



**The Alternative Report Regarding the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of  
Israel to the Committee of the Rights of the Child**

**Submitted by: QADER for Community Development**

Prepared by:  
Legal Expert / Dr. Issam Abdeen  
Legal Advisor, QADER for Community Development

Contact: Shorouq Al-Afandi / Advocacy Officer at QADER

Email: [s.afandi@qader.org](mailto:s.afandi@qader.org)

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QADER for Community Development is a Palestinian non-governmental, not-for-profit, and rights-based organization specializing in the rights of persons with disabilities, and established in 2008 in Bethlehem, Palestine. QADER leads a twin-track approach, dedicated to the empowerment and protection of children, women, and youth with disabilities from marginalization, discrimination, and all forms of disability and gender-based violence. QADER is committed to aligning societal, institutional, and policy contexts with the principles of “disability inclusion” and “leave no one behind” in Palestine. Through this alignment, QADER strives to foster its active engagement and meaningful participation across diverse facets of life and to ensure their full entitlements of rights by local laws and international human rights conventions and standards. In addition, QADER engages in international advocacy efforts through monitoring and documentation of violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law, legal analysis, and reporting, to foster avenues for accountability and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, especially children and women. ([www.qader.org](http://www.qader.org))

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## Introduction

1. QADER for Community Development (hereinafter "QADER") is honored to submit its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter "the Committee") concerning the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports submitted by Israel.

2. The methodology for preparing this report is based on the List of Issues presented to Israel by the Committee concerning the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6), published on the Committee's website on March 9, 2023, and Israel's responses to the List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/RQ/5-6), published on October 19, 2023. The report also incorporates the additional List of Issues submitted by the Committee to Israel (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6/Add.1), published on March 8, 2024. This additional List addresses the systematic and large-scale military operations conducted by the Israeli occupying forces in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023. These operations have included direct attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, with a particular impact on children and women, resulting in severe violations of the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter "the Convention"). According to credible information and evidence from UN entities, international organizations, and independent local bodies, these hostilities have rendered the Gaza Strip "unlivable," especially concerning the welfare of Palestinian children.

3. The methodology for this report is also grounded in the significant ruling issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on January 26, 2024, following South Africa's request against Israel to enforce compliance with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in Gaza, a motion supported by several nations. This includes the "three" sets of provisional measures ordered by the ICJ: the initial measures in the ruling mentioned above, the additional measures issued on March 28, 2024, and the third set of measures on May 24, 2024. Israel has failed to adhere to any of the Court's mandated measures and has persisted in its military operations against Gaza. Furthermore, the methodology of this report is influenced by the advisory opinion issued by the ICJ on July 19, 2024, in response to legal questions posed by the UN General Assembly in December 2022 concerning the legal implications of Israel's prolonged occupation of Palestinian territory since 1967. The Court determined that "the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory is unlawful" and "the resulting implications", and underscored the responsibilities of Israel, the UN, international organizations, and the international community to act upon the Court's advisory opinion by "expeditiously ending" Israel's illegal presence in the Palestinian territory.

**4. "QADER" recommends that the Committee prioritize and focus the upcoming dialogue with Israel on the devastating impacts of the full-scale Israeli military aggression on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023. This aggression, coupled with documented international crimes targeting civilians and civilian objects in the besieged Gaza Strip—declared uninhabitable by UN reports—demands urgent attention. Additionally, the Committee should address the unprecedented escalation of military attacks and international crimes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since October 7, 2023, and their compounded effects on Palestinian children across all rights enshrined in the Convention. The Committee should emphasize the three sets of provisional measures issued by the ICJ that Israel has completely disregarded, continuing its comprehensive aggression. Relevant UN Security Council resolutions call for the immediate cessation of**

**hostilities, the lifting of the blockade on Gaza, and unimpeded access to all humanitarian aid, relief, and essential medical supplies, including those crucial for persons with disabilities and children with disabilities, which are not reaching Gaza. Moreover, the Committee should give due consideration to the significant advisory opinion issued by the ICJ, which declares the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory as illegal and calls for its termination as soon as possible. The Committee's concluding observations should underscore the military aggression on the Gaza Strip, the escalation of violations in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, their impact on civilians, particularly children, adherence to ICJ rulings, and compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions.**

5. This report comprehensively addresses, through reliable information and evidence, the impact of military aggression on the Gaza Strip and the escalation of violations in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, with a focus on their effects on civilians, particularly children. It draws on the Committee's List of Issues and highlights the significant harm inflicted on children, including extensive casualties and injuries, the destruction of civilian objects, and the severe impact on essential services such as schools, homes, and hospitals. The report also examines the severe humanitarian crisis resulting from widespread famine, food insecurity, forced displacement, environmental degradation, disease outbreaks, as well as arbitrary arrests, torture, and ill-treatment. In addition, it reviews the three sets of provisional measures issued by the ICJ, the Court's advisory opinion on the illegality of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory, and the implications of these rulings. The report underscores the obligations of the UN, international organizations, and the international community—including Israel—to adhere to these measures and ensure full compliance.

### **Refusal to Implement the Convention about Palestinian Children**

6. In the List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6), specifically under item (1), the Committee requested Israel to provide comprehensive and updated information on all aspects related to children's rights as outlined in the Convention, including the situation of Palestinian children in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) and the progress made in ensuring their enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Convention, in accordance with Articles 4(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and other pertinent provisions. In its response to the List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/RQ/5-6), particularly item (18), Israel contended that the Convention's provisions do not extend beyond the State's sovereign territory and thus do not apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This position implies that Palestinian children living under prolonged Israeli occupation are denied the full range of rights guaranteed by the Convention. Israel has consistently maintained this position before all treaty bodies addressing international human rights instruments concerning Palestinians under its occupation. This stance effectively denies Palestinians the rights enshrined in the Convention and other international human rights treaties, highlighting the apartheid-like system imposed by Israel in the oPt and its adverse impact on children.

7. “QADER” draws the Committee's attention to the ESCWA report dated March 15, 2017, titled "Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid," authored by experts Richard Falk and Virginia Tilley. This international report, based on rigorous scientific analysis and substantial evidence, concluded that Israel has instituted an apartheid

system against the Palestinian people through two primary mechanisms: first, the political and geographical fragmentation of the Palestinian population to undermine their resistance and alter existing conditions; and second, the systemic repression of Palestinians through a range of laws, policies, and practices designed to enforce and maintain the dominance of one ethnic group over another. The report underscores the urgent need to dismantle this apartheid system in the occupied Palestinian territory, which constitutes a "crime against humanity" under international law.

8. “**QADER**” draws the Committee’s attention to the report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, dated March 25, 2024 (A/HRC/55/73). The report concludes that "the genocidal actions committed by Israel against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip represent an escalation of a long-standing colonial and settler project aimed at the eradication of Palestinians. For over 70 years, this process has systematically undermined Palestinians demographically, culturally, economically, and politically, and has obliterated their inalienable right to self-determination in an attempt to displace them, expropriate their lands, and establish control."<sup>1</sup> The Special Rapporteur emphasized the urgent need to "end and conclusively address the ongoing Nakba." Furthermore, “**QADER**” directs the Committee to the database of discriminatory laws in Israel (DLD) available on the website of Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, which contains numerous Israeli laws that discriminate both directly and indirectly against Palestinian citizens within Israel and Palestinian residents in the occupied Palestinian territory across various rights and aspects of life.<sup>2</sup>

9. “**QADER**” also draws the Committee’s attention to the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (A/HRC/50/21) dated May 9, 2022. The report confirmed that the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and the systemic discrimination against Palestinians are the root causes of recurring tensions, instability, and prolonged conflict in the region. It highlighted that the “policy of impunity” exacerbates growing discontent among the Palestinian population and that factors such as forced displacement, threats of displacement, home demolitions, settlement expansion and violence, military checkpoints, restrictions on movement in the West Bank, and the long-standing blockade on Gaza all contribute to the recurring cycles of violence. The report underscored that only the cessation of the occupation would allow the international community to address historical injustices and advance toward the realization of the Palestinian right to self-determination<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, “**QADER**” refers the Committee to the latest report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry dated May 27, 2024 (A/HRC/56/26), which reiterated, among other findings and recommendations, the urgent need for an immediate cessation of attacks resulting in the killing and maiming of civilians, a prompt ceasefire, the provision of compensation to individuals

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<sup>1</sup> The report of the Special Rapporteur presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council on March 25, 2024 (A/HRC/55/73) is available at the following link: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session55/advance-versions/a-hrc-55-73-auv.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (Adalah), the database of discriminatory laws in Israel, published on the Center’s website at the following link: <https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/7771>

<sup>3</sup> The report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (A/HRC/50/21) is available at the following link: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/337/18/PDF/G2233718.pdf?OpenElement>.

whose property has been unlawfully destroyed, assurance of the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance, the safe return of displaced Palestinians to their homes, the lifting of the blockade, and the reconstruction of Gaza in accordance with Israel's international obligations, including full and immediate compliance with the orders of the ICJ<sup>4</sup>.

