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Written statement* submitted by Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[6 August 2024]



^{*} Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

Palestinian Human Rights Situation

The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue expresses its deep concern about the continuation of the fierce Israeli war on the Gaza Strip and its repercussions, whether on the level of the Palestinians themselves or on the entire region, as we are witnessing a series of escalation at various levels, including:

- 1. More than 150 journalists were targeted in order to cover up and obscure the genocide against Gaza
- 2. Schools and shelters for displaced people were targeted, in addition to assassinating more than 135 United Nations officials, which has never happened in the history of the United Nations. Since the beginning of the aggression, the occupation forces have bombed 126 shelter centers. Perhaps the most prominent of these targets is the assassination of World Kitchen employees in April.
- 3. Launching raids against Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- 4. The death toll from the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, as of 4 August 2024, rose to 39,623 martyrs and 91,469 injured; Since 7 October, a total of 12,300 children have been killed in Gaza between October 2023 and February 2024, meaning that the Israeli occupation is killing about 4 children every hour.
- 5. The practice of a wide series of arbitrary arrests and detentions in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as the exposure of many Palestinians to sexual assaults, which was confirmed by the latest report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights entitled: "Detention in the Context of Escalation of Hostilities in Gaza (October 2023 June 2024)."
- 6. Granting settlers a license to carry weapons, as well as attacking humanitarian aid vehicles
- 7. Obstructing the entry of humanitarian aid, and imposing a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich responded by saying that preventing humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip is "a justifiable and moral matter"!!
- 8. The spread of many infectious diseases, such as polio, due to the collapse of health conditions and the destruction of infrastructure and hospitals

We would also like to praise the decision of the International Court of Justice to illegalize the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, which obligates the occupation to end this presence and stop its settlement activity, as this decision must be the basic rule in dealing with everything related to the Palestinian issue.

The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue confirms that the grave Israeli violations against the Palestinian people are a violation of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law, and reach the level of serious crimes under International Criminal Law.

Accordingly, the Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue recommends the following:

- Immediate and permanent cessation of all military operations in the occupied Palestinian territories in respect of the provisions and principles of International Human Rights Law
- Immediately release all Palestinians who have been arbitrarily detained whether in Gaza or the West Bank
- The necessity of sending a commission of Inquiry or Independent Investigators to investigate the facts regarding the Israeli occupation forces' continued targeting of schools. Hence, submitting it to the International Criminal Court as an important proof of the Israeli occupation's practice of genocide against the Palestinians, especially in the Gaza Strip.
- The international community, especially allied countries, must stop sending weapons to the occupying army

• The International Criminal Court must take into account all the current violations committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza.