



September 27, 2024

Ambassadors and Representatives of UN Member States
United Nations General Assembly
New York, NY

Subject: Audience for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will legitimize flagrant human rights abuses, escalating violence and undermining of international law

Excellencies,

We write to you with concern in advance of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly on Friday, 27 September 2024, and ask that your delegation not attend the speech and walkout in protest.

Without meaningful action by Member States, we know that Prime Minister Netanyahu will once again exploit this global platform to not only advance an ongoing campaign to undermine obligatory international law norms but to explicitly attempt to legitimize and justify Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people and acts of aggression, such as the Israeli military's dramatic escalation of violence against the people of Lebanon. At this moment, as Israeli attacks in Gaza have killed record numbers of UN staff, Prime Minister Netanyahu must be seen as a direct threat to both the lives of members of the UN community as well as the very functioning of the UN system and the ability of the international community to intervene in times of crisis. We ask that Member States refuse to attend his speech.

We recall the spirit of the UN General Assembly [Resolution](#) adopted just over one week ago by a two-thirds majority of this body, condemning Israel's unlawful occupation of Palestine and its "total disregard and breaches" of the UN Charter and international law. The resolution, which implements the historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, reflects global consensus both on the illegality of Israel's colonial project in Palestine, as well as states' recognition of their obligation to uphold the infrastructure of the international legal system. Impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and apartheid paves the way for continued atrocity. Indeed, our collective failure to stop Israel's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and its continued brutalization of Palestinians in the West Bank and across historic Palestine has endangered the security of multiple states by inviting Israel to open another front in this deadly war. Given that this body, along with so many organizations, agencies and experts across the UN system and international tribunals, have endeavored to interrupt Israel's violence against

Palestinians and censure its flagrant disregard for international law and the multilateral system, it is unconscionable that Member States would then choose to grant audience to Prime Minister Netanyahu.

For nearly twelve months, people around the world have mobilized in unprecedented numbers and engaged all levers of power to protect the rights of Palestinians - from college campuses and workplaces, to the streets and government forums on local, national and international levels. Civil society has developed litigation across diverse legal fora, and pursued all reasonable efforts to mitigate catastrophe and preserve the rule of law. This summer, many U.S. Representatives and Senators refused to attend Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech to Congress in protest. Every UN Member State similarly has an obligation to demonstrate its moral, if not legal, commitment to eliminating oppression and protecting those vulnerable to abuse by bolstering rather than diminishing the functioning of our UN system.

For over 75 years, the people of Palestine have insisted on the universality of human rights and the primacy of self-determination in their righteous struggle for freedom. In this moment of devastating and irreversible violence, Member States must stand firmly on the side of international law and of human dignity, and refuse to grant audience to a leader actively flaunting international law and degrading our collective humanity.

Sincerely,



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