10. **QADER** directs your Committee to its detailed report on the “eight military operations” conducted by the Israeli occupation forces against the Gaza Strip since 2006, with a particular emphasis on the most recent aggression commencing on 7 October 2023. This report draws upon documentation from international commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, UN bodies and specialized agencies, and independent international, regional, and local organizations, alongside a dedicated field team from QADER that has been monitoring, documenting, and assessing violations on the ground under complex circumstances for the purposes of this report. The report includes a comprehensive presentation and legal analysis, supported by credible evidence, detailing patterns of serious violations and international crimes targeting civilians, particularly children, women, and civilian objects in the Gaza Strip, and their impact on persons with disabilities and children with disabilities, in accordance with international law. Specifically, the report identifies patterns of (13) serious violations of international humanitarian law, (18) instances of war crimes, (10) instances of crimes against humanity, and (4) instances of genocide, substantiated by credible evidence and the outcomes of legal analysis and evidence cross-referencing during the recurrent military assaults, especially the recent systematic and widespread aggression on the Gaza Strip. The report also presents numerous conclusions and recommendations aimed at ensuring justice for the victims<sup>5</sup>.

11. **QADER for Community Development** recommends that the Committee requests Israel to provide detailed information on the applicability of the Convention to Palestinian children within Israel and in the OPT, encompassing all rights stipulated in the Convention. QADER also advises requesting comprehensive details regarding Israel's discriminatory laws, policies, and practices against Palestinians, their effects on Palestinian children, and a specific timeline for their prompt elimination. Furthermore, QADER urges the Committee to demand detailed reports on the severe violations and international crimes committed by Israel in the OPT, especially since 7 October 2023, and their impact on the rights of Palestinian children, with a particular emphasis on children with disabilities as articulated in the Convention. QADER suggests that Israel should also present information on the measures implemented to ensure accountability for grave human rights violations, particularly those affecting Palestinian children, and the provision of effective remedies for victims. In addition, QADER calls upon the Committee to inquire about the steps taken to enforce an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, lift the blockade, facilitate the return of all forcibly displaced and internally displaced persons

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<sup>4</sup> The report of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry is available on the United Nations website at the following link: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/israeli-authorities-palestinian-armed-groups-are-responsible-war-crimes>

<sup>5</sup> QADER for Community Development's report on the “The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on the Gaza Strip on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Monitoring Violations, Legal Analysis, and Avenues for Accountability and Effective Remedies”, published on “QADER's” website in April 2024, accessible via the link: <https://www.qader.org/resources/6086.html>.

to their homes, and ensure unimpeded access to life-saving humanitarian and medical aid, prioritizing the needs of persons with disabilities and children with disabilities, who have not received such assistance since the start of the military aggression. QADER further stresses the need to include timelines and measures for Israel's full and immediate compliance with the ICJ's orders concerning allegations of genocide and its advisory opinion on the illegality and termination of the occupation. QADER highlights the critical importance of prioritizing these issues, particularly their impact on Palestinian children and those with disabilities, in the Committee's concluding observations.

### **The Killing and Injuring of Thousands of Palestinian Children**

12. In the List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6/Add.1), the Committee requested that Israel provide additional and updated information, specifically in paragraph (1), in light of the events that have occurred since 7 October 2023 concerning all the rights of the child as stipulated in the Convention. The Committee also requested, in paragraph 3(a), that Israel explain the measures taken to ensure the respect of the rights of the child under the Convention and the relevant rules of international humanitarian law for children living in the occupied Palestinian territory. Israel was asked to submit a response, with a maximum length of (10,700) words, by 15 June 2024, under Appendix (1) of the List of Issues. Israel failed to submit the requested updated information by the specified deadline.

13. QADER expresses grave concern regarding the reliable and updated information from various UN bodies, specialized agencies, and independent international, regional, and local organizations, as well as field documentation by QADER in Gaza. This information corroborates the systematic and large-scale targeting of civilians, especially children and women, which has persisted since the commencement of the extensive military operation in Gaza. There has been a significant escalation in serious violations against civilians, particularly children, in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These actions constitute serious breaches of international humanitarian law principles, including the principles of military necessity, proportionality, distinction, and precautions in attack, and manifest numerous instances of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), since the initiation of the military assault on 7 October 2023, approximately (40,000) male and female Palestinians have been killed, and over (91,000) have been injured, with the majority being civilians, including children and women, and the death toll continues to rise daily<sup>6</sup>. UNICEF's report, titled "Children in Gaza Need Life-Saving Support; No Safe Place for Children as Humanitarian Crisis Deepens,"<sup>7</sup> updates that the occupation military has killed over (14,000) Palestinian children in Gaza since the onset of the comprehensive military operation, with the number of child fatalities increasing daily. UNRWA reports that between (10 and 12) Palestinian children's legs are amputated daily

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<sup>6</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, published at the following link: <https://www.ochaopt.org/>

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF report titled "Children in Gaza Need Lifesaving Support and No Safe Place for Children as Humanitarian Crisis Deepens," published on the UNICEF website at the following link: <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/children-gaza-need-lifesaving-support>



due to the ongoing Israeli military assault on Gaza, with these figures continuing to rise<sup>8</sup>. The spokesperson for the Ministry of Health in Gaza has reported thousands of amputations of upper and lower limbs among children, women, men, and the elderly due to the intense bombardment and fire belts targeting homes, schools, hospitals, and entire residential areas in the densely populated Gaza Strip (360 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 2.3 million), with conditions deteriorating amidst the collapse of the healthcare infrastructure in Gaza<sup>9</sup>. Additionally, UN Women reports that over 10,000 Palestinian women have been killed as a result of the ongoing military aggression against Gaza<sup>10</sup>.

14. The Committee requested Israel, in the List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6/Add.1), specifically in paragraph (6), to provide additional and updated information concerning the rights of the child as enshrined in the Convention, in light of the events that have transpired since October 7, 2023. The Committee sought detailed information on the measures implemented to ensure the protection and respect for children's rights in the occupied West Bank. This includes information on the killing of Palestinian children, particularly in East Jerusalem and the refugee camps in Jenin, Tulkarem, and Nablus, as well as the use of live ammunition by Israeli forces during military operations. The Committee also requested information on the violence inflicted upon children due to heightened settler violence.

15. "QADER" wishes to bring to the Committee's attention the alarming escalation in serious violations affecting the lives of children in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. According to a UNICEF statement dated July 22, 2024, there has been a substantial increase in child fatalities in these regions since October 7, 2023. The statement indicates that (143) children have been killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem during this period, representing a (250%) increase compared to the nine months prior, which saw (41) Palestinian children killed. Furthermore, the statement reports that over (440) Palestinian children have sustained injuries from "live ammunition" during this timeframe. These figures underscore UNICEF's grave concerns regarding the excessive and disproportionate use of force against this particularly vulnerable group (children)<sup>11</sup>. Another UNICEF statement, dated December 28, 2023, emphasized that "As the world watches on in horror at the situation in the Gaza Strip, children in the West Bank are experiencing a nightmare of their own. Living with a near-constant feeling of fear and grief is, sadly, all too common for children affected... "Children living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have been experiencing grinding violence for many years, yet the intensity of that violence has dramatically increased since the horrific attacks of 7 October<sup>12</sup>".

16. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) underscored that since October 7, 2023, over (500) Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, with approximately 25% of these fatalities being children. Additionally, OCHA has recorded

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<sup>8</sup> UNRWA spokesperson interview after six months of the military aggression:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfPxuvw79Y4>

<sup>9</sup> Interview with the Ministry of Health after six months of the aggression:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfPxuvw79Y4>

<sup>10</sup> Statement by UN Women: <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2024/04/1130081>

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF Statement, July 22, 2024: <https://www.unicef.org/sop/press-releases/child>

<sup>12</sup> UNICEF Statement, published on December 28, 2023: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/number-children-killed-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem-reaches-unprecedented>

over (5,100) injuries among Palestinians in these regions during the same period. The Office has also documented more than (940) incidents of violence perpetrated by "Israeli settlers" in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since October 7, 2023<sup>13</sup>.

17. In his annual report, the UN Secretary-General has included the Israeli military and security forces on the annual "List of Shame" concerning children and armed conflict due to their involvement in the killing and maiming of Palestinian children and other violations of international law. The Secretary-General's report on "Children and Armed Conflict" indicates that incidents of killing and maiming of children have increased by 35%, reaching unprecedented levels in the ongoing crises in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in Gaza. The report underscores that children have disproportionately suffered from a rise in serious violations and deteriorating crises, characterized by a complete disregard for their rights, particularly the right to life<sup>14</sup>.

