



BRIEFING NOTE MARCH 2024

ISRAELI OCCUPATION IS USING STARVATION AS A WEAPON OF GENOCIDE AGAINST PALESTINIANS

INTRODUCTION

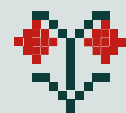
Everyone in Gaza is food insecure. No one has access to enough food, some – including children – are starving to death, agricultural systems have almost collapsed, and widespread famine is imminent.

The Israeli occupation's ongoing genocidal war on Palestine has violently created a humanitarian catastrophe, pushing Palestinians in the Gaza Strip into a state of starvation at an unparalleled rate. Israel's intentional destruction of food systems, its blockade preventing entry of essential and life-saving resources, and its deliberate starvation of the Palestinian people, flagrantly violate the fundamental right to adequate food, among other human rights. They also constitute war crimes. Nearly six months after the beginning of Israel's genocidal war, the number of Palestinians killed, injured, or missing due to the Israeli occupation continues to rapidly rise; at least [31,726 persons](#) have been killed as of 19 March 2024.

Due to these war crimes and clear violations of fundamental human rights, Israel is currently being tried at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for crimes of Genocide. On 26 January 2024, the ICJ ordered [six provisional measures](#), including for Israel

“Our struggle for food sovereignty is interconnected with the struggle for our national sovereignty and self-determination. If we had control over our land and natural resources, Palestine wouldn't be facing issues of food insecurity and starvation”.

Yasmeen El-Hasan,
Union of Agricultural
Work Committees



to take immediate and effective measures to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza. Due to the 17-year-long Israeli siege of the Gaza Strip and the oppressive conditions of settler colonial occupation, Gaza has **long relied on humanitarian aid** – particularly from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the largest humanitarian organization operating in Gaza – to feed the population of 2.3 million. On the same day as these provisional measures were set, however, several large Western states cut their funding for UNRWA following unsubstantiated Israeli allegations, embedded in a **long-standing** and systemic campaign to undermine UNRWA, and aim to further cut off Palestinians from support and sustenance. The decisions to cut funding, described by UN agency heads as an **abandonment** of Palestinians in Gaza, will have devastating impacts on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as well as those in the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. The World Food Programme (WFP) also announced a **temporary halt in its services in northern Gaza** – which has received almost no aid since January – citing safety concerns, further exacerbating the already disastrous situation.

This briefing addresses the ongoing crisis from a food sovereignty lens, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human rights, food sovereignty, and Palestinian self-determination. Moreover, it puts center-stage how the Israeli occupation's deliberate starvation of the Palestinian people and destruction of their food and health infrastructure is having a catastrophic effect on the rights of children – and the impact it will have on the rights of future generations. By highlighting the structural mechanisms through which the Israeli occupation continues to manufacture mass starvation, this briefing emphasizes that the current crisis is a manifestation of settler colonialism and affirms food sovereignty as a guiding framework towards justice.



STARVATION AS AN ACT OF GENOCIDE

Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli occupation has been waging a genocidal war on the 2.3 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, imposing a total siege and blocking the entry of food, water, and humanitarian relief. At the time of writing, the war on Gaza has been ongoing for 160 days, and the Israeli occupation has [killed](#) at least 31,726 persons, of which at least 13,790 are children, and injured¹ at least 73,934; at least 7000 people are [missing](#), trapped under the rubble or detained by Israeli forces. Further, it has forcibly displaced more than 85% of the population (approx. 2 million people) and concentrated them into very small areas that remain vulnerable to attacks by the occupation forces. All of Gaza's population is currently food insecure, the vast majority of whom are facing starvation or famine levels of food insecurity. Thus far, at least 31 people, including 27 children have been [killed by malnutrition and dehydration](#) in northern Gaza. Israeli airstrikes have targeted and destroyed Gaza's core infrastructure, making it impossible for communities to sustain themselves. By cutting off the population from its most basic needs, Israel is attempting to ensure that those who it does not massacre with its airstrikes will be killed by preventable starvation, dehydration, or disease, thus condemning survivors to a future without sustenance.

