



## Echoes of the War on Gaza in Reports of International Organizations

Prepared by:

Hadeer Abdelrahman

ECHR

October ٢٠٢٣

## Echoes of the War on Gaza in Reports of International Organizations

### Egyptian Coalition for Human Rights and Development

Is an initiative launched by Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue Foundation, and consists of 500 development associations and organizations in 9 Governorates, in order to promote Human Rights conditions in Egypt, strengthen partnerships, and exchange experience.

The NGOs and institutions participating in the initiative were distributed in 9 governorates: Cairo, Gharbia, Beheira, Alexandria, Beni Suef, Sohag, Luxor, Qena and Aswan.

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090569196942>

## **Introduction**

On October 7, 2023, the Israel Defense Forces declared war on the people of Gaza, a war that continues to this day, as the army forces committed brutal crimes against the defenseless civilians of Gaza that constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The events began on October 7, when members of the Hamas movement attacked Israel, after which Israel responded with continuous bombing of the Gaza Strip, and war broke out.

Since July 7, 2023, Israel has killed about 4,137 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, and injured 14,000 others, and 84 dead in the West Bank and 1,400 injured, bringing the total number of deaths to 4,473 dead and 15,400 injured, including 37 medical personnel, representing 70 in one hundred of the dead were children, women and the elderly, and attacks on the health sector represented 250 attacks, numbers that are likely to rise as Israel plans a long war scenario in Gaza.

The forces targeted the Greek Orthodox Church, killing 16 Palestinian Christians

Israel cut off supplies of electricity, fuel and goods, and imposed severe restrictions on water supplies, exacerbating the difficult humanitarian conditions in the coastal enclave. All crossings leading to Gaza were closed and humanitarian aid was prevented from reaching the people of Gaza, including children, the sick and the injured, which led to the imposition of a tight siege on the people of Gaza.

The Israeli forces also targeted Al-Baptist Hospital. The fact that it was a hospital and its coordinates were known did not prevent it from being subjected to an Israeli side bombardment late on October 17, which led to the death of nearly 500 people, including a large number of children, as well as hundreds of others injured.

The Baptist Hospital was receiving hundreds of displaced people who fled their homes due to aerial bombardment by Israeli aircraft, which forced them to deliberately displace them.

The fall of this large number of innocent civilian casualties in a hospital that is supposed to have immunity confirms that this Israeli government does not observe any of the international standards and recognized laws. The bloody attack on Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital represents genocide.

The crimes committed in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank can be summarized as follows:

The Israeli authorities' cutting off of electricity to Gaza and other punitive measures taken against the civilian population in Gaza may amount to unlawful collective punishment, which is a full-fledged war crime, as follows:

- The Israeli authorities are committing war crimes in Gaza by cutting off electricity and water supplies, carrying out a campaign of genocide and besieging the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, preventing access to electricity, water, and all means of livelihood, as well as destroying roads and infrastructure. This portends severe consequences for the situation of the population in the Gaza Strip, as supplies received through the Israeli authorities provide 72 percent of the needs of the Palestinian population in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- The Israeli authorities are practicing a systematic policy of destroying infrastructure and basic facilities in the Gaza Strip, and are constantly bombing hospitals, civilian facilities, power plants, vital projects, and water and sanitation facilities, in addition to destroying roads and bridges to prevent movement and the arrival of ambulances to hospitals.
- The Israeli authorities impose a siege on the people of Gaza, close all crossings, and prevent the entry of humanitarian and medical needs.

