



**STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
COMMEMORATION AND DIGNITY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE CRIME OF
GENOCIDE AND OF THE PREVENTION OF THIS CRIME**

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“We cannot stay passive and silent in the face of likely genocide”

9 December 2025

On the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, United Staff for Gaza reiterates its deep, searing concern about the likely commission of the crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip by the State of Israel. In early 2024, pending the completion of the case *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip*, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) recognized that the crime of genocide may plausibly have been perpetrated and **ordered binding provisional measures** to mitigate the actual or potential commission of this crime. Since, authoritative experts both internal and external to the United Nations have assessed that this most egregious mass atrocity crime has been perpetrated, including, foremost, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

In its report published on 16 September 2025 ([A/HRC/60/CRP.3](#)), the Commission found that the State of Israel has perpetrated the crime of genocide in Gaza, including four of the five genocidal acts defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.¹ The Commission concluded, based on its investigations and evaluation of the evidence, that the only reasonable inference to draw is that the State of Israel has acted with genocidal intent.²

As current and former international civil servants dedicated to the United Nations Charter, international law, and the protection of civilians, we cannot stay passive and silent in the face of likely genocide. We worry about the human toll and about the erosion of international law in a world where heinous atrocities can seemingly be perpetrated in full open view, with impunity and wide-ranging complicity.

¹ Killing; causing serious bodily or mental harm; deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of the Palestinians in whole or in part; and imposing measures intended to prevent births.

² Other authoritative entities internal to the United Nations that have concluded that genocide has been perpetrated and/or continues to be perpetrated include: the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories ([A/80/365](#)); the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People ([A/80/35](#)); and multiple Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 ([A/79/384](#)). The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the High Commissioner for Human Rights have moreover evoked the risk of genocide in addresses, respectively, [to the Security Council](#) and [to Human Rights Council](#). Authoritative entities external to the United Nations that have concluded that the crime of genocide has been perpetrated include, among others, the [International Association of Genocide Scholars](#) and [Amnesty International](#). The latter moreover [warns](#) that “genocide continues unabated” despite the ceasefire agreement.

We have felt relieved by the ceasefire agreement that went into effect on 10 October 2025 and by momentum in the political process since. **We continue to be disturbed, however, by the shocking number of victims of Israeli strikes in Gaza, notwithstanding the ceasefire agreement.** Many hundreds of Palestinians, children included, have been killed and injured in continuous attacks. **We are equally outraged by persisting inhumane restrictions on the delivery of lifesaving aid and by continuing hostile actions against the personnel and premises of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,** in flagrant violation of international law and with **deadly disdain for the United Nations and its personnel.**

We reiterate our solidarity with United Nations colleagues working in the occupied Palestinian territory. We pay tribute to the more than **380 colleagues killed** by Israeli forces in Gaza and to the countless survivors who have suffered injury and who grieve the loss of loved ones.

We are also alarmed by the gravity of **violence in the occupied West Bank**, where more than **1,000 people have been killed** since October 2023 in Israeli military operations and by settler violence.

United Staff for Gaza underscores that there must be **no place for genocide in the 21st century**, not in Palestine, not in Sudan, not in Myanmar – nowhere. As we mark this International Day, the international community should take urgent action in the face of the distressing situation in Sudan, the gravity of which has led the United Nations Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide to **sound the alarms.** **We hope that the international community, including the United Nations System, will equally reckon with the disturbing reality that genocide has likely been perpetrated, and may continue to be perpetrated, in Gaza under our collective watch, despite rhetorical commitments and legal obligations to prevent this atrocity. We call for compliance with ICJ orders and for the implementation of recommendations listed in the reports of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry and other UN mandate-holders, including by ensuring unhindered humanitarian access at scale and ceasing the transfer of arms that could be used in the commission of genocide.**

As the situation advances and the ceasefire hopefully consolidates, **it is critical that the structural conditions which led to the commission of mass atrocity crimes, including potentially genocide, be dismantled.** A just and lasting peace for both Palestinians and Israelis will require accountability, an end to the unlawful occupation, Statehood for Palestinians and respect for their inalienable human rights.

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