This rapid escalation of hunger is inherently rooted in the Israeli settler colonial occupation of Palestine and its systemic oppression of the Palestinian people since even before the Nakba in 1948. The humanitarian crisis created by the occupation has been further exacerbated by the Israeli-imposed illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip, which has systematically denied Palestinians access to adequate food, water, raw materials, and inputs for food production since 2007. Further, it controls and limits Palestinians' access to and use of water, electricity, and fuel. This pre-existing dire situation, paired with the now total destruction of the area and deliberate obstruction of humanitarian aid, has led to a rapid increase in severe food insecurity and public health crises.

Israel has largely blocked humanitarian aid from entering Gaza City and northern Gaza. Between mid-January and the end of February 2024, there were more than 14 documented incidents of Israeli shooting, shelling, and targeting of Palestinians gathering for urgently needed supplies from trucks or airdrops, within designated and precoordinated collection sites. Some of these attacks on Palestinian aid-seekers have come to be known as flour massacres. On February 29, [Israeli occupation forces fired](#) on groups of Palestinians who had gathered to collect flour in the southwest of Gaza City, killing at least 118 people and injuring around 760 others. The so-called [flour massacre of March 15](#) killed 80 Palestinians and injured at least 200. In just a 48-hour period between March 14 and 15, the occupation forces carried out [five attacks](#) on aid distribution centers. This attack occurred after Israel had blocked humanitarian aid from entering Gaza City and northern Gaza for over a month. With overwhelming evidence, [UN experts](#) emphasize that this massacre is but one part of a series of Israeli assaults on Palestinian civilians attempting to access aid. Thus far, at least [400 Palestinians](#) have been killed by Israeli attacks while seeking necessary aid.

1 The Gaza Ministry of Health [updates the numbers](#) of those killed and injured on a daily basis.



Experts on the issue of starvation assert that “depriving populations of access to food, water, and other means to sustain life has been a central tool of genocide.” Food deprivation, essential supply shortages, or blockades can meet the criteria of showing “intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group” through different means, including “deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction”, as outlined in Article II of the [Genocide Convention](#). The Israeli occupation’s actions and public statements that indicate intent and incitement of genocide are [well-documented](#).

The Israeli genocide on the Gaza Strip is deliberately targeting civilian infrastructure, particularly in key sectors like agriculture and fishing that are vital for food production and sustaining the population. The Israeli occupation forces actions demonstrate a clear intent to devastate civilian life, directly threatening the survival of Palestinians in Gaza, and making future reconstruction almost an [impossibility](#). UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Michael Fakhri [indicated that](#) “there is no reason to intentionally block the passage of humanitarian aid or intentionally obliterate small-scale fishing vessels, greenhouses and orchards in Gaza – other than to deny people access to food.”

The intense Israeli bombardment and besiegement, coupled with extraordinarily limited humanitarian access and destroyed infrastructure, has severely increased the risk of total famine. The [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) has activated its famine review committee to further assess the crisis. It released its [latest analysis](#) on March 18 warning that the situation in the Gaza Strip is catastrophic, with northern Gaza facing ‘imminent famine’ and the rest of the Strip at extreme risk as well. This

analysis reports that, according to the most likely scenario, both North Gaza and Gaza Governorates are classified in IPC Phase 5 (Famine) with reasonable evidence, with 70% (around 210,000 people) of the population in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe). For a situation to reach “famine” status, as per IPC standards, at least 20% of households in a given group experiences extreme food deficit, without the ability to cope; acute malnutrition prevalence exceeds 30%; and mortality rates exceed 2 people per 10,000 inhabitants per day. While the IPC system is a critical tool, it is also important to point out its shortcomings, including with regards to its categorization of severe hunger into “phases,” with thresholds that are already too high. This approach can lead to situations where the urgency and immediate need for support are not recognized across all phases, and thousands of people can die of hunger and related causes without the threshold of “famine” being officially breached in any one locality.

Grassroots Palestinian organizations such as the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) are engaging in solidarity aid through an emergency aid campaign, acquiring what resources can be gathered from within Gaza. Thus far, UAWC has reached 96,975 beneficiaries with essential aid including food parcels, hygiene and sanitary products, mattresses, blankets, and firewood, and an additional 172,000 people with drinking water. However, it is near impossible to provide comprehensive community care under blockade and bombardment, regardless of available funds.

“There is a strong social solidarity between the people in Gaza. Right now, the Palestinian people in Gaza are dependent on themselves and their own local resources, which are extremely limited.” - Ahmed Sourani, Gaza Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP).



THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The Israeli occupation is, and continues to be, the core perpetrator of violations of the right to food and other rights in Palestine. The struggle for food sovereignty in Palestine cannot be separated from the broader struggle for Palestinian self-determination and sovereignty over land and natural resources. It is inherently impossible for a population to sustain themselves and the ecosystem to balance itself when it is under occupation.

Palestine has been facing a long-standing humanitarian crisis due to Israeli settler colonialism, and has been on the “verge of humanitarian catastrophe” for many years, as highlighted in the [report](#) by the first UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Food, Jean Ziegler, after his visit to occupied Palestine in 2003. Ziegler noted that “severe malnutrition reported in Gaza is now equivalent to levels found in poor sub-Saharan countries, an absurd situation as Palestine was formerly a middle-income economy.”

Prior to October 7, Gaza’s [agricultural sector](#), which forms the foundation of its food production, was largely self-sufficient in terms of fruit and vegetable production, [despite the enormous challenges](#) this sector faced due to Israeli-imposed restrictions and control on agricultural inputs, including seeds, water, and other necessary infrastructure. Now, however, food systems in Gaza have been completely decimated by Israeli attacks. This destruction includes the targeted demolition of greenhouses, farmland, water systems, irrigation wells, open farms, agricultural roads, and livestock farms.

In addition to the bombing, Israel’s limiting of entry of fuel to Gaza have severely disabled and, in many cases, destroyed Gaza’s water infrastructure, desalination plants, food production, and electricity supply. Gaza’s sole power plant was forced to shut down in October, and the Israeli occupation has cut off access to electricity, leaving only limited power from solar panels and generators. The lack of electricity has prevented food processing and preparation, in addition to other essential uses. [According to the Food and Agricultural Organization \(FAO\)](#), there is a dangerous shortage of safe water, with only seven percent of pre-October levels available. Even before October 7, 97% of Gaza’s water was unsafe for human consumption. The commercial sector is decimated, food stocks are largely non-existent, and the lack of fuel and flour has largely halted bread production. According to conservative [estimates](#), more than 46% of agricultural land is damaged. Livestock keepers are facing substantial losses, with high mortality rates among animals due to bombings and the lack of animal fodder.



RIGHT TO LAND

Palestinian peasants and small-scale farmers under Israeli occupation face challenges such as land confiscation, water scarcity, and restrictions on access to markets. These factors hinder their ability to produce food and earn a sustainable income, further exacerbating food insecurity in the region. Furthermore, Israel imposes what is referred to as a “buffer zone” or “[access restricted areas](#)” (ARA) within the Gaza Strip. The ARA covers approximately 35% of Gaza’s cultivable land and 85% of its maritime area, making these areas totally or partially inaccessible to Palestinians.

Parallel to the genocide and siege on Gaza, the Israeli occupation continues to expand its settler colonialism in the West Bank at an even more aggressive pace. Approximately 700 [movement obstacles](#) throughout the West Bank restrict access to roads, communities, agricultural areas, urban centers, water sources, food markets, medical care, educational facilities, and other essential services. The manufactured isolation of Palestinian communities in the West Bank severely disrupts livelihoods and exacerbates their suffering. Settler violence has skyrocketed as Israeli settlers, often accompanied by the occupation forces, frequently [target](#) Palestinian agricultural lands and critical infrastructure, including vital resources like water wells and roads.

Between October 7 and March 19, 2024, the [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) has recorded 658 Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians that resulted in Palestinian casualties, damage to Palestinian property, or both. Many of these attacks occurred in [Area C](#) of the West Bank, targeting Palestinian rural communities and their agricultural land and infrastructure. Area C, which is considered under Israeli military and civil rule, constitutes the majority of the West Bank and is the food basket of Palestine. Israeli land theft and settlement expansion

focuses on Area C, serving as another facet of its strategy to disrupt Palestinian food sovereignty. All of these manifestations of Israeli settler colonialism further impede Palestinian access to their own natural resources, and limit the availability of food that the Palestinian people, like any people, need.

Occupation forces raid Palestinian communities daily. This spike in Israeli aggression has forcibly displaced Palestinians in the West Bank. This has had a significant impact on the [olive harvest season](#), which is crucial for many Palestinian families' livelihoods. [24,000 acres of olives](#) in the West Bank were left unharvested because Israel systematically prevented farmers from accessing their orchards. This led to the loss of 1,200 metric tons of olive oil, valued at US\$10 million. UN Special Rapporteur Michael Fakhri [stated that](#) "The destruction of olive trees isn't just an issue of food or commerce, it's at the core of what it means to be Palestinian and their relationship to the land, just as the sea is central to what it means to be from Gaza." Furthermore, this situation affects the cultural adequacy of Palestinians' right to food.

Israeli attacks since October 7 have also targeted land in southern Lebanon, leaving tens of thousands of families without homes or livelihoods and [destroying](#) 47,000 olive trees and other crops. Increased Israeli shelling and rocket fire triggered wildfires in a crucial agricultural area, displacing over 86,000 people, including 31,000 children. The fires are also impacting citrus land and pastoralism in the region.

RIGHT TO FISHERIES

Fishing is an important source of livelihood for Palestinians in Gaza amid an otherwise restricted environment. Since the beginning of the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip, long before October 7, the Israeli occupation imposed severe restrictions on Palestinian [fisher people](#) in Gaza, limiting the depth of their sea access, ranging from 6 to 15 nautical miles, depending on the location. Additionally, there are prohibited zones extending 1 to 1.5 nautical miles along the southern and northern water borders of the Gaza Strip. These restrictions deprive fisher people of access to many fish populations and fall below those set by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Furthermore, the occupation prevents their access to the sea for 10 to 15 days each month.

Israel's ongoing genocidal war has totally decimated fisher people's access to marine resources. An estimated 80% of [Gaza's fishing fleet](#) has been destroyed and all fishing nets damaged. The Israeli occupation forces have [injured and killed](#) Palestinian fisher people across the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, Israel has imposed a total blockade on access to the sea, and any boat trying to fish risks being [fired upon](#). There have already been multiple [recorded incidents](#) of the occupation targeting people going into the sea looking for food. According to a recent [UAWC report](#), the "loss of life, the inability to access the sea, and the crippling of a once-thriving economic and cultural cornerstone of Gaza threaten not just the livelihoods of thousands but also the food security and cultural identity of the entire region."

THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, THE RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Over half of Gaza's population are children, and the ongoing genocide disproportionately affects them through massacre, malnutrition, orphaning, trauma, and more. Survivors will face lasting consequences, including childhood malnutrition and severe mental trauma. Israel's widespread destruction of Palestinian infrastructure, land dispossession, and ecological damage not only have immediate impacts but also long-term consequences, particularly in regard to access to food and safe drinking water in Gaza both now and in the future. This rapidly deteriorating situation infringes on the Palestinian people's right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, and poses long-term challenges for future generations of Palestinians. Given the severity of the total destruction, it will take generations to rebuild physically, mentally, socially, economically, and environmentally. The Israeli occupation's attempt to disable Gaza's children is also an attempt to prevent rebuilding and the thriving of future generations.

Malnutrition – including stunting and wasting – is on the rise due to the lack of food, water, and health services. In addition to immediate threats to life, **wasting** can lead to stunted growth, cognitive impairments, and weakened immune systems, which can persist into adulthood and have lifelong consequences. UN Special Rapporteur Michael Fakhri **stated** that the wasting and stunting of children is not just brutal, but also “tortuous and vile”, and will have “long-term impact[s] on the population physically, cognitively and morally.”

The **majority of children under two years and pregnant or breastfeeding women** are facing severe food insecurity, often limited to two or fewer food groups per day, and mostly low-nutrient food. Some families are resorting to feeding their children animal feed to survive. To prioritize feeding children, over 95 % of households are limiting adults' food intake. The lack of safe drinking water is exacerbating malnutrition, weakening immune systems, and increasing susceptibility to diseases, particularly in overcrowded camps of forcibly displaced people. In northern Gaza, one in six children are acutely malnourished, with an estimated three percent facing the most severe form of wasting and requiring immediate treatment.

Approximately **5,500 women are due to give birth** in the next month with barely any access to medical assistance, and more than 155,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are at high risk of malnutrition. Many women are unable to feed their babies due to their own conditions of malnutrition, as well as the lack of baby formula. **Reports** of children are dying of starvation and dehydration continue daily.

