



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

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In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

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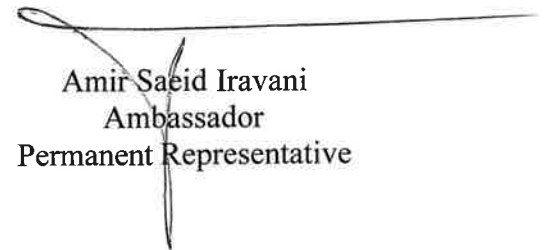
19 February 2024

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from His Excellency Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you regarding the ongoing atrocities committed by the Israeli occupying regime in the Gaza Strip.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly under item 35 “Question of Palestine” and item 72(b) “Assistance to the Palestinian people”.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Amir Saeid Iravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York

CC:
H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett
President of the Security Council
United Nations, New York



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

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Excellency,

Pursuant to my previous letters concerning the occupying Israeli regime's genocidal invasion of the Gaza Strip, I would like to emphasize once more, the responsibility of the United Nations to act swiftly and resolutely to stop the further massacre of the Palestinian people.

As your Excellency is aware, the high number of innocent people killed and wounded as well as the intensity of demolition in Gaza during the past 4 months of incessant attacks on Gaza are clear evidence of a premeditated plot to exterminate a whole nation, including through their forced expulsion out of occupied Palestine. As of 18 February 2024, close to 30,000 Palestinians, the majority of them being children and women, have been brutally killed, while more than 7,000 people remain buried under the collapsed buildings and more than 60,000 are wounded. The Israeli genocidal vengeance has not spared anyone who happens to live in occupied Palestine, as over 85 journalists and more than 150 UNRWA aid workers have been killed and dozens of the agency's headquarters and warehouses have been destroyed in various parts of the Gaza Strip.

To force the Palestinians out of Gaza, the occupying regime has coupled its indiscriminate military operation with cruel starvation as a weapon by deliberately depriving Gazans of food, water, humanitarian aid, and other necessary supplies, rendering Gaza uninhabitable. This can hardly be described as anything other than 'genocide'.

Excellency,

Over 1.5 million Palestinians, the majority of whom are displaced, have already been forcibly relocated to the small city of Rafah in the south. As you rightly said recently, "An all-out offensive on the city would be devastating for the 1.5 million Palestinian civilians there who are already on the edge of survival."

The international community must not let such carnage happen. Any military offensive on Rafah would undoubtedly qualify as another phase in the Israeli genocide of the Palestinian



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nation. It is imperative that the United Nations fulfill its responsibilities at this critical juncture and avert further mass atrocities against the Palestinians who have taken refuge in Rafah.

As the Bureau of the UN General Assembly's Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People warned in its 14 February press release, any military incursion into Rafah "will endanger the lives of countless civilians, many of whom are women and an estimated 600,000 children who have already been displaced multiple times", and would also "violate the Court's Order of 26 January 2024 issued in the context of the Genocide Convention."

The United Nations and the international community must act united to demand an immediate and permanent cessation of atrocities against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank as well as an immediate end to the forced displacement of the Palestinian people and unhindered access to humanitarian aid.

All states have a legal and moral obligation to stop and prevent the genocide of the Palestinian people. The United Nations shall urge all of its member states to refrain from collaborating with the occupying aggressor regime, as this would constitute their complicity in the commission of the most heinous crimes of international concern and would entail their international responsibility.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran

**H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York**