18. The repeated calls and warnings issued by UNICEF, UN Women, and other UN bodies and specialized agencies—including descriptors such as “Gaza is the most dangerous place in the world for children” and characterizations of the situation for women as “the war in Gaza is a war on women,” as well as the description of Gaza as “unfit for human habitation” and statements from the UN Secretary-General indicating that “the world has lost its moral compass regarding Gaza,” and remarks by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, describing the conflict in Gaza as “a betrayal of humanity”—underscore the profound global neglect of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, particularly affecting children and women. These statements highlight the pervasive double standards and come at a time when your Committee is preparing to engage in discussions with Israel, which does not acknowledge the applicability of the Convention and all its rights to Palestinian children.

**19. "QADER" underscores the importance of your Committee requesting that Israel provide comprehensive and updated information on the impact of the extensive military operations on the Gaza Strip, which has rendered the area uninhabitable. This should detail the compounded effects on children, women, and persons with disabilities, in relation to all rights enshrined in the Convention, during the upcoming dialogue with your Committee. The information should also address the widespread and systematic violations occurring in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and their implications for the rights of children under the Convention. Furthermore, the request should seek clarification on the inclusion of Israeli military and security forces on the UN Secretary-General's annual report on "Children and Armed Conflict" (the 'List of Shame') as entities responsible for the most severe violations of children's rights globally. It should also cover the steps taken by Israel to conduct "independent, impartial, effective, and prompt" investigations into the killing of civilians, including thousands of Palestinian children, and the resulting disabilities such as amputations, loss of vision, and other disabilities, ensuring accountability for perpetrators of these serious violations and crimes under international law, as well as providing adequate remedies and reparations for victims. This should include an immediate ceasefire, lifting of the blockade,**

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<sup>13</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Published at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/>

<sup>14</sup> The UN Secretary-General Report: “Children and Armed Conflict”: [n2409507.pdf \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/en/children/armed-conflict/)

**facilitation of life-saving humanitarian assistance, and full compliance with the orders of ICJ and Security Council resolutions. These issues should be treated as a top priority in the "Concluding Observations" following the Committee's dialogue with Israel.**

### **Destruction of homes, residential areas, and infrastructure**

20. The Committee, in its List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6/Add.1), specifically under item (3), requested Israel to provide additional and updated information, and to detail the measures taken to ensure the protection of children's rights according to the Convention and rules of international humanitarian law relevant to children in the OPT. This request included a particular focus on the issue of "indiscriminate attacks" on the Gaza Strip utilizing explosive weapons with wide-area effects in densely populated areas.

21. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), over (70,000) residential units in Gaza have been fully destroyed due to indiscriminate Israeli airstrikes and firebombs since the commencement of the military operations. The number of recurrently internally displaced persons and forcibly relocated individuals has reached approximately (1,900,000) out of a total population of (2,300,000)<sup>15</sup>. Data from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, based on daily field assessments by its team in Gaza from October 7, 2023, to July 12, 2024 (280 days), indicates that (153,000) residential and other buildings have been fully destroyed, with an additional (321,000) reported as damaged. The number of displaced and forcibly relocated persons since the onset of the military actions stands at approximately (1,750,000). The variance in reported figures by UN agencies, and international, regional, and local independent organizations reflects the extensive and ongoing bombardments—by air, land, and sea—over several months. Despite these differences, all indicators confirm the unprecedented, systematic, and widespread targeting of civilian infrastructure in Gaza. The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor's data for the specified period (280 days) reveals extensive damage to critical infrastructure, including (381) health facilities, (476) schools, (182) media offices, (2,620) industrial facilities, (700) mosques, (3) churches, and (203) archaeological sites<sup>16</sup>. These figures underscore the severe and indiscriminate destruction of civilian objects and infrastructure.

22. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Balakrishnan Rajagopal, in his report to the UN Human Rights Council, affirmed that the destruction in the Gaza Strip has affected approximately (70%) of residential buildings and neighborhoods, representing an unprecedented level of devastation. He noted that "the scale and intensity of destruction in Gaza are significantly greater than that experienced in Aleppo, Mariupol, or even Dresden and Rotterdam during World War II." The Special Rapporteur further indicated that "while numerous conflicts worldwide have increasingly seen systematic, widespread, and arbitrary destruction of housing and civilian infrastructure—constituting severe violations of

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<sup>15</sup> The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: <https://www.ochaopt.org>

<sup>16</sup> The statistical indicators from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor - Geneva are published at the following link: <https://euromedmonitor.org/en>

international human rights law and international humanitarian law—the magnitude and severity of the destruction in Gaza far exceed these instances<sup>17</sup>"

**23. "QADER" recommends that your Committee request Israel to provide "detailed information" regarding the extensive, indiscriminate, and unprecedented destruction of homes, buildings, residential areas, civilian objects, and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. This constitutes grave breaches and international crimes (war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide) under international law, as confirmed by numerous UN reports, UN Special Rapporteurs, and independent international, regional, and local organizations. These actions are in clear violation of international humanitarian law principles, including necessity, proportionality, and precautions to avoid targeting civilians and civilian objects. The Committee should seek information on the impact on children, including those with disabilities, with respect to all rights under the Convention and the principle of disability inclusion. Additionally, the Committee should request information on the measures taken by Israel to establish "independent and impartial" investigations into these grave breaches and international crimes, and the results of such investigations if they have been conducted. The recommendation should also address the extent of compensation for material and moral damage to the affected population in the Gaza Strip, including children and persons with disabilities, ensuring adequate rehabilitation and prevention of recurrence. Furthermore, the Committee should inquire about the actions taken and the timeline for a ceasefire, the return of displaced persons to their homes, the lifting of the blockade, and the facilitation of humanitarian aid, including the needs of persons and children with disabilities, while ensuring compliance with the ICJ's orders to end the occupation.**

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<sup>17</sup> United Nations, UN Expert: The Scale of Destruction in Gaza Far Exceeds That of Dresden and Rotterdam During World War II, published on the United Nations website at the link: <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2024/03/1128962>

## **Destruction of children's schools and educational centers**

24. The Committee requested Israel, in the List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6/Add.1) under item (3), to provide additional and updated information and to explain the measures taken to ensure the respect of children's rights under the Convention and relevant rules of international humanitarian law for children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with focus on, among other things, attacks against schools, educational centers, and children's facilities.

25. "QADER" refers to recent data and statistics from UNRWA, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor to highlight the comprehensive collapse of the education sector due to the full-scale Israeli military aggression on the Gaza Strip and its catastrophic impact on the rights of Palestinian children and their educational future. These independent and reliable data and indicators confirm that the number of schools damaged as a result of the wide-scale Israeli attack on Gaza between 7 October 2023 and 12 July 2024 reached (476) schools. Furthermore, statistical indicators from UNRWA, UNESCO, and UNICEF show that (625,000) Palestinian children in Gaza were deprived of an entire school year. Schools, especially those run by UNRWA, were converted into overcrowded shelters for forcibly displaced Gaza residents, who live in catastrophic conditions with the spread of diseases. The schools sheltering forcibly displaced civilians, and their families, were subjected to direct and repeated Israeli military attacks, resulting in a large number of civilian killings, including children, women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. One of the most notable incidents was the direct airstrike on "Al-Tabi'een School" in eastern Gaza City, which led to the killing of over (100) displaced Palestinians, including dozens of children, women, and elderly. According to data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of "killed" schoolchildren in Gaza and the West Bank during the period from 7 October 2023 to 11 November 2023 was (3,141) students – (3,117) in Gaza and (24) in the West Bank. During the same period, the number of injured students in Gaza and the West Bank was (4,863) – (4,613) in Gaza and (250) in the West Bank.

26. "QADER" draws attention to the entrenched apartheid system targeting schoolchildren in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, alongside the destruction of the education sector in the Gaza Strip, and the grave and systematic violations against children in the education sector. "QADER" brings the Committee's attention of the manifestations of apartheid targeting Palestinian children in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the education sector, as outlined in Article 2 of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Notably, the deeply entrenched and systematic apartheid perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces and armed settler militias in the Old City of Hebron is emphasized. In particular, the situation in Hebron, where three Palestinian schools - Qurtuba School, Al-Faihaa School, and Ibrahimiya School—are encircled by Israeli military checkpoints, is highlighted. Palestinian schoolchildren, both male and female, endure extensive body searches and bag inspections before reaching their schools, often causing delays due to the complex and intrusive checkpoint procedures imposed by the Israeli military in the Old City of Hebron. Additionally, Palestinian children, including children with disabilities, are repeatedly assaulted

by armed Israeli settler militias present in the Old City of Hebron. "Qurtuba School,"<sup>18</sup> located on "Shuhada Street" in the Old City of Hebron, faces even more severe violations of the Convention. There is a "list of names" at the Israeli checkpoints of the teachers and staff at Qurtuba School, and parents of children attending Qurtuba School are denied access to the school to follow up on their children's educational progress. These practices represent clear examples of the various forms of apartheid enforced by Israel against Palestinian children and their families in Hebron.