**When we look at the position of international organizations regarding what is happening in the Gaza Strip, we find that most of the organizations have taken the position that the massacres that Israel is carrying out against the defenseless Palestinian people, children, women, the injured, and the elderly are nothing but a reaction to what the Hamas movement did on October 7, and the observations made can be summarized as follows:**

- **The first observation:** It is clear that **Human Rights Watch** tried to show its intention to remain neutral, but it did not hide its bias towards Israel and justified the Israeli massacres by saying that they were a “response” to what the Hamas movement did, and although the organization indicated in some reports what it was doing Israel kills civilians, violates international law, and uses internationally banned phosphorous missiles. But there are two reports that confirm its bias towards the Israeli side, the first of which is the report in which it confirmed that its laboratories confirmed the authenticity of three videos in which Hamas appears on October 7th committing “crimes,” as they put it, against the Israelis, while it has not mentioned anything yet about

the authenticity of the videos and photos from the Palestinian side, which indicates that the reader and public opinion have been pushed to question the pictures and videos that the Palestinians publish. The second is the report in which Human Rights Watch mentioned what Israel should do in imitating America in its intentional ground war, which indicates hidden support from Human Rights Watch for what Israel is doing and will do.

- **The second observation:** We can note that **Amnesty International**, although at first glance it appears to reject what is happening inside Gaza, it did not hide its position to justify the massacres carried out by Israel in response to what Hamas carried out. It was published on October 7 that what Hamas did was a disgraceful act, but it was a result of what Israel has done in recent decades. This was stated by the Secretary-General of the organization. Then, on October 12 - that is, five days after the Al-Aqsa Flood operation - the organization published a strongly worded condemnation of what Hamas did on October 7, in addition to the speech of the Secretary-General, in which she retracted what she said on October 7, when she said on October 12 that Israel's attacks the day before October 7 does not justify what Hamas did.

Contrary to this hesitant opinion of the Secretary-General, we will find that the rest of the published reports and statements condemn displacement and the cutting off of primitive means of life, including water and energy, and denounce the blocking of demonstrations in support of Palestine throughout the world.

- **The third observation** was that the statements of the **International Federation of Journalists** were specific and within the scope of demanding the rights of journalists. It published eight statements about journalists, only one of them condemning the killing of 3 Israeli journalists, and three news condemning what Israel has done and is doing against Palestinian journalists. The remaining two stories, one of which was for Israel, condemning it for suppressing the press inside the "State of Israel," and the other was an appeal to all journalists to be accurate, whether in Israel or Palestine.

- **Fourth observation:** We can note that the **Committee to Protect Journalists** leans toward the Palestinian side compared to the **International Federation of Journalists**. The International Federation of Journalists did not mourn the Palestinian journalists who were martyred since October 9. Rather, the first to mourn them were the Israeli journalists on October 10. While the Committee to Protect Journalists published a condemnation of the killing of Palestinian journalists on October 9, it did not condemn the killing of Israeli journalists until October 21 while condemning the killing of Palestinian journalists.
- **The fifth observation** is that the position of the **United Nations** in the Palestinian crisis is negative, as it did not go beyond verbal condemnation, whether by the Secretary-General or the General Assembly. As for making fateful decisions that change the course of this war, the Security Council did not take any decision due to the right of veto. France, Britain, Japan, and the United States objected to it.
- **Sixth observation:** In dealing with the war on Gaza, the reports of international organizations overlooked the restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression for citizens in European countries, where many citizens and the media were subjected to restrictions for not supporting the Palestinian cause.

### Monitoring details

#### ➤ **Human Rights Watch:**

The first news published by the organization about Israel's war on Gaza came on October 9 with the title: Israel/Palestine: Massive civilian casualties due to the parties' violation of their legal obligations.

In issuing a question-and-answer document on the standards of international humanitarian law governing the occupation, Human Rights Watch said that Palestinian armed groups carried out a deadly attack on October 7, 2023, which led to the death of several hundred Israeli civilians, and led to Israeli counterattacks that led to the death of hundreds.



It also mentioned in the news that the Israeli authorities have systematically oppressed the Palestinians for decades, and since 2007 have imposed a crushing closure on the residents of Gaza. Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory may have recently faced unprecedented repression. During the first nine months of 2023, Israeli authorities killed more Palestinians in the West Bank in 2023 than in any year since the United Nations began systematically recording deaths in 2005.

