



A Statement by the Embassy of the state of Palestine

Budapest –11th of January 2024: The embassy of the state of Palestine was shocked and disappointed by the Hungarian Foreign Minister's remarks. The statement did not mention tens of thousands of Palestinians injured and over 23,000 Palestinians killed by the Israeli terror machine, leaving thousands more missing, mostly women and children. The Minister spoke solely about the Israeli perspective, ignoring the existence of a Palestinian side.

The right to self-defense was also mentioned in the statement, unevenly granted and denied to parties involved. Occupying states don't have the right to self-defense against an occupied land, disregarding all recognized international principles for self-defense; necessity, proportionality, and simultaneity. These terms are clearly out of line with the actions of the occupying power; terms more appropriate would be aggression, war crimes, and massacres.

The repeated emphasis on “terrorism” is questioned, especially considering the questionable nature of many Israeli narratives. Nonetheless, can it serve as a justification to destroy homes, bomb religious places, schools, and hospitals, target vehicles and ambulances, and enforce collective punishment on two million people by restricting access to water, food, and medicine? Does this justify the occupation army and settler groups' terrorism in the West Bank and Jerusalem?

Does the “Human Shield” claim justify the death of over 1% of the population of Gaza, by the Israeli self-proclaimed “world's most advanced war machine”? If the Israeli apartheid state, which purports to uphold democracy and army morality, is capable of such military powers, it is either incapable of distinguishing between military and civilian targets or deliberately murders every living thing in the



besieged Gaza Strip. To bring justice to the victims in both cases—who are more than just names and numbers—a full investigation is necessary. These victims also have names, dreams, memories, lovers, family, and friends.

The main question still stands: In this era of states upholding the rule of law and guided by international order, where does one go to seek justice? Isn't that the court? Therefore, Shouldn't any obstruction of the International Court of Justice work be considered an infringement of legal jurisdictions, and politicization of the judicial processes?

As Palestinians sought their national aspirations through peaceful means over the years, Israeli governments consistently and openly rejected them. Attempts through international forums met opposition from veto-wielding powers, and now even resorting to the judiciary authorities is questioned. Must Palestinians put up with the occupation, resource theft, and child murder without fighting for justice? must they accept death in silence so as not to disturb the occupier and the superpowers who back them?

Hungary and Palestine have a history of distinguished relations. Both nations share painful experiences of occupation at times and joyous experiences related to sovereign and independent decisions and success in various fields. The Embassy of the State of Palestine looks forward positively to Hungary's support of the South African initiative as well as any other endeavor that seeks to bring justice for the victims and a just peace at large. Peace is the only way to put an end to the instability that can only be resolved by the Palestinian people receiving justice and realizing their legitimate right to an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

End of statement.