27. "QADER" draws the Committee's attention to the deepening apartheid system in the occupied Palestinian territory, specifically highlighting the extensive falsification of educational curricula for Palestinian children in East Jerusalem by the occupying authorities. The Israeli Ministry of Education and the Jerusalem Municipality have modified (54) Palestinian textbooks, with (689) confirmed instances of curriculum falsifications. These alterations have removed references to the Palestinian flag, national anthems, and the Palestinian keffiyeh, and erased historical and geographical facts related to Jerusalem and the separation wall (referred to as the apartheid wall) from the educational materials. This systematic effort aims to entrench the apartheid system in the occupied Palestinian territory, distort Palestinian children's understanding of their history, and undermine their national identity. Such actions constitute violations of the Convention, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and infringe upon the Palestinian children's right to self-determination.

28. The Israeli system of apartheid is evident in occupied East Jerusalem, particularly within the Old City. The Israeli authorities have implemented a system of "differentiated identity cards" in the occupied Palestinian territory to "fragment the Palestinian population." This system involves issuing distinct identity cards for Palestinians residing in East Jerusalem, those in the West Bank, and residents of the Gaza Strip. The identity system for East Jerusalem residents, who are native inhabitants, imposes "conditional residency," which can be "revoked" by the occupying authorities if discriminatory and racially biased conditions are breached. These conditions do not apply to Israeli children and their families in Jerusalem, resulting in the "displacement of children and their families in East Jerusalem" due to the frequent revocation of citizenship for native Jerusalemites. Furthermore, Israel has sought to entrench "illegal facts on the ground" through the establishment of the separation wall in the West Bank, aimed at further annexing land and displacing Palestinian families. East Jerusalem has been subjected to severe isolation (blockade, isolation, and annexation), compounded by extensive military patrols and the proliferation of biometric surveillance systems, including facial recognition and analysis cameras, throughout the streets and alleys of East Jerusalem. These

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<sup>18</sup> A video illustrates the suffering of Palestinian children at "Al-Qurtuba School" at the northern entrance of "Shuhada Street" in the Old City of Hebron due to Israeli military checkpoints and settlers <https://reuters.screenocean.com/record/560243>. The video confirms that the assaults by occupation authorities and armed settler militias on Palestinian girls and boys in the Old City of Hebron, particularly on Shuhada Street, have been ongoing for years. This is further corroborated by the documentation published by the Palestinian News and Information Agency (WAFA) in 2017, which records "live Palestinian testimonies" of settler assaults on schoolchildren, supported by Israeli soldiers at military checkpoints, particularly targeting Al-Qurtuba School on Shuhada Street in the Old City of Hebron in the West Bank. <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/91194>.

surveillance systems, linked to intelligence operations, infringe upon the privacy of Palestinian children and constitute violations of the Convention.

**29. "QADER" recommends that the Committee request Israel to provide "comprehensive information" regarding all educational institutions in Gaza that have been directly and systematically targeted by Israeli military forces. This includes schools that have been used as shelters by thousands of forcibly displaced persons and that have suffered significant casualties, including the attack on "Al-Tabi'een School" in the Al-Daraj neighborhood of eastern Gaza City on the morning of 10 August 2024. This assault by Israeli air forces resulted in the killing of over (100) displaced persons within the school, including numerous children, women, and elderly persons, with reports of charred bodies and scattered body parts, alongside many injured and missing. This incident is part of a broader pattern of attacks that have resulted in numerous massacres affecting Palestinian families and children in Gaza. The recommendation also calls for accountability measures to be taken against the Israeli occupation forces, including their leaders and relevant political and military officials, for these severe violations and international crimes. This should include ensuring accountability through reparations for victims, providing effective remedies, and implementing measures to prevent recurrence. Additionally, the Committee should seek information on Israel's actions to dismantle the apartheid system affecting educational institutions in the West Bank, particularly in the Old City of Hebron and East Jerusalem. This includes the falsification of educational curricula for Palestinian children, the expulsion and displacement of native Jerusalemites, and ongoing policies of isolation, annexation, and Judaization. The Committee should also inquire about the impact of attacks on holy sites in East Jerusalem on the rights of Palestinian children as outlined in the Convention. Moreover, the Committee should ensure that Israel complies fully with the ICJ's advisory opinion dated 19 July 2024, which calls for the immediate cessation of all illegal settlement activities, the dismantling of settlements and the separation wall, and the elimination of other forms of apartheid. Israel should be held accountable for its unlawful actions, be required to restore rights to their rightful owners, and end its illegal occupation. These issues, and their compounded impact on children in the occupied Palestinian territory, should be given high priority in the concluding observations.**

### **Destruction of Hospitals and the Collapse of the Health Sector**

30. The extensive and ongoing military aggression conducted by the Israeli occupation forces since 7 October 2023 has resulted in the collapse of the health sector in the Gaza Strip. According to statistical data provided by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor covering the period from 7 November 2023 to 12 August 2024, this systematic and large-scale military aggression has led to the destruction and damage of (381) health facilities in the Gaza Strip, including (32) out of (36) hospitals. These facilities encompass hospitals and health centers that offer specialized services for persons with disabilities and children with disabilities. Additionally, (110) medical clinics and (239) ambulances, belonging to the Palestinian Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross, have been destroyed. The aggression has also resulted in the killing and injury of (1,177) healthcare workers, including



(507) fatalities and (670) injuries. During this period, the Israeli occupation forces detained (310) medical directors, staff members, and nurses in Gaza.<sup>19</sup> The closure of most hospitals in the Gaza Strip due to direct military targeting, coupled with fuel and electricity shortages and the interruption of medical supplies, has led to a severe collapse of the health sector. This situation has had catastrophic effects on public health, exacerbating the suffering of the population, particularly among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including children, women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. Additionally, this crisis has intensified the cycle of forced displacement in Gaza, especially in the northern regions of the Strip, due to the recurrent targeting of the health sector, the collapse of health services, and the ongoing policy of starvation.

31. Despite the special protection afforded to hospitals under international humanitarian law, health and civil defense teams in Gaza, along with international organizations, have identified numerous "mass graves" both within and outside hospital premises. Notably, a mass grave was discovered within the Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City, the largest medical facility in the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, a mass grave was found at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, the second-largest hospital in Gaza, following the withdrawal of the occupying forces. On 23 April 2024, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, expressed profound "alarm" regarding the destruction of the Shifa Medical Complex and Nasser Hospital, and the reports of mass graves in these facilities, which are afforded special protection under international law. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani emphasized the necessity to "sound the alarm" following the discovery of numerous bodies, some of which were found with their hands bound, indicative of grave breaches of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has reported that Gaza Civil Defense teams have recovered hundreds of bodies from within Shifa and Nasser hospitals. Field teams from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor working in Gaza have documented and verified the recovery of dozens of bodies from these facilities, including individuals with bound hands, bodies found naked or partially clothed, and patients with medical bandages who were executed despite their vulnerable health conditions. Many bodies were found in a state of decomposition or as dismembered remains. Disturbing images and reports have also documented the discovery of "children's bodies" among these mass graves in the Gaza Strip<sup>20</sup>.

**32. QADER recommends that the Committee request Israel to provide "detailed information" regarding the systematic and extensive targeting of hospitals and healthcare facilities in the Gaza Strip, including those that offer specialized medical services for persons with disabilities. This request should encompass the impact of interruptions to fuel, electricity, water, and essential medical supplies, which have**

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<sup>19</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, available at <https://euromedmonitor.org/en> and QADER for Community Development, "Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Gaza on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities," available at <https://www.qader.org/resources/6086.html>

<sup>20</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor Calls for the Formation of an International Investigative Committee and Deployment of Specialized Teams to Address Mass Graves in the Gaza Strip  
Published at: <https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/6284/Gaza:-International-investigation-committee-should-be-formed-into-mass-graves-to-examine-and-identify-victims>

And also: QADER for Community Development: The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on the Gaza Strip on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, published on the following link: <https://www.qader.org/resources/6086.html>



**contributed to the collapse of the healthcare sector in the Gaza Strip. The Committee should seek information on the severe consequences of this collapse on the population, including the injured, patients with critical and chronic conditions, pregnant women, childbirth procedures amidst acute shortages of anesthetics, and premature infants, as well as the full spectrum of health rights of children, including those with disabilities, as enshrined in the Convention. The Committee should also request details on the measures taken, including the establishment of independent and impartial investigative bodies to address the collapse of the healthcare sector in Gaza and its impact, particularly on children. This includes accountability for the occupying power, the discovery of "mass graves" within hospitals following the withdrawal of occupation forces, and the extent to which those responsible for these serious violations and international crimes have been held accountable. Information should be sought on the nature of such accountability, the provision of reparations for victims of these serious violations and international crimes, the scale and timing of such reparations, and effective remedies for victims, especially children, and their families, to ensure non-recurrence. These issues should be prioritized in the Committee's concluding observations.**

### **Spread of Famine and Food Insecurity**

33. The Committee requested Israel, in the List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6/Add.1) under item (4), to explain the measures taken to mitigate the adverse impact of the deprivation of humanitarian aid - including food, medical supplies, water, and electricity - on the rights of children in Gaza. The Committee specifically inquired about the measures addressing the risk of malnutrition, the spread of epidemics, mortality, and the long-term health risks for newborn children in such conditions. Israel failed to respond to the List of Issues submitted by the Committee within the specified deadline.