**On October 10**, it published news about the Israeli government, which said that 900 Israelis had been killed. Hundreds of them are civilians. At the end of the news, she commented: “Intentionally killing civilians is a war crime, as is taking hostages. All parties to the conflict are obligated to respect the laws of war. No matter what the other party does, no one has the right to target civilians.”

**On October 11**, the website published that it is investigating all videos and photos published by both the Palestinian and Israeli sides to verify their accuracy. The website stated that over the coming weeks and months, it will share the results of their research alongside researchers on the ground. The story stated: “We have only begun to build a body of evidence to document the violations that are unfolding. Our mission is to create a comprehensive picture of the violations that have occurred and who should be held accountable.”

**On October 12**, Human Rights Watch said that Israel's use of white phosphorus in military operations in Gaza and Lebanon puts civilians at risk of serious and long-term injuries. Human Rights Watch verified videos taken in Lebanon and Gaza on October 10 and 11, 2023, respectively, showing multiple aerial explosions of white phosphorus artillery over the Gaza City port and two rural sites along the Israeli-Lebanese border, and interviewed two individuals who described the attack on Gaza. Human Rights Watch has also documented the Israeli military's use of white phosphorus in previous conflicts in Gaza, including 2009. In 2013, in response to a petition to the Israeli High Court of Justice regarding the use of white phosphorus in Gaza, the Israeli military stated that it would no longer use it in populated areas, except in two narrow cases that were only revealed to judges.

**On October 13**, the website published news that President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva had urged Palestinian armed groups to release kidnapped Israeli children, and urged Israel to stop the bombing. He promised that Brazil, as president of the UN Security Council this month, would do everything in its power to end the violence. Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira went to New York on Friday to chair an urgent Security Council meeting on the crisis.

The website added that President Lula must push for a Security Council resolution urging the two parties to adhere to international humanitarian law, that is, the laws of war, which seek to save lives and reduce suffering, and pressure the other fourteen members of the Council to support this resolution. If the United States chooses to veto the resolution, as it usually does with any Security Council text critical of Israel, it will have to explain its reasons in an open session of the General Assembly.

On the same day, Human Rights Watch submitted a letter to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, which read as follows:

*“Dear Prosecutor Khan,*

*I write to ask you to issue urgently a public statement regarding the mandate of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as to the current hostilities between Palestinian armed groups and Israel, in addition to your Office’s responses to the media.*

*We recognize that, as a matter of policy, the Office of the Prosecutor is no longer issuing what had been called “preventative statements.” At the same time, I urge you to consider, across the court’s docket, when and how the ICC prosecutor’s public voice may hold unique value.*

*The stakes for civilians in the current hostilities are extremely high. While any statement you make would no doubt be made in general terms rather than specific to any particular incidents, it is clear that horrific violations of international humanitarian law that amount to war crimes have been carried out by different parties.*

*Your statement would serve to remind all parties of your Office’s ongoing investigation, of their obligations under international criminal law and international humanitarian law, and of the court’s jurisdiction by virtue of Palestine’s accession to the Rome Statute. Your statement could also signal the Office’s willingness to expand investigations into any alleged crimes that fall within that jurisdiction.*

*Beyond any potential deterrent value, we also believe that the ICC prosecutor’s voice will carry weight in ensuring that support for justice is inserted and maintained in international responses from the earliest point onward in these hostilities. It would also remind all governments of the importance of underlining respect for international humanitarian law in their public statements around the*



*conflict. We know how challenging it is to develop a political consensus to support impartial accountability, and yet how crucial that is for the court's delivery of justice. Public statements by the Office have been effective in marshalling support for the central role of the ICC.*

*Accountability is a key element in ending impunity-fueled repression and cycles of bloodshed around the world. Ensuring that the ICC's critical role is recognized will send an important message not only to would-be perpetrators, but, importantly, also to victims and survivors.*

