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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 May 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Denial of Access to Healthcare for Palestinians

On 9 October 2023, the Zionist regime announced a complete blockade of the Gaza Strip, cutting off all residents from food, water, electricity and fuel. This measure is considered immoral and amounts to a collective punishment of 2.2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, almost half of whom are children. The continuation of the illegal and comprehensive blockade of Gaza by the Zionist regime has prevented the continuous arrival and delivery of humanitarian aid, especially in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. According to international organisations, hundreds of thousands of residents are in real and imminent danger of dying from starvation and dehydration, including thousands of pregnant women and infants, children, the sick, babies and the elderly. We are concerned about the violation of Palestinians' fundamental right to access to education and refer to some international statistics on the state of the right to health in the State of Palestine:

o According to the UN report, 11,580 people have died during the occupying power's war on Gaza due to the health crisis and challenges related to the reconstruction of the sewerage and sanitation system. About 3,250 of these deaths are due to long-term complications from serious injuries and 8,330 from other causes.

o According to the UN report, \$510 million is needed to provide water, food and health services in Gaza, but only 25% of these funds have been channelled to this region, which is a low figure.

o According to the report of the Palestinian de facto Ministry of Health in Gaza, more than one million people in the Gaza Strip are malnourished.

o According to the Palestinian de facto Ministry of Health report, the official death toll due to hunger, malnutrition and lack of water in the Gaza Strip has risen to 25 people. A 2-month-old girl died of malnutrition and dehydration in Kamal Adwan Hospital in the north of the Gaza Strip. A 20-year-old young woman died of malnutrition and dehydration in the al-Shafa medical complex. Humanitarian organisations recorded 3 deaths from starvation: A. W., a 3-year-old child and a 15-year-old child in al-Shifa Medical Complex, whose identity is still unknown, died from starvation and dehydration. In addition, a 72-year-old man died of malnutrition and dehydration at Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip.

o According to the World Food Programme, the delivery of food aid to the northern Gaza Strip will be suspended until conditions in the area allow for the safe distribution of this aid. The Rome-based UN organisation said in a statement that the decision to suspend aid deliveries to northern Gaza was not taken lightly, as the situation there would worsen and put even more people at risk. The cause of death is starvation.

o According to the UN report, at least 15 young children have died of starvation and more are threatened with death every day.

The actions carried out by the occupying power violate the Hague Laws, the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions and Protocol One and violate the rules of customary humanitarian law, violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and violate human rights conventions. In addition to violating human rights, these cases also constitute a denial of access to the right to health and are complementary elements of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Recommendations and Proposals

We ask the members of the Human Rights Council to consider the following recommendations:

- The longstanding military occupation oppresses Palestinians and deprives them of all human rights and dignity. The occupying power must therefore immediately address the health of Palestinians, which continues to deteriorate due to Israel's wilful medical neglect.
- We call for the use of diplomatic, political and economic measures as leverage and an end to all support for the occupying power and the prosecution of those who commit crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

- The United Nations, including the Human Rights Council and related mechanisms, must take all necessary measures to end the long-standing and shameful impunity of the occupying power and hold it accountable for all systematic violations of its human and humanitarian rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
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