



AK PARTI

23 January 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

As the Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) of the Republic of Türkiye, we call on the international community to exert every effort possible to help end the ongoing bloodshed in Gaza and the West Bank, and achieve a just and lasting peaceful settlement between Israel and Palestine.

We reject any attack on the elderly, women and children, regardless of who perpetrates it or for what reason. However, there is nothing that can justify the indiscriminate and intentional killing of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, the erasure of entire families from Gaza's civil registry and the destruction of entire Gaza including all civilian infrastructure.

As of 23th January 2024, the Israeli bombardments;

- killed more than twenty-five thousand people (70 percent of them being children and women),
- injured over sixty-two thousand,
- displaced two million Gazans.

More than 10 children a day have lost one or both legs, with many amputations carried out without anesthetic (1,000 children in total). According to UN emergency relief chief, people in Gaza face the “highest levels of food insecurity ever recorded”.

Human rights organizations have condemned Israel's targeting of hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, refugee camps and media facilities as war crimes. The United Nations Security Council has failed to intervene. Nevertheless, on 29 December, South Africa filed a lawsuit before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is supported by 10 countries and more than 1,000 organizations. The proceedings against Israel are concerning alleged violations of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the “Genocide Convention”) in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

We welcome the application and it will be highly important to act upon the implementation of its ruling including the provisional measures, if the ICJ so decides.

The President of the Republic of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has been actively involved in efforts to resolve this crisis from the outset. He has held intensive discussions with regional and international actors and has provided substantial humanitarian aid to the region.

Justice & Development Party

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President Erdoğan condemned Israel's attacks on Gaza in the strongest terms and emphasized the urgency of restoring tranquility in the region for the overall well-being of the entire region.

He also stressed the need to resolve the Palestinian issue in accordance with international law and established parameters, reiterating that a two-state solution is the only valid option and underlining the need to recognize and protect the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Foreign Relations Department of the Justice and Development Party of the Republic of Türkiye calls for the immediate implementation of a two-state model for a just and lasting solution between Palestine and Israel.

The ongoing crisis once again shows that a lasting peace in the Middle East and the wider region cannot be possible without addressing the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The root cause is surely the continuing and deepening Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory. Israel's 16-year-old illegal blockade of the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting does not stop immediately. Therefore, we believe that a lasting solution can be only possible through embodiment of an independent, sovereign and geographically contiguous State of Palestine based on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, nearly 90% of Gaza's more than 2 million people have been forcibly displaced. We need to address the issue of occupation because some Israeli authorities are already calling for expulsion of all Palestinians from their land. Israeli politicians used two incompatible terms: "VOLUNTARY DISPLACEMENT". Forced displacements are unacceptable and constitute a breach of IHL (International Humanitarian Law).

In this context, we want to appeal to the world's conscience and urge you to stand by the rightful cause of the Palestinian people, to raise your voice against Israeli aggression, to take the necessary measures for peace and stability in the region and for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. We appeal for your participation in awareness-raising campaigns, support to achieve a just and lasting two-state vision as well as for your contributions to increased humanitarian relief efforts.

We send you our sincere greetings and express our readiness to work together to establish peace and prevent further suffering in the region.

Yours sincerely,



Zafer Sırakaya
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in charge of Foreign Affairs
Member of Parliament for
İstanbul