*Finally, as you are no doubt aware, in many places around the world, impunity for grave abuses committed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over many years is seen as proof positive that there are double standards at work with respect to international justice. In this context, we believe your Office has an important role to play.”*

**On the same day**, the website published news about the displacement of the people of Gaza, where the news stated: “The fact that fighters led by Hamas committed unspeakable war crimes does not give the Israeli army permission to flout its obligations towards civilians in Gaza. The evacuation announcement threatens mass forced displacement. The evacuation zone he designated today, the Israeli army is home to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people, including children, people with disabilities, the elderly and hospital patients. Gaza's roads are littered with rubble from destroyed buildings, and fuel has become scarce after the Israeli authorities cut off supplies of fuel, water, food and electricity to Gaza. "In what amounts to a form of collective punishment - which in itself is a war crime."

**On October 18**, it published a story about investigations into photos and videos from Gaza and Israel, where it stated: Human Rights Watch verified four video clips from the October 7, 2023 attacks carried out by Hamas-led militants, showing three incidents of intentional killing, and presents this analysis in a video clip published today. The attacks should be investigated as war crimes.

It added: Over the coming weeks and months, Human Rights Watch will share additional research findings, to build a body of evidence on serious violations in Israel and Palestine, and to call for those responsible to be held accountable.

**On October 18**, the organization acknowledged the illegal and inhumane actions carried out by Israel in its war on Gaza, but this was stated in the details of a news item entitled “What can Israel learn from America’s mistakes in combating terrorism? The strategic argument for adhering to the laws of war,” referring to the

inevitability of ground entry. For the Israeli forces in Gaza, but with the help of America, which has a long history in these wars since World War II, so that Israel does not once again deviate from international law.

**On October 19, the** website published a report on international law and conflicts, which said: No two armed conflicts are the same. But the demands of international humanitarian law to protect civilians apply to everyone: do not deliberately or indiscriminately attack civilians, do not take hostages, do not punish civilians for acts committed by individuals, and do not prevent or withhold humanitarian aid. In Ukraine, the United States and European governments rightly upheld these life-protecting principles and denounced egregious violations by Russian forces, including indiscriminate attacks, unlawful killings, extrajudicial executions, power and water cuts, and torture. Europe and the United States also rightly supported international efforts to achieve justice for the victims.

If Western countries want to convince the rest of the world to believe what they say about the values, human rights and international laws governing armed conflict, then the universal principles they rightly apply to Russian atrocities in Ukraine and to Hamas atrocities in Israel must also apply to Israel's brutal disregard for civilian lives in Gaza.

On October 19, the website published a report discussing three main points as follows:

- Hamas and Islamic Jihad are committing war crimes by holding dozens of Israelis and others hostage in Gaza, and say they will not release them until Palestinian prisoners in Israel are released.
- Civilians, including children, people with disabilities and the elderly, should never be treated as bargaining chips. No complaint can justify holding anyone hostage.
- Armed groups should release all detained civilians immediately and safely. Governments that have influence with Hamas must use their influence to press for the humane treatment and release of the hostages.

On October 20, the website published a report entitled: We are witnessing urgent signs of more tit-for-tat mass atrocities in Israel and Gaza. There is little chance that the killing spiral will subside. The international community must act to prevent further deaths.

➤ **Amnesty International:**

**On October 7**, the organization published a statement after the Al-Aqsa Flood operation, in which it said:

“Israeli security forces and Palestinian armed groups must make every effort to protect civilian lives as fighting breaks out today in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

“Under international humanitarian law, all parties to a conflict have a clear obligation to protect the lives of civilians caught up in hostilities,” said Agnes Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

‘Intentionally targeting civilians, carrying out disproportionate attacks, and indiscriminate attacks that kill or injure civilians are war crimes. Israel has a horrific record of committing war crimes with impunity in its previous wars on Gaza. Palestinian armed groups in Gaza must refrain from targeting civilians and using indiscriminate weapons, as they have done in the past, and in this case, acts that amount to war crimes.’”

