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October 26, 2023

Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations in New York
Chair of the African Group of States
31 Beekman Place
New York, NY 10022

Subject: The UN General Assembly must take immediate action to urge States to respect human rights and humanitarian law in Gaza

Excellency:

We write on the occasion of the 10th emergency special session of the UN General Assembly under the resolution 377A(V), "Uniting for Peace", related to the grave human rights violations and man-made humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly the Gaza Strip. We, the Center for Constitutional Rights together with the Global Network of Movement Lawyers - a network of nearly 25 human rights organizations and movement lawyers around the world and housed at Movement Law Lab - are writing in support of the [draft resolution](#) advanced by the Kingdom of Jordan, and echo eleven key calls to protect civilians and address root causes of the violence and conflict.

We urge your governments to unequivocally support the draft resolution advanced by the Arab Group and raise the below-listed calls in your delegations' statements. As [civil society](#) and UN experts ring the alarm of the [risk of genocide against the Palestinian People](#) and [highlight state-parties' obligation](#) to prevent crimes of genocide from taking place, it is imperative that this body reaffirm a global commitment to the duties and obligations under the Genocide and Geneva Conventions, and uphold the human rights principles and frameworks advanced by international law.

We add our voice to the chorus of those who have been decrying the unfolding atrocities in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, [with numerous statements and letters](#) addressed to the international community and laying out the basis for the following asks. On the occasion of the UN General Assembly's emergency session to discuss the situation, we underscore and reiterate civil society's calls for:

1. All States to implement their duty to [prevent genocide](#) and protect civilian populations from genocide;
2. An [immediate, durable and fully-respected ceasefire](#), including but not limited to a cessation of all attacks that target or indiscriminately affect [civilians and civilian infrastructure](#);

3. Unimpeded access to fuel and humanitarian aid to all areas in Gaza, including medical supplies, and the immediate restoration of access to food, water, electricity and other essential needs, to alleviate the [humanitarian crisis](#);
4. An end to the 16 year-old illegal siege and closure of the Gaza Strip, which constitutes collective punishment;
5. The immediate and unconditional release of all persons deprived of liberty without due process, enabling them to return to their families – including through the assistance of neutral intermediaries such as the ICRC, who have been offering their support through traditional channels and publicly on social media;
6. The protection of human rights defenders, journalists and humanitarian workers;
7. Investigation and steps towards accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other grave violations and abuses committed by both State and non-State actors;
8. Concrete steps to address the [root causes of violations and abuses](#) and the ongoing Israeli military aggression, including through reaffirming the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and return, and calling for an end to, and accountability for, Israeli policies and practices of apartheid and settler colonialism;
9. An immediate cessation by third States of the provision of military equipment and aid that may foreseeably be used in the commission of war crimes or otherwise contrary to international humanitarian law;
10. Clear and unequivocal calls by third States for respect for human rights and humanitarian law, denunciation of all war crimes and crimes against humanity without discrimination, and cessation of statements that may be interpreted as supporting the use of force contrary to international law; and
11. Action by the UN Security Council to implement sanctions and other countermeasures until Israel adheres to its obligations under international law.

These asks are non-exhaustive and should be understood as an invitation to the UN General Assembly to exercise the full extent of its power, and to take all effective measures to cease all harm to civilians, to protect and promote human life and human dignity through protective mechanisms, and to pursue accountability for genocide through documentation and engagement with international tribunals.

Best Regards,



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On behalf of the Global Network of Movement
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cc: Member states of the African Group