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Written statement* submitted by Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Stop the Genocide in Gaza

The world is witnessing unprecedented barbarity since October 7th. The kind of barbarity that goes even beyond imagination, a barbarity that knows no limit and breaks all the cruelty records. Every single human right and every rule of war was violated by Israel in its war in Gaza. Rules of war were created for war to not be barbaric, thus, in the total absence of rules, we found ourselves in a state of vicious barbarity. All the International Humanitarian and Human Rights principles laws were, and still are systematically and intentionally breached. The international Law has never been this much breached, violated, disrespected, and disvalued as in the last three months.

The whole world is watching daily atrocities, scenes that probably do not even occur in the most horrific terror movies, unfolding live, and getting worse every day in Gaza.

The world revolted in the four continents and people took to the streets by millions demanding an immediate ceasefire, while the most influential, notably Western governments, are backing and justifying a genocide.

This crisis is deeply marking this and future generations who feel hurt and suffer from the violation and disrespect of their humanity by being exposed to such traumatizing images and not being able to do anything about it. No human heart can bear such pain, especially when it comes to the population of Gaza. Dignity is inherent to all the members of the human family, so by cruelly transgressing Palestinians' dignity, it's the whole of humankind's dignity that's being transgressed.

This war is a war on humanity, on every single noble principle and value attached to humanity. It's a war on innocent children, who are condemned to the most horrific ways of death. Death by indiscriminate savage Israeli bombardment, death out of pain, absence of anesthesia and medical care, death under the rubble, death because of hunger, death due to dehydration, death out of diseases, and out of heartbreaks. A war on Palestinian women, men, elderly, journalists, humanitarian staff, hospitals, ambulances, mosques, churches, schools, universities, UN and IO institutions, agricultural lands, trees, graves that got bulldozed, and even animals.

As if all the measures were taken to completely eradicate life in Gaza by all the possible means. By the killing, torture, starvation, dehydration, and destruction of all life-necessary infrastructures, and enforced displacement.

It is terrorizing to realize that the scale of human casualties is far beyond the scale of any conflict in modern history. The only comparable human-made humanitarian catastrophe to the one unfolding in Gaza in terms of space-time ratio of casualties is the horrifying Shoah and Rwandan genocide, which humanity hasn't recovered from yet. As much as it will never forget nor recover from this unprecedented, documented genocide and crimes against humanity unfolding in real-time, and recorded by the victims themselves in front of a silent world. These images will hunt every hearted and reasonable human forever.

This shows that humanity is failing to learn from its bloody traumatizing memory. This means that "never again" was not sincere, that "never again" does not concern oppressed and alienated people, it only concerns those to whom the world superpowers care. It shows that humanity has not learned from its mistakes and that especially, is not educated enough to do so. As Noam Chomsky argues: "Education is not memorizing that Hitler killed 6 million Jews. Education is understanding how millions of ordinary Germans were convinced that it was required. Education is to learn how to spot the signs of history repeating itself."

Banality of Evil

The use of dehumanizing language regarding Palestinians since day one of the war, with Israeli officials calling them "human animals," was a strong significant indicator of their intentions and the atrocities that will follow. Especially for scholars and experts who have studied the Shoah and genocidal processes. Unfortunately, the international political order and institutions do not have the humbleness to look into these studies and consider them seriously.

As a result of this “banality of evil,” here we are barring the burden of almost 30.000 human lives brutally stolen in three months, most of them being children and women. And here we are facing and allowing the devastation of an already deeply suffering region and the traumatization of its vulnerable population and a whole generation across the globe.

The concept of “banality of evil” was developed by the philosopher Hannah Arendt in her study of the Shoah in “Eichmann in Jerusalem”. She refers by this concept ring to the processes by which such terrible acts come to be committed. Arendt went in fact to Jerusalem to witness the trial of Eichmann. She observed that despite his psychiatric descriptions as someone consumed by a relentless desire to kill with a perverted personality, the man she encountered did not fit this profile. Instead, Eichmann appeared as a mundane bureaucrat who took pride in his administrative role, no matter the horrific nature of mass murder tasks, appearing almost secondary to him. And that’s what she called the banality of evil, meaning more precisely the banalization of evil, and the normalization of all kinds of atrocities and devastating crimes against humanity.

Thus, history teaches us that the most morbid people who have committed the most barbaric atrocities looked like civilized people convinced of doing the right thing and simply fulfilling their jobs and serving their nations. Yet almost a century after that catastrophe, we are supposed to recognize and prevent leaders from serving their nations by eradicating another nation's “just like in Auschwitz” as declared by the Mayor of Metula settlements, by all the necessary means.

But the international community has so far failed in preventing the lasting human-made “apocalypse” in Gaza. The only thing we managed to offer Gaza is a new theoretical concept; domicide, referring to the mass destruction of dwellings to make a territory uninhabitable. And a new medical acronym; WCNSF, that’s unique to the Gaza Strip referring to Wounded Child, No Surviving Family. And this reflects the importance of the number of these cases to necessitate a new term to designate them.

These terms, along with images of ice cream trucks filled with children's dead bodies, the father carrying his child's remains in plastic bags, the little girl who collapsed when she recognized her mother's dead body from her hair, the woman screaming “my children died without eating”, journalist Moataz Azaiza panicking in the car while trying to save two bleeding little girls, the man kissing his dead little girl's eyes, the “soul of his soul”, the woman hugging her husband's shoes next to his dead body, journalist Ahmed Hijazee crying and covered with blood covering the massacre inside Al-Ahly Hospital, the crying doctor amputating his daughter's legs with no anesthesia on his kitchen's table, children not being able to cry because of dehydration, cancer patients dying because of fear and stress rather than cancer or bombardments, premature infants lying on the ground without oxygen nor machines, will hunt humanity's consciousness forever. And our hearts will still be shaking to the images of terrorized dozens of trembling children. We have failed Gaza, this is the awful guilt we will have to carry. We tried, but we did not try hard enough to save Gaza, nor human values and international rules, that Israel simply banalized and emptied of any kind of sense.

But the UN can still do something to save Gaza. Because if the genocide keeps on unfolding and if the war gets wider, it will for sure represent a real crisis to the UN, having failed to maintain international peace.

Conclusion

Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement (IRDG) call on the UN to assume its historic responsibility and immediately and unconditionally suspend Israel's membership in the UN, a tool that was proven efficient with the apartheid in South Africa. But also to urgently completely align and support the Special Reporter and the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory urges the governments to call back their ambassadors in Israel and cut all relations with, to impose an arms embargo on the occupation army. Sanctions that should be proportionate to the Israeli crimes.

In the absence of such measures, the double standards accusations to the UN and the international community will not remain a simple allegation but will become an obvious fact.

It's shameful to notice that all the peaceful measures planned for such crises were not all applied to stop such a crazy use of force by the Israeli occupation.

More than any time ago, more than machinery and wealth, we need humanity, and more than cleverness we need kindness, empathy, and gentleness, without these qualities we are all going down in the pages of history.
