad Patel**- South African Attorney and International Human Rights Advocate
63. **Na'eem Jeenah**- Palestinian / South African Academic and Activist
64. **Nacira Guenif**- French Sociologist and Anthropologist
65. **Boaventura de Sousa Santos**- Portuguese Emeritus Professor of Sociology at University of Coimbra
66. **Prof. Mazin Qumsiyeh**- Palestinian Scientist and Director of Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability, Bethlehem University
67. **Kumi Naidoo** - Special Advisor to the Green Economy Coalition at South Africa
68. **Terry Crawford-Browne**- South African Activist and Campaigner at Anti Arms Deal campaigns
69. **Professor William Gallois**- Professor of the History of the Mediterranean Islamicate World - University of Exeter
70. **Dr. Shir Hever** - Manager of the Alliance for Justice between Israelis and Palestinians (BJP), and the military embargo coordinator for the Boycott National committee (BNC)
71. **Khalaf Ali Bayoumi** – Egyptian Lawyer
72. **Moumen ALnatour** – Palestinian Lawyer
73. **Naama Farjoun**- Israeli Human Rights Lawyer and Activist
74. **Meira Asher**- Israeli Sound Artist and Member of "Boycott from Within"
75. **Neta Golan**- Israeli human rights activist and co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM)
76. **Noam Gur**- Israeli Journalist and Political Commentator
77. **Prof. Haim Bresheeth-Žabner**- Israeli British Professor of Film Studies at SOAS
78. **Ofer Neiman** - Israeli Activist and Writer
79. **Dr. Hannah Safran** - Israeli Historian and Human Rights Activist
80. **Tali Shapira** - Israeli Journalist
81. **Zehava Grinfield** - Israeli Citizen
82. **Dr. Michal Sapir** - Israeli Citizen
83. **Mohd Abdussattar**-Teacher
84. **Shah Fahad** -Businessman
85. **Muhammad Anwar Khan**-Retired
86. **Ram gopal gupta**-Businessman
87. **Rashidi mwedi**-Driver
88. **Kamlesh sonwani** -Civil site engineer
89. **Palash Saha**-Self-employed
90. **Arriana Velarde**-Chef
91. **Moono Leslie** -Laboratory technologist
92. **Suraj Dubey**-Retail seller



93. **Nkouelo nestor**-Technicien
94. **TALHA Djelloul** -Retraité
95. **Som Tshering**-Hotel chef
96. **Luther Bikay**-Finance chairman
97. **Catherine Mutale**-Businessman
98. **Vanita ingole** -Farmer
99. **Mohammad Aabid**-Businessman
100. **Arun v Nair**-Translator
101. **Rayan Mohammed Abdalla** -Student
102. **Haroub Ali Nassor**-Student
103. **Rahman Ullah** -Student
104. **Parves Hosen**-Student
105. **Della Ulysses** - Lawyer
106. **Paloma Calvin** – Climate activist
107. **Allan Uma**- Human Rights Defender
108. **Logan Bryan**- Criminal Law expert
109. **Ellis Cora**- Professor of Social Studies
110. **Kody Ryley**- Activist
111. **Javon Elin**- Journalist
112. **Thor Davina**- Dentist
113. **Skyler Isidore**- Painter
114. **Aston Tomas**- Teacher
115. **Tyrese Wilbur**- Lawyer
116. **Jack Slade**- IT expert
117. **Eve Nia**- Housewife
118. **Irwin Kylar**- Investigative Journalist
119. **Gracelyn Zaine**- Reporter
120. **Mariam Nikolas**- Student
121. **Arlo Esperanza**- Human Rights Researcher
122. **Zahra Kara**- Student
123. **Mekhi Dennis**- Engineer
124. **Lesley Joni**- Interpreter
125. **Ruairi Roberto**- Doctor
126. **Tracy Lyle**- Businessman
127. **Noelle Carter**- Instructor
- 128.
129. **Euen Kaylen**- Student
130. **Jena Daysha**- Climate Activist
131. **Catalina Adrian**- Campaigner
132. **Annabel Ariana**- Teacher
133. **Nolan Theo**- Doctor



134. **Asma Cayden**- Author
135. **Jenna Wallis**- Journalist

NGOs and Human Rights Groups

- 1- **Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)**
- 2- **London Campaign Against Arms Trade (London CAAT)**
- 3- **Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN)**
- 4- **Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME)**
- 5- **Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)**
- 6- **Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association (Addameer)**
- 7- **Bisan Center for Research and Development**
- 8- **Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK (AOHR UK)**