

July 20, 2024

Dear Members of the Toronto Police Service Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continuation of the weekly rallies held to fight against genocide in Gaza & the illegal occupation of Palestinian land by Israel. These rallies are crucial for raising awareness and advocating for justice in line with the recent verdicts from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The ICJ has classified Israel as being in violation of international law, explicitly stating that it must cease its unlawful actions in Gaza & Rafah. Furthermore, the ICC has identified the leaders of Israel as war criminals subject to arrest warrants. Moreover, the UN Human Rights Commission found Israel guilty of war crimes. These findings underscore the necessity for continued public advocacy and demonstration to maintain pressure on the international community and ensure that justice is pursued.

Silencing these rallies would not only undermine the principles of free speech and assembly but also hinder the global effort to combat genocide and war crimes. The rallies serve as a critical platform for citizens to voice their condemnation of atrocities and demand accountability for those responsible.

I urge the Toronto Police Board to recognize the importance of these peaceful gatherings and to support the right of individuals to assemble and express their views. The continuation of these rallies is essential in our collective endeavor to uphold justice and human rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Martinelli

UN Human Rights Report - June 19, 2024

In relation to Israel's military operations and attacks in Gaza from 7th October, we conclude that Israeli authorities are responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including extermination, intentionally directing attacks against civilians and civilian objects, murder or willful killing, using starvation as a method of war, forcible transfer, gender persecution targeting Palestinian men and boys, sexual and gender-based violence amounting to torture and cruel or inhuman treatment.

Israel's total siege of the Gaza Strip has weaponized the provision of life's sustaining necessities for strategic and political gains, including through cutting off supplies of water, food, electricity, fuel and other essential supplies, including humanitarian assistance. It constitutes collective punishment, disproportionately impacting pregnant women and persons with disabilities, and is causing grave harm to children, including starvation-related deaths. We found that the immense numbers of civilian casualties in Gaza and widespread destruction of civilian objects and infrastructure were the inevitable result of an intentional strategy to cause maximum damage, disregarding the legal obligations of distinction, proportionality and adequate precautions.

Israel also forcibly transferred almost the entire population into small enclosure that are unsafe and uninhabitable. The deliberate use of heavy weapons with large destructive capacity, in densely populated areas, constitutes an intentional and direct attack on the civilian population

Israel's War Crimes

1. **Murder:** Intentional killing of civilians.
 2. **Intentional targeting of civilians:** Deliberate attacks on non-combatants.
 3. **Killing prisoners of war and surrendered combatants:** Violation of the rights of those who have laid down their arms.
 4. **Indiscriminate attacks:** Attacks that do not distinguish between military targets and civilians.
 5. **Collective punishment:** Punishing a group for the actions of an individual.
 6. **Starvation:** Using hunger as a weapon.
 7. **Use of human shields:** Forcing civilians to protect military targets.
 8. **Sexual violence and rape:** Use of sexual assault as a weapon of war.
 9. **Torture:** Inflicting severe physical or mental pain.
 10. **Pillage:** Looting or theft during war.
 11. **Forced transfer:** Forcibly moving populations.
 12. **Breach of medical neutrality:** Attacking medical facilities or personnel.
 13. **Targeting journalists:** Attacking or threatening media personnel.
 14. **Attacking civilian and protected objects:** Destruction of non-military targets.
 15. **Wanton destruction:** Unnecessary destruction of property.
 16. **Incitement to genocide:** Encouraging others to commit genocide.
 17. **Genocide:** Attempt to exterminate a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.
-