



Human Rights Now

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30th Human Rights Council

ITEM 7 General debate

Speaker: Ms. Wipada Panichpathom

The International Community Must Make all Effort to End the Impunity and Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

Thank you Mr. /Ms. President,

Human Rights Now (HRN) welcomes the work of the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict and supports its findings and recommendations. In particular, we are deeply concerned about the indiscriminate attacks against the people of Gaza, especially Israel's attacks that killed 1462 Palestine civilians, including 551 children. Many of these deaths occurred in a manner which constitutes war crimes, however, the Israeli Government's investigations of such crimes have been far from satisfactory. The prevailing impunity significantly contributes to a recurrence of human rights violations in Gaza. We call upon the ICC prosecutor to accelerate the preliminary examinations and urge Israeli and Palestinian governments to fully cooperate with the ICC's criminal investigations.

Further, Israel targeted critical infrastructure such as medical facilities, schools, and electricity delivery, which have severely impacted a wide range of fundamental human rights. At the same time, Israel's blockade prevents essential construction material from reaching the people in need. Thereby, it slows down the reconstruction of Gaza, which at the current rate is estimated to take up to 17 years. The blockade constitutes a collective punishment, another war crime committed by Israel under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

We urge Israel to cease all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and to lift the blockade on Gaza immediately and unconditionally. Also, we call upon the international community to take all effective measures to put an end to impunity over human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory and increase efforts to support the reconstruction of Gaza. Moreover, we call upon the UN Human Rights Council to set up effective mechanisms to ensure the implementation of all UN recommendations on the State of Israel in relation to the human rights situation in the occupied Palestine territory.

Thank you for your attention.