



Cairo Institute
for Human Rights Studies
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'Homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

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Oral Intervention - Item 7 General Debate

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

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The international community must take immediate measures to preserve the lives of the Palestinian people

Mr. High Commissioner,

A preventable catastrophe is unfolding in Gaza, where widespread famine is imminent. Each day during the last two months an average of 108 Palestinians are killed and 178 injured by Israel, 70 percent of whom are women and children. The threatened invasion of Rafah would push an additional 600,000 children into immediate peril and greatly increase the possibility of mass starvation.

On the 26th of January, the ICJ identified the situation in Gaza as a potential genocide. Despite these urgent warnings, the international community has failed to end complicity and support for Israel's indiscriminate targeting of the civilian population, its restrictions on humanitarian aid and basic necessities, its displacement of entire communities, and its wanton destruction of vital infrastructure.

The Cairo Institute welcomes the long-awaited adoption of a SC resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza until the end of Ramadan and urges all parties to ensure its full implementation. However, this resolution does not give sufficient time for an adequate response to the humanitarian crisis. Gaza needs a permanent ceasefire now.

It is imperative that all stakeholders, especially those with the closest influence, immediately end any support for the military operations being carried out by Israel, including ending weapons transfers. All UN member states have a duty to end Israel's obstruction of humanitarian assistance.

The Palestinian people have the right to live in dignity, free from occupation, apartheid, ethnic cleansing and genocidal violence.

Thank you