Israel is also attempting to ensure that the environment that is left behind following the end of its genocidal war will be destroyed for generations to come. As one **academic** has put it: “This is war upon both land and people.” The long-term damage to the ecosystem and natural resources in Gaza is severe. Israel's consistently **documented**

use of white phosphorus bombs – a crime under international law² – not only poses direct threats to human health but also has severe environmental impacts. When it enters rivers and aquifers, it can contaminate water sources, which is particularly concerning in Gaza. This contamination extends to agricultural land reliant on these water sources, endangering local crops and livestock. The fishing industry, crucial for food and income in Gaza, is also threatened as contaminated waterways harm the ecosystem, fish, and ultimately, human health and livelihoods. Moreover, phosphoric acid buildup can harm soil fertility and increase erosion, [further harming agricultural production](#). This will damage the soil and environment for generations to come.

HUMAN RIGHTS ANALYSIS

The deliberate destruction of food systems and starvation of Palestinians in Gaza is not only of the utmost brutality and cruelty, but also in blatant violation of international law. The Israel occupation's actions against the Palestinian people not only violate human rights, but also contravene the principles of international law that explicitly safeguard the rights to a dignified life, and an adequate standard of living, including the right to food among other rights of Palestinian people. As per International Human Rights Law (IHRL), an occupying power is obligated to provide for the basic needs of the population it occupies, including food and medical care³. Moreover, IHRL maintains that states have an immediate obligation not to discriminate access to food on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status⁴. The prevention of access to humanitarian food aid in conflicts or other emergency situations also constitutes a violation of the human right to adequate food and nutrition.

The Geneva Conventions III and IV establish the legal obligations of all states to protect the access of civilians and prisoners of war to food and water, prohibiting the use of deliberate starvation as a method of warfare⁵, which is further reinforced by [UN Security Council Resolution 2417](#) (2018). Breach of these obligations constitutes a war crime under International Criminal Law and can be considered as an act of genocide or a crime against humanity, if proven that the denial of food was deliberate⁶.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) [Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises](#) (CFS-FFA), which represents the first global consensus on mitigating food insecurity during protracted crises, offers states and other actors specific guidance on their role and impact in crises situations. The FFA emphasizes addressing, resolving, and preventing underlying causes of protracted crises and the resulting food insecurity and malnutrition. Anchored in international human rights and humanitarian law framework, it explicitly calls for unimpeded, safe, and rapid access to food and nutrition assistance and livelihood support to affected communities in all situations of conflict, occupation, terrorism, or man-made and natural disasters. Despite its specificity and alignment to other global policy priorities and bodies of law, the FFA has seen [very little implementation](#) and use by states or humanitarian agencies.

2
Rule 22 under the [Principle of Precautions against the Effects of Attacks](#), indicating that “parties to the conflict must take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population and civilian objects under their control against the effects of attacks” State practice establishes this rule as a norm of customary international law applicable in both international and non-international armed conflicts.

3
See [CESCR General Comment No. 12 on the Right to Adequate Food](#); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), article 11 on the Right to Adequate Food; The right to an effective remedy is expressed in Article 8 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), Article 2 of the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), Article 13 of the [European Convention on Human Rights](#), and Article 47 of the [European Union Charter on Fundamental Rights](#). See also: [Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law](#); [Maastricht principles on the Extraterritorial Obligations of States in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#): “29. Obligation to create an international enabling environment States must take deliberate, concrete and targeted steps, separately, and jointly through international cooperation, to create an international enabling environment conducive to the universal fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights...”

4
ICESCR article 2

5
[Geneva Convention III](#), arts 20 and 26; [Geneva Convention IV](#), arts. 23, 36, 49, 55 and 89.

6
[Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#), art. 8 (2) (b) (xxv)



The Palestinian struggle for self-determination has always been inextricably connected with the struggle for land, other natural resources, and human rights more broadly. The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas](#) (UNDROP) plays a crucial role in recognizing this connection and advancing human rights, social justice, and environmental protection. Amongst other protections, UNDROP’s Article 17 explicitly acknowledges the right to land and other natural resources for peasants and rural workers, defining it as the right to access, sustainably use, and manage these resources for an adequate standard of living, security, peace, dignity, and cultural development. Article 5 further establishes the right of rural communities to access and use natural resources in a sustainable manner to ensure adequate living conditions.

The rights of fisher peoples are also protected under UNDROP. The [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries \(SSF Guidelines\)](#) call for the protection of “the human rights and dignity of small-scale fisheries stakeholders in situations of armed conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law to allow them to pursue their traditional livelihoods, to have access to customary fishing grounds and to preserve their culture and way of life.”