But **on October 12**, Amnesty International said that Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups had flagrantly violated international law and demonstrated a frightening disregard for human life by committing cruel and brutal crimes, including summary mass killings, hostage-taking, and launching indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israel. As evidence of the atrocities in southern Israel continues to emerge, Amnesty International will continue its investigations in order to establish the full scope of crimes under international law.

‘Israel’s well-documented record of war crimes does not justify the horrific acts committed by Palestinian armed groups, nor absolve it from fulfilling its obligations under international law to respect basic principles of humanity and protect civilians,’ said Agnes Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

**On the same day**, the organization published a statement about the siege of Gaza, in which it was stated that an Israeli minister said that the authorities would not restore electricity or allow the entry of water or fuel until Hamas released the hostages. This is clear confirmation that these actions were taken to punish civilians in Gaza for the actions of Palestinian armed groups. Amnesty International reiterates that Palestinian civilians are not responsible for crimes committed by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups, and Israel must not

make them suffer, under international law, for actions in which they play no role and over which they cannot control.

**On October 13**, Amnesty International said that the order issued by the Israeli army to people in northern Gaza and Gaza City to 'evacuate' to the southern Gaza Strip cannot be considered an effective warning, and may amount to forced displacement of the civilian population, which is a violation of international humanitarian law.

**On October 20**, Esther Major, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for Research in Europe, said in response to the increasing restrictions imposed by many authorities in Europe on Palestinian human rights protests:

'The devastating consequences of the Israeli bombing and illegal blockade of Gaza are forcing many people in Europe, understandably, to protest for Palestinian rights. However, in many European countries, the authorities illegally restrict the right to protest. Actions range from those targeting certain Palestinian chants, flags and banners, to subjecting protesters to police brutality and arrest. In some cases, protests have been banned altogether.

**On the same day**, the organization published a report in which it stated the following: "As Israeli forces continue to intensify their disastrous attack on the occupied Gaza Strip, Amnesty International has documented unlawful Israeli attacks, including indiscriminate attacks, that have caused significant civilian casualties." "They must be investigated as war crimes."

#### ➤ **EuroMed Rights:**

Since the outbreak of Al-Aqsa flood and then the Israeli aggression against Palestine, specifically Gaza, EuroMed Rights has published only two statements.

The first was **on October 10**, in which it recounted what happened on the part of the Palestinian resistance on October 7. Then it recounted the killing of children and civilians that Israel had carried out, and it reached the conclusion: "According to all indications, the Israeli government intends to engage in armed attacks against Gaza without any concern about "Collateral damage."

She then said: "It is unreasonable to discuss the ongoing escalation of violence without addressing the root causes of the conflict, which lie in the Israeli occupation and the settler-colonial project. This year witnessed record numbers of home demolitions and settlement construction in the West Bank, with a strong

annexation campaign by the Israeli government.” The most extreme in history: Before the attack this weekend, 200 Palestinians had already been killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank.

She then condemned the negative position of the European Union in standing with Israel, saying: “It is disturbing that the European Union’s response is not a call to stop the escalation of violence, but rather unconditional support for Israel’s right to defend itself, which will be considered an absolute mandate for the complete destruction of the Gaza Strip. The current escalation is a result of the refusal of the European Union and member states to pursue a real peace process that guarantees Israel’s respect for international law and Palestinian self-determination.”

The second was **on October 16**, when it published a point of view by two writers, Wadih Al-Asmar and Rasmus Alenius Boserup. In this statement, the two writers initially condemned the killing and detention of civilians by Hamas, and then they condemned the war crimes committed by Israel. The authors then called on the European Union to change its position in support of Israel, saying: “These events should push the European Union to change its position away from the previous tactical preference for cooperation with Israel. Instead, it should adopt an approach rooted in human rights and international humanitarian law.”