34. Israel exercises strict control over the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, including the regulation of calorie intake. Prior to the recent conflict, the Gaza Strip received approximately (500) humanitarian aid trucks daily. However, since the onset of hostilities following October 7, this figure has drastically reduced to about (85) trucks per day, according to UN estimates, which represents only (10%) of the pre-conflict aid levels. Access to aid in northern Gaza has been severely obstructed, with aid convoys and individuals seeking food being repeatedly targeted. A tragic incident, referred to as the "Flour Massacre," occurred at the Nabulsi Circle west of Gaza City on February 29, 2024, where the Israeli army opened fire on civilians attempting to obtain food supplies from aid trucks. This resulted in the killing of (112) Palestinian civilians and left (760) others injured. The Israeli army's repeated targeting of civilians seeking food has forced the remaining population in the north to resort to consuming "animal feed" and "wild plants" to stave off hunger. UN reports have consistently warned of the escalating risk of famine and food insecurity in the Gaza Strip due to these actions.

35. A statement issued by several UN experts<sup>85F85</sup> on March 5, 2024, condemned the Israeli army's actions in shooting at crowds of Palestinians who had gathered to obtain flour, a tragedy now known as the "Flour Massacre." This incident resulted in the killing of (112) civilians and left (760) others injured. The experts characterized this deliberate killing as a "massacre occurring amidst famine conditions and the destruction of the local food production system in the besieged Gaza Strip". The UN experts further asserted that "Israel has been intentionally starving the Palestinian people in Gaza since October 8 and is now targeting civilians seeking humanitarian aid and convoys." They highlighted that this starvation tactic is a recurring pattern in Israeli military attacks, citing the "Flour Massacre" as one instance among over 14 incidents of shootings, shelling, and targeting of Palestinian groups gathering to receive aid from aid trucks or air drops between mid-January and the end of February 2024.<sup>21</sup>

36. On January 16, 2024, UN experts officially confirmed that Israel is employing the destruction of the Gaza Strip's food system as a tactic of warfare. This deliberate strategy, according to the experts, is inflicting unprecedented suffering on the civilian population, rapidly driving them towards hunger. The severity of the situation was highlighted by the experts, noting that all residents of Gaza are now facing hunger, with (80%) at risk of famine or severe hunger due to the ongoing bombings and blockades imposed by Israel. Since October 9, 2024, Israel has enforced a comprehensive blockade on Gaza, depriving 2.3 million Palestinians of essential resources such as water, food, fuel, and medical supplies. Before this conflict, nearly half of Gaza's population was already experiencing food insecurity, stemming from over 17 years of an Israeli blockade, with over (80%) of the population dependent on humanitarian aid.<sup>22F88</sup>. The statements by the UN experts underscore the egregious use of hunger as a method of aggression by Israel.

37. The UN report (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC) dated December 21, 2023, confirmed that "Gaza is facing the threat of famine, with all its inhabitants suffering from hunger." The report indicated that approximately (2.2) million people in Gaza "are experiencing a crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity."<sup>23</sup> According to documented testimonies from civilians in the area, the World Food Program (WFP) reported that residents of Gaza frequently go entire days without food, and many adults, and children alike, suffer from hunger. The entire population of Gaza is exposed to severe hunger, having depleted all their resources, with livelihoods collapsed, bakeries destroyed, stores empty, and families unable to find food. The WFP emphasized that "those are not just numbers; there are children, women, and men behind these alarming statistics. The complexity, scale, and rapidity of this crisis are unprecedented."<sup>24</sup>

38. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, published on March 18, 2024, underscored that "the threshold for extreme food insecurity, approaching famine conditions, has been significantly exceeded." The report documents a record rate of acute

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<sup>21</sup> UN expert statement published on 5 March 2024 on the UN website:

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2024/03/1128967>

<sup>22</sup> UN Expert Statement published on 16 January 2024 on the UN website:

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2024/01/1127747>

<sup>23</sup>[https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Gaza\\_Acute\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_Nov2023\\_Feb2024.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Nov2023_Feb2024.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2023/12/1127147>

malnutrition among children under five, nearing the second stage of famine, and an escalation in mortality rates unrelated to injury, which is a critical indicator of famine, although data remain limited. The report further reveals that half of Gaza's population (1.1 million individuals) has depleted their food supplies and coping mechanisms, resulting in catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5). This represents the largest number ever recorded as experiencing catastrophic food insecurity according to the IPC, doubling the figures from the report on Gaza issued just three months earlier.<sup>25</sup> On April 24, 2024, the World Food Program issued a warning on April 24, 2024, that full famine conditions would be met in the Gaza Strip within six weeks. Additionally, reports from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (Situation Report No. 150) have highlighted numerous deaths, particularly among children, due to starvation in Gaza. The IPC report, drawing on data from the Gaza Ministry of Health, states that "as of April 1, 2024, 28 children have died from malnutrition and dehydration in the Gaza Strip."<sup>26</sup>

39. Numerous public statements from Israeli political and security officials, consistently made since the commencement of the systematic and large-scale military aggression on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, have underscored the explicit intent of Israeli officials to impose a complete starvation of the civilian population in Gaza, including children. These statements contribute to the substantial and credible evidence of genocide occurring in Gaza. On October 9, 2023, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant publicly announced through media channels, "Israel is imposing a complete blockade on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is shut down. We are fighting human animals." Similarly, on October 12, 2023, Israeli President Isaac Herzog stated at a press conference, "Israel does not distinguish between militants and civilians in Gaza, it is an entire nation there that is responsible. This discourse is not accurate about civilians who are unaware and uninvolved. It is absolutely not true... we will fight until we break their backbone". Furthermore, on August 5, 2024, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared, "Killing two million Palestinians in Gaza through starvation may be justified and moral to secure the release of Israeli hostages from Gaza". Despite widespread condemnation and outrage from European nations regarding these statements, Minister Smotrich has not retracted his statement. These declared intentions are reflected in actions on the ground, where starvation has been used as a weapon throughout the ongoing military aggression. Indicators and data from UN agencies and international experts corroborate the substantial and conclusive evidence of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This occurs while the Israeli delegation is preparing for the upcoming dialogue with your Committee at the UN Headquarters regarding the Convention.

**40. "QADER" recommends that the Committee request Israel to provide "detailed information" regarding its policy of using starvation as a method of warfare against civilian populations, including children in the Gaza Strip, since the start of its full-scale military aggression. This policy aims to displace the Palestinian population (the indigenous people) from the oPt and deny them their inherent and inalienable right to self-determination, recognized as a jus cogens norm in international law and an obligation upon the international community. Israel should elucidate the impact of this**

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/alerts-archive/issue-97/en/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-150>

**deliberate starvation policy on all aspects of children's rights as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the specific needs of children with disabilities and the availability of inclusive and rehabilitative programs. Furthermore, Israel should clarify the measures and procedures implemented to hold accountable those responsible for "deliberate starvation crimes" against civilian populations, including children in the Gaza Strip, which have resulted in the deaths of many Palestinian children due to starvation. This includes addressing statements made by Israeli political and security officials on the issue and providing effective remedies and reparations to the victims and their families affected by the deliberate starvation policy, with clear timelines for implementation. These acts constitute grave breaches of international law, amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and potentially genocide. Israel should also outline the measures taken to secure an immediate ceasefire and ensure the unrestricted entry of all humanitarian aid, relief, and medical supplies into Gaza, including provisions for children with disabilities, in accordance with international law and relevant Security Council resolutions. Additionally, Israel should detail the steps taken to lift the blockade and end the policy of collective punishment imposed on Gaza for 18 years, rendering the territory uninhabitable. The measures taken by Israel for relief and reconstruction programs in Gaza should align with its full responsibilities as an occupying power under international law. Finally, the measures, procedures, and timelines for full and immediate compliance with the ICJ's orders in the case filed against Israel regarding the crimes of genocide, as well as the advisory opinion issued by the ICJ on the illegality and end of its occupation, should be addressed. All these issues, particularly their impact on Palestinian children and those with disabilities should be prioritized in the Committee's concluding observations.**

### **Forcible Transfer and Internal Displacement**

41. The Committee requested Israel, in the List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6/Add.1) under item (5), to detail the measures implemented to uphold the rights of internally displaced children from their homes in the Gaza Strip, in accordance with Israel's obligations under Articles (8) and (9) of the Convention. The Committee specifically sought information on the provisions for unaccompanied and separated children regarding access to essential information about the whereabouts of their family members, measures to ensure respect for the right to family reunification, and mechanisms to prevent the loss of identity for separated children, including those injured with no surviving family members.