The right to food and food sovereignty necessitates [environmental](#) protection. International law specifically prohibits methods and warfare that cause widespread, long-term, and severe damage to the natural environment⁷, and establishes that due regard must be given to protection and preservation of the environment. It also forbids using environmental destruction as a weapon and reprisal attacks on it.

Furthermore, Israeli violence against children in Palestine and the international community’s lack of effective measures to protect their rights contradict the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC). Article 6 of the Convention requires states to ensure the survival and development of children to the maximum extent possible. Additionally, [General Comment No. 26](#) (2023) on children’s rights and the environment emphasizes

7

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the obligation of states to protect children from foreseeable harm, including threats to their lives caused by environmental degradation, pollution, and biodiversity loss. The [CRC](#) also highlights key elements crucial for children's well-being, including protecting children from violence, abuse, and exploitation, as well as ensuring access to basic needs like food, shelter, and healthcare.

Preventing safe birthing conditions or adequate nutrition for mothers can lead to higher infant mortality rates, further indicating a calculated disregard for future generations. [The Convention on the Elimination of the Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) (article 12) embeds women's explicit rights to access healthcare services, including prenatal and postnatal care.

Regarding infringement of the rights of future generations, the [Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations](#) (2023) include the General Provision of Intragenerational and Intergenerational Human Rights Obligations. Accordingly, states are obligated to respect children's human rights in the present as well as in the future⁸, and must uphold the human rights of future generations⁹. In Palestine, however, the Israeli occupation materially harms children and their development, including through manufacturing a reliance on humanitarian aid.

Safeguarding the resources of peasants and other small-scale food producers is critical for ensuring the human rights of future generations. If they are unable to cultivate their lands, then the population will be unable to sustain itself now or in the future. Destruction and measures leading to displacement of future generations from their territories and the deprivation of the enjoyment of nature and natural resources constitute a violation, including through use of weapons of mass destruction¹⁰. The destruction caused by occupation, blockades, and war risks perpetuating intergenerational poverty for survivors' families.

8
Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations, General Provisions 7. a), b)

9
Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations 13.a); 16; 17

10
Maastricht Principles on the Human Rights of Future Generations, I Preamble XII., II State Obligations 17.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is impossible to realize human rights and exercise food sovereignty in a context of settler colonialism and occupation. The Israeli occupation and all actors complicit in its occupation and ongoing genocidal war against Palestine are violating international human rights law, including the ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC, CEDAW, and UNDROP; going against normative instruments such as the CFS-FFA; infringing on international criminal law and international humanitarian law; and are in flagrant disregard of the ICJ provisional measures.

The broader international community, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and subsequent human rights instruments, have international obligations towards the Palestinian people, to take joint and separate action to achieve the full realization of the human right to adequate food and nutrition. As a matter of extreme urgency, there must be an immediate and permanent ceasefire to end the Israeli genocide of Gaza and guaranteeing of unconditional access to adequate humanitarian aid. It is critical that all states and international institutions undertake any and all action possible, including sanctions and arms embargos, to bring an immediate end to the genocide and the obstruction of humanitarian, life sustaining, and life-saving supplies to Palestinians in Gaza.

The process of rebuilding – including homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods – and regenerating land and water resources, will be long and expensive. This process will be led by Palestinians, and the international community must be prepared to materially support their rebuilding efforts without attempting to manipulate their efforts or wield aid as a tool for political leverage. Creating the conditions for Palestinians' food sovereignty after 76 years of Israeli settler colonial occupation and six months of genocidal war will have to be a critical element of this process, to realize the right to adequate food and nutrition for present and future generations.

Further, investigations are crucial, including of all state and non-state actors who have directly and indirectly participated in the genocide, including the obstruction or destruction of humanitarian supplies to Gaza, and the campaign to de-fund UNRWA as a possible act toward furthering and facilitating starvation and genocide.

An immediate ceasefire, aid, and investigations are not enough, however, and the international community must not accept a return to the status quo of occupation. Justice requires a dismantling of systems of oppression: an end to the siege on Gaza and an end to the Israeli settler colonial occupation of Palestine. Affirming food sovereignty as a guiding framework, for ensuring the realization of the human rights of current and future generations, this briefing asserts that Palestinians must have sovereignty over their land and Palestine must be free from occupation in order for justice to prevail. It is incumbent upon the international community to support this process of Palestinian liberation.



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