➤ **International Federation of Journalists:**

**On October 10**, the International Federation of Journalists, which supports the rights of journalists in the world, published a statement about three journalists killed during a Hamas raid on Israeli territory, saying:

“On October 7, at least three Israeli journalists were killed during a Hamas attack on southern Israel. The whereabouts of a local photographer and a retired journalist residing in southern Israel, near the Gaza Strip, have remained unknown since October 7. The federation condemns International Federation of Journalists killings and calls for an immediate investigation. The International Federation of Journalists is deeply concerned about the missing journalists who may have been kidnapped by Hamas and calls for their immediate release.

Then, **on October 12**, it announced the killing of at least sixteen Palestinian journalists, the injury of many of them, and the loss of others during the ongoing military operations between Hamas and Israel in the Gaza Strip. It called for an urgent and fair investigation into these crimes. Then she reported on a journalist affiliated with her in Gaza about the tragic situation there, where there is no electricity to transmit thousands of stories.



**On October 13**, the organization called on UNESCO to do its utmost to protect journalists and called on the warring parties to stop the escalation of violence, which will only lead to civilian casualties, especially journalists.

**On October 14**, the organization announced its joining the Syndicate of Journalists in Lebanon in condemning the killing of Issam Abdullah, a Reuters journalist, as a result of an Israeli raid on southern Lebanon.

**On October 16**, the International Federation of Journalists and its affiliated Palestinian Journalists Syndicate issued a warning regarding the safety of journalists covering the war in Gaza.

**On October 19**, the organization issued a statement calling on journalists to respect the professional principles of the International Code of Ethics and to be accurate in publishing data and information. She mentioned the fake news about the BBC, which said that Hamas had beheaded 40 children, but then the news turned out to be false.

**On October 20**, she published news in Israel that on October 20, the Israeli government approved a new regulation allowing the temporary closure of news channels that “harm national security.” The International Federation of Journalists urged Israel to review its decision in the name of media pluralism and the public's right to know.

➤ **Committee to Protect Journalists:**

**On October 9**, the organization condemned the killing of 3 Palestinian journalists in Gaza as a result of Israeli bombing.

**On October 21**, the organization issued a statement strongly condemning the killing of journalists from both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, who numbered at least 22 journalists. Then it published their names and information.

➤ **International Federation for Human Rights:**

The Federation published its only statement on the Israeli aggression against Gaza **on October 11**. In it, it condemned what Hamas did on October 7, on the one hand, and on the other hand, it condemned the crimes committed by Israel against civilians.

Accordingly, the International Federation for Human Rights called for:

- Calls on all parties for an immediate ceasefire.
- The international community must assume its responsibility by first stopping fueling the ongoing violence and encouraging violations of international law and taking what is necessary to protect the Palestinian people in the face of Israeli strikes.
- Release the Israeli civilian hostages captured by armed groups and calls on the Israeli authorities to immediately stop collective punishments against Palestinians in Gaza and calls on them to lift the siege without delay.

➤ **PEN America:**

The organization did not publish any data on the humanitarian situation of either Israelis or Palestinians. But all it did was publish a report on how to verify news before publishing it, as we have witnessed a lot of false misleading news as a result of this crisis.

➤ **PEN International Organization:**

The organization published a statement **on October 10** condemning Hamas' attacks on Israel. But this condemnation was followed by a speech by the head of the organization, Burhan Sonmez, in which he said: "The violence practiced by Hamas and the Israeli government is unacceptable. Years of occupation and political stagnation have led to this violence, with civilians on both sides suffering the most."