42. The systematic and widespread forced displacement of residents in the Gaza Strip, occurring recurrently across the northern, central, and southern regions, constitutes a grave violation under international law. Israel's deployment of "starvation as a weapon," the deliberate targeting of approximately (70%) of residential homes and neighborhoods, the collapse of the healthcare system, and the obstruction of life-saving humanitarian aid have collectively compelled the repeated displacement of a significant majority of Gaza's population under sustained aerial, ground, and naval bombardment since the commencement of the military aggression on October 8, 2023. According to data, statistics, and figures from UN entities, specialized agencies, and independent international, regional, and local organizations,

the number of forcibly displaced individuals ranges between (1.7) million (74% of the total population) and 2 million (87% of the total population), out of an estimated (2.3) million residents. Repeated affirmations by UN reports, specialized agencies, and international experts indicate **the absence of any “safe area” within the entire Gaza Strip**. Civilians, particularly during displacement operations across the north, center, and south of the Strip, have been targeted, notably during the repeated bombings of schools where tens of thousands sought refuge. The ongoing ordeal of displaced persons, characterized by futile displacement episodes from one location to another in search of food and aid, has resulted in the killing, injuring, and maiming of thousands of children in Gaza, leading to profound physical and psychological trauma.

43. The deliberate and systematic destruction of civilian objects, encompassing approximately (70%) of all buildings and entire residential neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip, as documented by the UN, was executed without adequate evacuation warnings for residents in numerous instances. The complete lack of safe zones within the Gaza Strip and the annihilation of critical life-sustaining infrastructure have rendered the region **"uninhabitable,"** according to UN reports. The catastrophic conditions during displacement operations have resulted in the killing of a significant number of civilians, particularly children and women. Additionally, the dire conditions in displacement sites have rendered such movements futile and ineffective. This has led the European Commission, for instance, to question the feasibility of displacement, rhetorically asking, "Where will the residents of Gaza go—to the moon?"

44. Lynn Hastings, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, asserted in her statement issued early in the comprehensive military offensive on the Gaza Strip and published on the UN website on October 26, 2023, that “the Israeli military continues to notify people in Gaza City that those who stay in their homes will put themselves in danger. For people who can’t evacuate – because they have nowhere to go or are unable to move – advance warnings make no difference. When the evacuation routes are bombed, when people north as well as south are caught up in hostilities, when the essentials for survival are lacking, and when there are no assurances for return, people are left with nothing but impossible choices. Nowhere is safe in Gaza.”<sup>27</sup> Additionally, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Paula Betancur, emphasized in her statement issued on March 6, 2024, regarding the Israeli evacuation orders in Gaza that “Israeli evacuation orders have not made the people of Gaza safer; contrary, they have been used to forcibly transfer and confine the civilian population in unlivable conditions. “IDPs in Gaza have been arbitrarily driven from their homes multiple times with no regard for their rights to life, dignity, liberty and security. It is impossible to conceive of any durable solution to their displacement, given Israel’s systematic destruction of civilian infrastructure, including homes, hospitals, schools,

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<sup>27</sup> United Nations: There is no safe place in Gaza: <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/statement-un-humanitarian-coordinator-occupied-palestinian-territory-lynn-hastings-protection-all-civilians-gaza-26-october-2023-enarhe>

markets, and places of worship, atop the immense psychological toll the conflict has taken on the people of Gaza,” the Special Rapporteur said<sup>28</sup>.

45. UNICEF, in its report dated February 2, 2023, has estimated that at least (17,000) Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip are unaccompanied or separated from their families. This represents approximately (1%) of the total displaced population of (1.7) million. Jonathan Crickx, UNICEF's Director of Communications in Palestine, emphasized in the report titled **"Stories of Loss and Grief: At Least 17,000 Children Unaccompanied or Separated from Their Parents in the Gaza Strip"**<sup>29</sup>, that: "I returned from Gaza this week. I met many children, each one with her or his own devastating story to tell. "Of 12 children I met or interviewed, more than half of them had lost a family member in this war. Three had lost a parent, of which, two had lost both their mother and their father. Behind each of these statistics is a child who is coming to terms with this horrible new reality". He added "11-year-old Razan was with her family in her uncle's house when it was bombed in the first weeks of the war. She lost almost all her family members. Her mother, father, brother, and two sisters were killed. Razan's leg was also injured and had to be amputated. Following the surgery, her wound got infected. Razan is now being taken care of by her aunt and uncle, all of whom have been displaced to Rafah". QADER urges that this response adequately addresses the Committee's inquiry to Israel regarding the situation of unaccompanied and separated children in Gaza **and that the case of Razan**, along with those of thousands of other children, is given appropriate consideration in the forthcoming dialogue with Israel.

46. The recurrent displacement has inflicted **severe and catastrophic suffering upon persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities**, in the Gaza Strip. These individuals are among the most marginalized and at risk, **as per Articles 23 and 38 of the Convention**. The impact is further intensified for individuals with disabilities due to mobility constraints, lack of disability accommodations, and the absence of an inclusive environment. The widespread destruction of infrastructure and assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, crutches) during bombings and prolonged displacement has exacerbated these challenges. Additionally, the humanitarian aid entering Gaza has not sufficiently addressed the comprehensive needs of persons with disabilities. **"QADER"** has documented numerous testimonies reflecting the grave circumstances faced by children with disabilities amid repeated displacements since the onset of the military aggression against Gaza. These accounts were collected by QADER's field team over a six-month period to produce a detailed report depicting the distressing realities experienced during these displacements under sustained bombardment and ongoing hardship. **"QADER"** invites the Committee to review the testimonies presented in its report titled "The Impact of Israeli Aggression on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip: Monitoring Violations, Legal Analysis, Avenues for Accountability, and Effective

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<sup>28</sup> The statement by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/gaza-israels-dehumanisation-displaced-persons-must-end-says-un-expert>

<sup>29</sup> UNICEF "Stories of Loss and Grief: at least 17,000 children are estimated to be unaccompanied or separated from their parent in the Gaza Strip: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/stories-loss-and-grief-least-17000-children-are-estimated-be-unaccompanied-or-separated-gaza>



Remedies," available on its official website<sup>30</sup>. A sample testimony from this report is included for your consideration.

### **Testimony of Citizen (S.M.) from Beit Hanoun, North Gaza Strip**

#### **Family Composition: 10 members, including 3 girls with disabilities.**

"We were displaced from our home on Almasryeen in Beit Hanoun four times due to continuous bombardment by the Israeli military," Shadi recounts. "On the second day of the war, October 8, 2024, intense bombardment and fire belts occurred throughout our residential area without forewarning." Describing their harrowing escape, Shadi continues, "We fled quickly from the bombing without taking any food, water, clothing, personal belongings, assistive devices, or the special medications for my children with disabilities." The severity of the bombardment, particularly its impact on **his daughter (Nida)**, who has cerebral palsy, was deeply concerning. "**My daughter (Nida)** was paralyzed with fear due to the heavy bombardment, putting the entire family at great risk," he laments. Shadi reflects on a heart-wrenching moment when desperation clouded his judgment, saying, "With great regret, I suggested to my wife that we leave our daughter (Nida) (with intellectual disability) behind and flee, as she refused to move. My rationale was, **'better to lose one than lose 10.'**" However, "my wife's resilience prevailed as she carried (Nida) on her back while fleeing with assistance from others. Our journey to safety, spanning 15 kilometers on foot amidst relentless bombings, led us to seek refuge at Abu Al-Aasi School in Al-Shati' Refugee Camp". Tragically, the conditions there proved dire, with Shadi recalling, "There was no electricity, no blankets, no food, or water. Our plight worsened when the school became a target for Israeli military airstrikes, resulting in the loss of several family members and acquaintances. Subsequently, our quest for safety took us to Al-Nuseirat, but even there, we faced perilous circumstances. Israeli soldiers were stationed along the passage and shot many civilians, killing them." Shadi recounts, "Bodies and limbs were scattered in the streets, and many people were arrested, beaten, tortured, and completely stripped of their clothes". He continues: "Our journey to Rafah, prompted by Israeli military demands, offered little respite. Our conditions there are catastrophic," Shadi laments. "My three daughters with disabilities require special food, milk, medication, assistive devices, and diapers, and I cannot meet their needs, and their health continues to deteriorate."

