



People's Tribunal / Panel Judgement

March 23, 2024

Members of the press, everyone who has joined us today in this hall and via our live broadcast to bear witness to the disasters in Gaza: Our People's Tribunal has concluded.

Throughout the day we have seen a series of allegations, testimonies, international witnesses, documents, and evidence. We all watched them together. In our consciences, we are sure the State of Israel/the Netanyahu Government is guilty. There is no doubt about that. As stated in the indictment, according to the data from 7 October 2023 to 14 March 2024, 40,042 people have been killed, 14,861 of them children. Over 60,000 Palestinians have suffered severe traumas, both physical and mental. The State of Israel has devastated vast areas of Gaza, including all its residential neighborhoods, and has destroyed or demolished vital infrastructure, including the homes of more than 355,000 Palestinians, as well as extensive agricultural lands, bakeries, schools, universities, workplaces, places of worship, cemeteries, cultural and archaeological sites, municipal and court buildings, as well as water and sanitation facilities and electricity grids, maintaining a relentless assault on the Palestinian medical and health system.

From our perspective, these data constitute a clear act of attempted genocide according to Article 2 of the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, which entered into force on 12 January 1951.

All the evidence, speeches, and testimonies we have witnessed today demonstrate that the State of Israel has committed genocide and war crimes. While we are here in this meeting, such war crimes continue unabated.

From our perspective, all the developments since 7 October also indicate that the State of Israel has disregarded the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, which entered into force on 3 September 1981. We know what the violence in Gaza means for women: Cases have been recorded of sexual violence and torture, the obstruction of access to medical assistance, the

arbitrary detention of women, women being held in cages in the rain and the cold, the prevention of access to necessities such as food, medicine, and sanitary pads, and women being photographed in humiliating conditions.

Testimonies have once again shown that the State of Israel has used chemical gases prohibited during warfare by the Geneva Protocol signed in 1925, and that the state has committed war crimes.

The State of Israel/the Netanyahu Government does not adhere to the international principle of distinction, making no distinction between military and civilian targets and causing damage to both the civilian population and civilian infrastructure through its military operations. The extent of this is so great that Palestinian school buildings or properties in the West Bank were demolished or confiscated by Israeli military authorities at least 16 times from 2010 to April 2018. Since 2016, there have been 12 recorded incidents of destruction and demolition of civilian infrastructure.

The State of Israel continues to perpetrate severe violence, and, in the trial initiated by South Africa in the International Court of Justice, has already been labeled as genocidal. Everything we have witnessed, watched, and determined today shows one thing: the State of Israel is openly committing WAR CRIMES, GENOCIDE, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, and CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY before the eyes of the world. Regarding its human rights violations, it sees itself as unstoppable by any rule or institution. As such, it violates the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Geneva Conventions, the Washington Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, and other international conventions.

Preventing the State of Israel/the Netanyahu Government from continuing to commit crimes at all levels, forcing the State of Israel to comply with international treaties it does not consider binding, and holding it accountable for its crimes, but above all, declaring an urgent ceasefire in Gaza without delay, is the demand of the Tribunal Panel, and one that we are sure is shared by everybody here today.

From the beginning, we have emphasized that we are not a judicial body but individuals acting as part of the global anti-occupation movement whose hearts beats with Gaza. Our aim is to stand up against the normalization of this atrocity, this genocide of the 21st century.

Our aim is to show that each and every one who has been torn from us in Gaza will not be forgotten: Every Gazan, worker, poor person, woman, LGBTI+ person, elderly person, child and living being.

Our aim is to show our Palestinian friend who joined the People's Tribunal online from Rafah that they are not alone and that there is a considerable movement of conscience in solidarity with Gaza.

Our aim is to sound the alarm bells.

Our aim is to, together with other countries of the world, to focus the eyes of the entire world on this act of genocide.

Our aim is to give a warning.

The State of Israel is not doing this alone. Behind it are the countries of the Western bloc, the USA. These states are now supporters of genocide.

All states, including Turkey, that continue bilateral agreements and commercial relations with the State of Israel in the region should know that in the eyes of all the oppressed of the world, maintaining relations with a genocidal state as though nothing had happened, as though the State of Israel killing more than 40 thousand Gazans were just part of everyday life, is a grave crime.

We call on all people of conscience around the world, those who are already protesting, those who are forcing their governments to sever their relations with the State of Israel by igniting the flame of global resistance for Gaza, to increase the struggle until a ceasefire is declared in Gaza and the State of Israel is brought to trial for all their crimes, to build a bigger, more determined, more united movement together, to act more inclusively and more decisively.

We have to escalate this movement of conscience.

Today, through the tribunal's 15 working groups – with workers, women, LGBTI+ people, children, ecology activists, academics, architects, healthcare workers, teachers, lawyers, artists, migrants and Palestinians – we have, together, drawn attention to the genocide in Gaza.

From the moment we first set out, as we have opposed the genocide in Gaza, we have never, ever allowed for discriminatory language that blames Jews. Racism cannot be condoned. The perpetrator of Israel's crimes is not Jews but the State of Israel.

Dear friends, our call is to all people of the world who have had enough of war. Now is the time for us all to raise our voices in unison to bring an end to the occupation and genocide and to expand our struggle in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

People's Tribunal Panel

Filistin'e Özgürlük Platformu (Free Palestine Platform)

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