It then emphasized its condemnation of Israel, publishing: PEN International strongly condemns Israel's comprehensive blockade of Gaza, including the denial of access to electricity, food, water, fuel, and vital medical supplies, as well as the killing of civilians, indiscriminate bombing, disproportionate retaliatory attacks, and the deliberate destruction of civilian infrastructure, an punishment of the collective civilian population of Gaza.

Then, **on October 20**, the organization condemned the killing of journalists covering events on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides. However, it focused more on the Palestinian press and mentioned the cases of objection and restrictions that Palestinian journalists face, as "Palestinians living in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory who express solidarity with Gaza or criticize Israeli measures face reprisals."

➤ **POMED Organization:**

Through its report on the events in Palestine and Israel, which it published **on October 13**, the organization stressed its condemnation of the killing of civilians, whether at the hands of Hamas or at the hands of Israeli forces. Convinced by Biden's principle that democracies "become stronger and safer when we act in accordance with the rule of law," the organization urges US decision-makers to renew attention to the root causes of this violence. Any solution must give Palestinians and Israelis equal rights and access to a life of freedom, dignity, security and peace.

➤ **United Nations:**

**1. Secretary General:**

**On 7 October**, the Secretary-General condemned in the strongest terms the attack launched by Hamas against Israeli towns near the Gaza Strip and central Israel, including the firing of thousands of rockets towards Israeli population centres.

**On October 9**, the Secretary-General spoke to the press and said:

"I recognize the legitimate grievances of the Palestinian people. But nothing can justify these terrorist acts and the killing, maiming and kidnapping of civilians. I reiterate my call for an immediate halt to these attacks and the release of all hostages.

In the face of these unprecedented attacks, Israeli air strikes bombed the Gaza Strip. I am deeply concerned by reports that more than 500 Palestinians – including women and children – have been killed in Gaza and more than 3,000 injured.

I urge all parties concerned to allow the United Nations access to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to trapped and helpless Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. I appeal to the international community to mobilize immediate humanitarian support for this effort.

These recent acts of violence do not come out of nowhere. The truth is that it arose from a long-term conflict, with a 56-year occupation and no political end in sight. It is time to end this vicious cycle of bloodshed, hatred and polarization. "Israel must see its legitimate needs for security met, and the Palestinians must see a clear vision for creating their own state."

## **2. General Assembly:**

**On October 10**, the General Assembly highlighted the recent Hamas attack on Israel. The Third Committee expresses its dismay at the rising toll of conflict, racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia around the world.

Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights, expressed his deep shock at the horrific attacks by Palestinian armed groups on October 7 and the all-out conflict that followed in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. "Civilians on both sides are bearing an unbearable burden," he said, urgently calling on all parties to withdraw from all-out war and the vicious cycle of revenge and its disastrous long-term and irreparable effects on peace and security throughout the region and beyond.

**On October 17**, the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) concluded its discussion on "the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources."

Delegates called on each other to address recent and long-standing conflicts, and to condemn human rights violations, including the transfer of civilian populations, ethnic cleansing, and incitement to hatred, while the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) continued its discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights today.

**On the same day**, the Office of the General Assembly Committee concerned made a statement regarding the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, as the statement stated:

The Bureau of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People strongly condemns the killing and wounding of civilians and the targeting of civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. It expresses deep concern about the humanitarian catastrophe imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian civilian population.

**On October 18**, the Third Committee condemned the brutal bombing of Gaza Hospital and the forced displacement of Palestinian civilians, and stressed the urgent need for unhindered humanitarian aid.

### 3. Security Council:

**On October 16**, the Security Council failed to adopt a resolution submitted by the Russian Federation calling for an immediate ceasefire on humanitarian grounds in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Because France, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom voted against it.

If adopted, it would strongly condemn all acts of violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism. Under its additional terms, it would also have called for the safe release of all hostages and the unhindered provision and distribution of humanitarian aid, including food, fuel and medical treatment.