47. "QADER" informs the Committee that its report on the impact of the aggression in Gaza on the rights of persons with disabilities has identified several critical findings and recommendations. The report reveals a significant shortage of "prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, medical mattresses, nutritional supplements, disability-related medications, medical equipment, clothing, sanitary pads, and medical consumables" due to the impediment of their delivery through aid shipments to Gaza since the initiation of the military aggression on October 7, 2023. These essential and life-saving supplies have not received the necessary attention from UN bodies, international organizations, or member states, despite the severe implications for violations of international law. This shortage has resulted in a grave deterioration of health conditions for a substantial number of persons with disabilities and an

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<sup>30</sup> QADER's Report: "The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on the Gaza Strip on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – monitoring violations, legal analysis, and avenues for accountability and effective remedies", published on: <https://www.qader.org/resources/6086.html>

increase in mortality rates due to the ongoing obstruction of aid. This situation constitutes a serious breach of Articles 23 and 38 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and contravenes Security Council Resolution 2475 (2019), which emphasizes the imperative to prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities in humanitarian responses during armed conflicts. Additionally, it represents a violation of the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. This situation warrants accountability and effective remedy for the affected individuals.

**48. "QADER" recommends that the Committee request Israel to provide "detailed information" on the impact of its policy of using starvation as a weapon since the commencement of the military aggression on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023. This includes the extensive and systematic forced displacement and internal migration, which, according to UN and international organizations' reports, ranges from (1.7) million individuals (74% of the population) to (2) million individuals (87% of the population) out of an estimated (2.3) million inhabitants in the occupied and besieged Gaza Strip. The Committee should seek detailed explanations on how these displacement operations have affected the rights of children under the Convention, with particular emphasis on children with disabilities as outlined in Articles 23 and 38 of the Convention. Israel should be requested to provide comprehensive information on the measures it has implemented and plans to implement to ensure the protection and fulfillment of the rights of children, especially those with disabilities, during displacement. This includes ensuring the availability of safe areas, family reunification, and adherence to the best interests of the child. Furthermore, Israel should outline the steps taken and those planned to address the severe violations impacting unaccompanied and separated children, in light of UNICEF's reports indicating that at least (17,000) children in Gaza are unaccompanied or separated from their families, each facing significant trauma and loss. The Committee should also request details on the actions taken and to be taken to ensure accountability for grave violations against Palestinian children, including those with disabilities, during these displacement operations. This encompasses providing redress, ensuring non-recurrence, and guaranteeing the delivery of humanitarian aid, relief, and medical supplies, with particular attention to the needs of children with disabilities. This includes addressing the critical shortage of "prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, medical mattresses, nutritional supplements, disability-related medications, medical equipment, clothing, sanitary pads, and medical consumables" that have not been delivered since the onset of the assault. Such measures should align with obligations under Articles 23 and 38 of the Convention, Article 23 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Security Council Resolution 2475 (2019) concerning the protection of children with disabilities and the necessity of prompt humanitarian response in armed conflicts, and relevant ICJ and Security Council resolutions. These issues, particularly those affecting children with disabilities, should be prioritized in the Committee's concluding observations.**

### **Child Torture and Ill-Treatment**

49. Statistical indicators demonstrate an unprecedented increase in the number of detainees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, encompassing both children and women. This period has also seen a significant escalation in instances of torture, ill-treatment, and sexual violence. The Palestinian Commission for Detainees and Ex-Detainees has documented over (9,000) cases of detention in the West Bank alone since the onset of the military aggression in Gaza, including approximately (635) children and (300) women. Prior to October 7, 2023, the number of detainees was approximately (5,000), including (160) children and (30)



women<sup>31</sup>. Additionally, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has reported over (3,120) detainees in the Gaza Strip alone, including children, women, medical personnel, and others. Israel has extensively utilized "administrative detention," a practice that affects children and involves prolonged detention without formal charges or due process.

51. UN expert bodies have documented **"verified allegations" of sexual violence, including rape, perpetrated against Palestinian women and girls** within Israeli detention facilities. Evidence confirms at least two cases of rape, alongside incidents of sexual humiliation and threats of rape. The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women has highlighted that the true extent of sexual violence may be significantly greater, with the systemic **dehumanization of women and children becoming a disturbing norm in the context of this war<sup>32</sup>**. The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has reported testimonies from Palestinian female detainees in Gaza, detailing instances of sexual violence such as forced undressing, sexual harassment, and threats of rape by Israeli military personnel. Testimonies from released detainees further expose widespread practices of torture, ill-treatment, and sexual violence. Numerous women and girls have disclosed experiences of sexual violence, and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor believes that the actual number of victims may be higher, with many choosing not to report due to social stigma, trauma, or fear of reprisals from the occupying forces<sup>33</sup>.

52. The report issued by UNRWA on April 16, 2024, based on testimonies from numerous Palestinian detainees, including children, and UNRWA staff who were released from Israeli detention camps, confirmed extensive torture and ill-treatment. This included severe physical assault, deprivation of food and water, denial of bathing and hygiene supplies, sexual violence, threats of rape, forced nudity and photographing detainees while naked, electric shocks, confinement in "cages," attacks by dogs, simulated drowning, and abuse by prison medical staff when detainees sought medical assistance. The report also confirmed instances of killings during detention. On April 4, 2024, UNRWA documented the release of 1,506 detainees from Gaza through the "Kerem Shalom" crossing. Among those released were 43 children (39 boys and 3 girls), 84 women, 23 UNRWA staff members, 16 family members of UNRWA staff, and 326 workers who had been employed in Israel prior to the recent events and had previously undergone Israeli security screening. Israel applies the "Illegal Combatant Law" to Gaza detainees, which deprives them of all rights and constitutes a grave violation of international law. Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir personally oversees the conditions faced by detainees, including children, in Israeli prisons and detention facilities.

**53. QADER recommends that the Committee request Israel to provide a detailed report on:**

- **The significant rise in arbitrary arrests in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, particularly the unprecedented increase in arrests, especially for children, and the forms of torture and ill-treatment reported within Israeli prisons and detention facilities. According to reports from UN agencies and independent international**

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<sup>31</sup> Statistics of the Palestinian Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9ncsn4>

<sup>32</sup> UN Committee: Credible Allegations of Israeli Sexual Assaults on Palestinians: <https://tinyurl.com/fwefuk69>

<sup>33</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor Documents Testimonies of Palestinian Female Detainees Subjected to Sexual Violence: <http://tiny.cc/vkxgzx>

**and local organizations, these abuses - which have been also committed against children - include severe physical assault, extreme deprivation of food, water, medical care, hygiene facilities, and visitation rights. They include also sexual violence, rape and threats of rape, forced nudity and photographing detainees while naked, electric shocks, confinement in "cages", dog attacks, waterboarding, and physical abuse by prisons' medical staff.**

- **The killing of 48 Palestinians, mainly from Gaza, in the "Sde Teyman" military detention facility, as confirmed by Israeli journalistic investigations and statements from the Israeli Military Forces.**
- **Information regarding the application of the "Illegal Combatant Law" on Gaza detainees, which strips them of their rights, and the use of prolonged "administrative detention" without formal charges. Additionally, conditions faced by detainees with disabilities, particularly children, due to lack of medical care and deprivation of their rights.**
- **Measures taken, or to be taken, to ensure accountability for these grave violations of the Convention and international humanitarian and human rights law. This includes reparations for victims and mechanisms to prevent recurrence. Furthermore, measures taken or planned to ensure that victims are fully enabled to attain their rights.**

## **UN Security Council and Ceasefire**

54. The Security Council has adopted four critical resolutions concerning Gaza since October 7, 2023. The first of these, Resolution 2712 (2023), affirms the forced displacement of civilians, including children, as a violation of international law. The Council underscores the necessity for ensuring full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access for UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other impartial humanitarian organizations, to facilitate the continuous, sufficient and unhindered provision of essential goods and services important to the well-being of civilians, especially children, throughout the Gaza Strip, including water, electricity, fuel, food, and medical supplies, as well as emergency repairs to essential infrastructure, and to enable urgent rescue and recovery efforts, including for missing children in damaged and destroyed buildings, and including the medical evacuation of sick or injured children and their caregivers. The Security Council calls on all parties to refrain from depriving the civilian population of Gaza of essential life-saving services and assistance.

