



SPECIAL COMMUNIQUÉ ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE ATROCIOUS CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

1. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in the Political Declaration adopted at its Fifth Ministerial Meeting, on 18 January 2024, welcomes efforts aimed at fostering justice and accountability in connection with the Question of Palestine, and, in that regard, takes note of recent developments resulting from relevant initiatives launched earlier this year within various international justice institutions
2. The Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations recall, among others, the provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 26 January, 28 March and 24 May 2024, as well as the provisions of resolutions A/ES-10/21 and A/ES-10/22, resoundingly adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 27 October and 12 December 2023, respectively, and, in that regard, stress their importance for achieving a permanent and fully respected ceasefire.
3. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations underscore the urgent need of redoubling international efforts to effectively advance in a much-needed process of accountability for the commission of atrocious crimes by Israel, the Occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, in which all relevant mechanisms of international justice are expected to play a responsible role, in order to put an end to the prevailing cycle of impunity, which has only emboldened Israel, the Occupying Power, to perpetuate over time this protracted tragedy, as well as its criminal policies and practices against the Palestinian people, which they have now endured for over seven decades and from which millions of Palestinian civilians, including Palestine refugees, continue to suffer under occupation, most devastatingly at this time in the Gaza Strip.
4. The Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent Israeli airstrikes against a tent encampment sheltering Palestinian families who were forcibly displaced to the southern Gaza city of Rafah, which claimed the lives of over 45 innocent civilians, including women and children that burned to death, while leaving many others seriously injured. We deplore the continuation of the Israeli military operations in Rafah and the disastrous implications for the nearly 1.5 million civilians that had been sheltering there, over 800,000 of whom have fled in fear of the Israeli attacks, and thus call once again on the Security



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Council of the United Nations to act to ensure an immediate, permanent and fully respected ceasefire and call once more on those with influence over the Occupying Power to urge it to immediately halt its military offensive and to abide forthwith, among others, by the norms of international humanitarian law.

5. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, on the one hand, reaffirms its support to relevant efforts towards justice and accountability, including those aimed at investigating the atrocity crimes committed against the Palestinian people, at identifying and prosecuting those responsible for war crimes against the Palestinian people, and at providing reparations for damage, loss or injury arising from the crimes committed by the Occupying Power, while, on the other hand, further reaffirms its firm commitment to the just cause of Palestine and renews its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle to achieve their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and to the independence of their State, and for freedom, justice and a peaceful resolution to this prolonged injustice to be realized once and for all.

New York, 30 May 2024