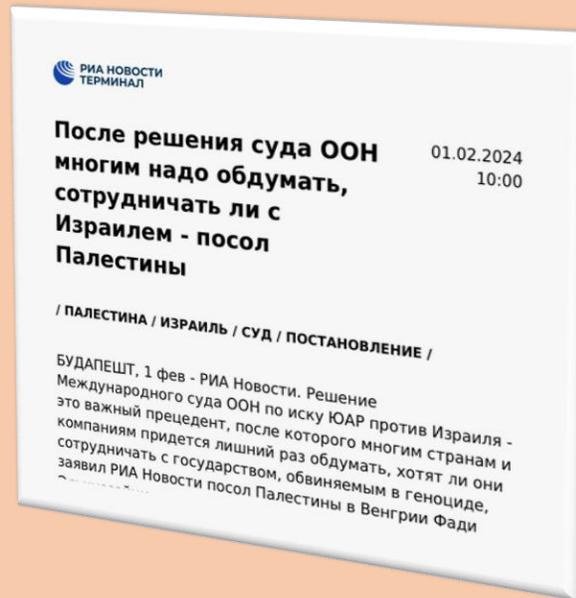


After the UN court decision, many will have to consider whether to cooperate with Israel - Palestinian Ambassador

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The decision of the International Court of Justice in the case of South Africa against Israel is an important precedent, after which many countries and companies will once again have to consider whether they want to cooperate with a state accused of genocide, **Palestinian Ambassador in Hungary Fadi Elhusseini told RIA Novosti.**

“The International Court of Justice in The Hague on Friday issued an interim ruling on South Africa's claim seeking provisional measures against Israel over alleged genocide in the Gaza Strip. The court ordered Israel to take all measures to prevent genocide in the Gaza Strip, punish calls for genocide against Palestinians, ensure the flow of humanitarian aid to the residents of the area, and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts against the Palestinian people described in the Convention about genocide. The UN Court did not oblige Israel to stop its military operation in the Gaza Strip, as South Africa asked for in its lawsuit.

"For the first time Israel is not above the law. The Court accepted the case, which means, that there is a suspicious act of genocide in the Palestinian territory. Which is the first time to vet such situation in International Court like the International Court of Justice. This is a precedent that will encourage others to follow," the ambassador said. The Ambassador remarked that the ruling had two indications; first it proves the existence of serious suspicions that Israel has –in fact- committed the crime of genocide, noting that the court dismissed every single Israeli argument, including “avoidance of civilians,” and second, Israel failed to convince the ICJ that it is neither acting on the basis of the right to self-defense and adhering to international law, nor that there is no humanitarian catastrophe. The ambassador noted that Israel must comply with the court's decision within a month, but the facts indicate that Israel is not going to do this. What happens next will have to be assessed by legal experts, he said. “The importance of the ICJ here is that countries would now have to consider their engagement with Israel, because it's a serious, a critical accusation – a genocide. Standing or being a third party supporting this entity or state that is committing a genocide would put this country or company or whatever in a serious and critical situation. This is another implication of the ISJ ruling," the diplomat said." Now everyone has to think twice, am I going to be siding with a country that is seriously being accused of committing genocide. A genocide, according to international law, is a huge and a serious crime. I think they would consider being complicit, any country would think twice being complicit to a genocidal war," he added.”