The United States representative to the Security Council said that the attack launched by Hamas on Israel was what led to the serious humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

#### **Analysis: “Major human rights organizations... from bias towards Israel to soft positions”:**

An analysis of the discourse of major human rights organizations operating at the international level reveals a discrepancy in their positions, between reactions that are biased towards Israel and justify its aggression, and in the best treatments, gelatinous reactions that equate the victim and the executioner. During this report, we monitored the positions of three famous European and American human rights organizations during the first five days of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, namely Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Human Rights. Its positions can be summarized as follows:

**Human Rights Watch:** The organization issued 6 press releases and reports during the period from 9 to 12 October 2023 regarding the events in Palestine. The organization’s coverage was characterized in all of its statements by highlighting the Palestinian side’s attack on Israeli civilians in the Gaza envelope settlements, and it devoted large areas of space to each statement to try to demonstrate for what it described as “human rights violations,” the organization was keen to suggest that the Israeli military movements were a “response” to what Palestinian militants did, and although the organization referred in some of its statements to major violations by the Israeli side, such as the use of white phosphorus and targeting civilians, However, the phrases that were used were not strong or prominent in line with the size and nature of the Israeli crimes. In general, the organization’s treatments



during the past days of the brutal war can be described as “justifying” treatments for the Israeli aggression, and strong condemnations of the Palestinian side, in exchange for dealing with a degree of “softness” with the criminal Israeli practices.

Amnesty International: Actually, the organization’s actions were more professional than those of Human Rights Watch, although they were similar to it in adopting “a somewhat justifiable pattern for Israel’s crimes,” as it issued two statements during the recent period, the first focusing on the fact that civilians on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides are paying the price of the war, and the second It focused on calling on Israel to lift its siege on the Gaza Strip. The organization also adopted sharper language in confronting the collective punishment operations practiced by Israel, as stated by its Secretary-General, Agnes Callamard: “The Israeli authorities must immediately restore electricity supplies in Gaza, and remove the restrictions.” additional measures imposed, and to lift the illegal blockade it has imposed on the Gaza Strip for 16 years. “The collective punishment of the civilian population in Gaza amounts to a war crime, and is cruel and inhumane.”

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Human Rights: The organization limited itself to issuing one statement in English and it was not translated into Arabic. The statement focused on calling on the European side to adopt a comprehensive approach to dealing with the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and removing the root causes of the conflict. However, the Foundation’s position was neither strong nor fair or honest in describing the extent and nature of the violations committed by each party.

## **Conclusion**

The siege imposed on the Gaza Strip since October 7 has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis experienced by the residents of Gaza, at a time when displacement continues from the south for fear of indiscriminate bombing launched by Israeli forces, with the threat of a ground invasion.

This comes amid warnings from international institutions of a “humanitarian catastrophe” currently besetting the sector, which is home to more than 2.4 million people, including severe food shortages, water and electricity outages, and energy stocks running out within hours.

Amidst the destruction of homes and infrastructure and the increasing number of dead bodies, the numerical shortage of doctors, the unavailability of treatment, and the unavailability of fuel, i.e. the services necessary for human life, are no longer available in the Gaza Strip. Consequently, the situation in the Gaza Strip has become catastrophic. Everyone in Gaza is suffering from a “real crisis,” and the situation may develop into "Famine" and humanitarian catastrophe

Continuous violations against the Palestinians violate all the rules of international law, while international interaction appears to have a third dimension in light of the state of silence regarding the crimes committed against the defenseless civilians of the Gaza Strip. Therefore, a package of recommendations must be adopted for rapid intervention to stop this deteriorating situation inside the Gaza Strip. :

- An immediate ceasefire, ensuring the access of humanitarian aid, relief supplies and other basic necessities and services
- Restoring electricity and water, and allowing unimpeded delivery of fuel, food and medicine to all parts of Gaza.
- Protecting civilians, refraining from targeting them, and adhering to international humanitarian law,
- Immediately and unconditionally release all civilians detained by both sides