55. The Security Council adopted Resolution 2720 (2023), which reaffirms its prior resolution and highlights, inter alia, the urgent necessity for the provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza in a manner that is full, rapid, safe, and unimpeded. The resolution underscores the critical need to protect civilians and civilian objects, ensure the protection of humanitarian aid, and uphold the security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel. It calls for the provision of essential food and medical supplies to the Gaza population, and the protection of civilian and humanitarian infrastructure, including hospitals, medical facilities, schools, places of worship, and UN premises, as well as humanitarian and medical staff. Furthermore, the resolution establishes a UN mechanism to expedite humanitarian relief deliveries through neutral states, in consultation with all relevant parties. It also mandates the provision of fuel to

Gaza in quantities sufficient to meet humanitarian needs and emphasizes the importance of reunifying Gaza with the West Bank under the authority of the Palestinian Authority.

56. The Security Council adopted Resolution 2728 (2024), which emphasizes the immediate ceasefire in Gaza and mandates that all parties respect a ceasefire during Ramadan, with the aim of achieving a permanent and sustainable ceasefire. The resolution further stipulates the unconditional and immediate release of all hostages. Additionally, it calls for ensuring the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the entirety of Gaza.

57. The Security Council adopted Resolution 2735 (2024), which explicitly calls for an immediate, complete, and total ceasefire. The Council outlined that the implementation of this resolution will facilitate the following results, distributed across three phases. Phase One: immediate, full, and complete ceasefire, including the release of hostages, the exchange of Palestinian prisoners, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from populated areas in Gaza, and the return of Palestinian civilians to their homes and families across Gaza, including northern Gaza. This phase also includes the safe and effective distribution of humanitarian aid on a broad scale throughout the Strip. Phase Two: a permanent end to hostilities, in exchange for the release of all other hostages still in Gaza, and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. Phase Three: the start of a major multi-year reconstruction plan for Gaza and the return of the remains of any deceased hostages still in Gaza to their families.

**58. "QADER" recommends that the Committee requests Israel to provide comprehensive and detailed account of all measures and actions undertaken, and planned to be undertaken, to ensure full and complete compliance with the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Gaza Strip. This request should specifically address, as a priority and among other aspects:**

- **Immediate, Complete, and Total Ceasefire:** Details on the implementation of the Security Council resolution demanding an immediate, complete, and total ceasefire. This includes measures taken to address the extensive loss of Palestinian children's lives and the violation of their rights under the Convention. Emphasis should be placed on the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza, with particular focus on children and children with disabilities.
- **Humanitarian Access:** Information on steps taken to ensure full, rapid, safe, and unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza. This includes the provision of water, fuel, food, medical supplies, and other essential services, with special attention to children and children with disabilities. This is crucial in light of the significant shortages in Gaza of essential items such as prosthetics, wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, medical mattresses, nutritional supplements, disability-related medications, medical equipment, clothing, sanitary products, and medical consumables.
- **Reconstruction and Lifting of the Blockade:** Measures taken to ensure the reunification of the West Bank with the Gaza Strip, the lifting of the blockade on Gaza to facilitate reconstruction efforts, and adherence to other relevant actions as outlined in Security Council resolutions. These measures should specifically address the rights of children as stipulated in the Convention.

- **Compliance with Security Council Resolution 2475 (2019): Information on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2475 (2019) concerning the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in conflict situations, with a particular focus on children with disabilities.**

**The Committee should prioritize the issue of full and immediate compliance with Security Council resolutions related to the Gaza Strip in its concluding observations.**

## **ICJ and Provisional Measures**

59. The Committee, in its List of Issues (CRC/C/ISR/Q/5-6/Add.1), specifically under item 7, requested Israel to provide detailed information regarding all measures undertaken to implement the Order of the ICJ dated 26 January 2024 in the case concerning the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa vs. Israel), particularly in relation to the rights of children.

60. The ICJ issued "three provisional measures" in the case concerning South Africa vs. Israel. The first provisional measure, included in the Court's order dated 26 January 2024, requires Israel to take all necessary steps to prevent the commission of any acts constituting genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This includes ensuring, with immediate effect, that its armed forces refrain from committing any acts amounting to genocide, taking all measures within its power to prevent and punish direct and public incitement to commit genocide against members of the Palestinian group in Gaza, and taking immediate and effective measures to provide essential services and humanitarian assistance to address the dire living conditions faced by Palestinians in Gaza. Additionally, Israel is required to take effective measures to prevent the destruction of evidence related to Article 2 of the Genocide Convention (the five forms of genocide) and to submit a report to the Court detailing the steps taken to comply with the order within one month from the date of the order.

61. The ICJ issued additional provisional measures on 28 March 2024, requiring Israel to take all necessary and effective measures, without delay, and in full cooperation with the UN, to ensure the unobstructed and wide-ranging provision of essential services and humanitarian aid, including water, electricity, fuel, shelter, and humanitarian assistance, as well as medical supplies and care for Palestinians throughout Gaza. This includes increasing the capacity and number of land crossing points and keeping them open for the longest possible periods. Israel must also ensure, with immediate effect, that its military forces refrain from committing any acts that violate the rights of Palestinians in Gaza, who are a protected group under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and facilitate the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid.

62. On 24 May 2024, the ICJ issued a third set of provisional measures, reaffirming Israel's obligation to comply with the first and second provisional measures ordered by the Court. These measures include the immediate cessation of its military offensive on Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, the opening of the Rafah crossing, and the unrestricted and wide-ranging flow of humanitarian aid throughout Gaza. Israel must keep the Rafah crossing open to ensure

the urgent and broad provision of essential services and humanitarian aid to the population. Furthermore, Israel is required to take effective measures to guarantee unhindered access to Gaza for any investigative commission, fact-finding mission, or other investigative body mandated by relevant UN organs to investigate allegations of genocide. Israel is also requested to submit a report to the Court within one month detailing all measures taken to implement this decision. The Court's orders are consistent with and complementary to the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council.

**63. QADER recommends that the Committee request Israel to provide detailed and disaggregated information on all measures and actions it has taken, and plans to take, to ensure full and immediate compliance with the orders issued by the ICJ, including the first provisional measures on 26 January 2024, the second provisional measures on 28 March 2024, and the third provisional measures on 24 May 2024. This should specifically address the rights of children, including children with disabilities, in Gaza, and cover all aspects of children's rights under the Convention. QADER further recommends that the Committee prioritize these issues, including their impact on children with disabilities, in its concluding observations.**

### **The ICJ and the Illegality of the Occupation**

64. On 19 July 2024, the ICJ issued a historic advisory opinion in response to the legal questions referred to it by the UN General Assembly pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/247 of 30 December 2022. The Court was asked to consider "What are the legal consequences arising from Israel's ongoing violation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and from its prolonged occupation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character, and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of discriminatory legislation and measures in this regard? How do Israel's policies and practices affect the legal status of the occupation, and what are the consequences of this status for all States and the UN?" **The ICJ's landmark ruling declared the Israeli occupation of the oPt to be illegal, along with the resulting legal consequences. The Court called upon Israel, the UN, international organizations, and all States to comply with the advisory opinion rendered by the Court on the legal issues referred to it by the UN General Assembly.**

65. In this historic decision, the Court affirmed, among other things, that the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip constitute a single territorial unit whose unity and integrity must be preserved. The Court emphasized that Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 did not absolve it of its obligations under the law of occupation. It ruled that Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and East Jerusalem violates its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Court also stated that the Oslo Accords cannot diminish Israel's obligations under international law applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory. **Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory was declared illegal, and Israel is obligated to end this presence as soon as possible.** Furthermore, the Court found that Israel's settlement policies and practices are unlawful, and Israel must evacuate all settlers from existing settlements, halt all new settlement activities immediately, and dismantle the separation wall. Israel is required

to provide reparations for its unlawful acts, including restitution of rights, compensation, and the return of lands, properties, and all assets seized since 1967. Additionally, Israel is obligated to compensate for the damages caused to all affected natural and legal persons in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Court further asserted that all States, the UN, and international organizations are under an obligation not to recognize the legality of the situation resulting from Israel's illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territory, not to render any assistance to Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, and to take the necessary measures to bring an end to Israel's unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory as soon as possible.

**66. "QADER" recommends that the Committee request Israel to submit comprehensive and detailed information regarding its compliance with the advisory opinion issued by the ICJ on 19 July 2024. Specifically, Israel should provide information on the legislative, policy, and practical measures it has undertaken or plans to undertake to ensure full adherence to the Court's advisory opinion, including clear timelines for implementation. Furthermore, Israel should detail the impact of these measures on the full realization of the rights of Palestinian children as enshrined in the Convention, particularly in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.**