

# Palästina Kongress 2024 Wir klagen an!

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## Why are we accusing Germany of being complicit in genocide?

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in January of this year that the case brought against Israel by South Africa, supported by 50 states, plausibly argues that the most serious crime of genocide is being committed by Israel against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Today, preliminary hearings begin before the ICJ in a case seeking to end Germany's military support for Israel and charging Germany with complicity in an ongoing genocide. The Genocide Convention requires states to ensure they do not become complicit. Under international law, any transfer of weapons or ammunition to Israel used in Gaza is considered a violation of international law. However, Germany continues to provide diplomatic, military, and financial support to Israel. Therefore, during the Palestine Congress (April 12-14 in Berlin), we, together with voices from the Palestinian movement and the international community, will condemn against Israeli apartheid, genocide, and German complicity.

The Palestinians are experiencing genocide. Israel is destroying Gaza and its population. Approximately 70 percent of those killed are women and children. As of March 29, 2024, 32,623 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the Israeli military assault on Gaza in October 2023. 1.9 million people have been displaced, suffering from a man-made famine, lacking access to clean water and medicine. Infrastructure, hospitals, universities, schools, administrative buildings, and residential blocks have been bombed.

We call on the international community and the German government to act in accordance with the decisions of the International Court of Justice. We demand the immediate cessation of all military, diplomatic, and economic support for Israel by

**the German state. We urge the German government to impose a comprehensive military embargo on Israel and actively work towards an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Israeli army. Stop the genocide!**

While Israel has a significant arms industry, it also relies on international imports of weapons and weapons systems to carry out its operations. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Germany was the second-largest supplier of "major conventional weapons" to Israel in 2023, accounting for 47% of Israel's total imports, second only to the USA with 53%. In 2023 alone, the governing coalition approved arms deliveries worth 326.5 million euros to Israel - ten times as much as the previous year.

However, we declare that Israel's actions in Gaza are reprehensible and cannot be justified. Looking at opinion polls, the majority of people in Germany want Israel to stop killing and starving Palestinians in Gaza. **There is no legitimate reason for arms deliveries to Israel. German arms exports should be stopped immediately!**

**Yet, the German government is doing the opposite: it keeps the doors wide open to the arms industry in the genocide against the Palestinians.** As shown in Forensic research, between 2003 and 2023, the German government approved a total of 4,427 individual export licences for various military equipment, more than **half of which were weapons of war**. In the same period, only 54 export licences were rejected, resulting in an **approval rate of 99.75 percent**. Companies such as GmbH, Rheinmetall AG, RENK Group AG, MTU Friedrichshafen GmbH, Mercedes-Benz Group AG, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann GmbH & Co. KG, Hensoldt AG, Heckler & Koch GmbH, Grob Aircraft SE, German Naval Yards Holdings GmbH, EuroSpike GmbH, Dynamit Nobel Defence GmbH, Diehl Defence GmbH & Co. KG, Daimler Truck Holding AG, Atlas Elektronik GmbH, and AIM Infrared Modules GmbH, **including ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems, benefit from this support of the German arms industry, which profits from an ongoing genocide. The government must immediately halt this support!**

**We support the Berlin lawyers** (supported by the Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy, the European Legal Support Centre, and Law for Palestine) who, on behalf of Palestinians, seek an emergency injunction from the Berlin Administrative Court to stop arms exports to Israel. The judgement of the International Court of Justice and the global movement **in solidarity with Palestine are having slow but visible effects on international arms deliveries to Israel**. In recent months, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, and Canada, among others, have taken steps to halt military exports to Israel, either for specific items or all weapons. The UN Human Rights Council has also called for a halt to arms sales to Israel in light of the situation in the Gaza Strip. However, the USA and Germany, Israel's major arms suppliers, have rejected the resolution.

The German government's current response is **to adhere blindly to the policy of "raison d'état", increasingly isolating Germany internationally**. While Germany continues to provide full support to Israel, despite the International Court of Justice declaring the situation in the Gaza Strip a plausible case of genocide, the government

seeks to suppress the protest movement against it with massive pressure. **We will not allow the voices for a just peace in the Middle East to be silenced. We will continue to protest and advocate for an end to the genocide and for Germany to end all complicity in the decades-long oppression of the Palestinian people by Israel!**

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