



## **Statement about the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 7 October 2023**

In my capacity as President of the Albanian branch of the ILA, I express my grave concern at the escalation of violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since the 7 October 2023 attack by Hamas militants, due to which about 1,200 Israelis were killed and several thousands were wounded, with about 240 forcefully detained and taken back to the Gaza Strip, including children and elderly persons. Since then, due to military action by the Israeli army, over 11,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 27,000 have been wounded. Moreover, due to the near blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip from electricity, food and water, and medicines, with every day that passes its 2,3 million inhabitants are at increased risk of an impending humanitarian disaster.

All acts of violence and terror directly aimed against Israeli and Palestinian civilians run counter to international law. So do incitements to acts of violence and dehumanizing language used by senior officials in public appearances. The parties to the armed conflict must strictly observe the principles of distinction, proportionality, military necessity, and precautions in attack, as provided for under international humanitarian law.

Concern about the dire situation has been expressed by many stakeholders, including the UN General Assembly on 26 October 2023, through its resolution (A/ES-10/L.25); by the [Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court](#) (ICC) on 30 October; on several occasions by many UN human rights experts either separately or jointly, including [on 12 October](#), [on 13 October](#), [14 October](#), [on 17 October](#), [on 19 October](#), [on 23 October](#), [on 2 November](#), and on [8 November](#); by the UN Secretary General on several occasions; and by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights [on 8 November](#) and [on 10 November](#). Almost invariably, these important international officials and concerned State representatives have called for a humanitarian truce or a ceasefire, based on three inter-related imperatives, namely allowing humanitarian assistance in Gaza, to save the civilian population from the impending humanitarian disaster; releasing all Israeli hostages without delay; and, ending the Israeli occupation and ensuring the long overdue right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Yet, despite the repeated international calls by senior UN officials and concerned State leaders for humanitarian truces and ceasefire, the Israeli government continues its military campaign. Besides the enormous losses of lives and severe injuries due to military action by the Israeli army, [recorded daily by the UN](#) and other organizations, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs at least 45 % of Gaza housing units are reported destroyed or damaged.

The international community expects that those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed at least since 7 October 2023, but covering the whole period of the



Palestine situation before the ICC, are held accountable. The Chief ICC Prosecutor needs to prioritize the work on the situation in Palestine and the Assembly of State Parties needs to provide the Court with the resources it needs to conduct this work.

Finally, in my capacity as President of the Albanian branch of the ILA, I appeal for an immediate ceasefire and release of Israeli hostages. The UN Security Council and the General Assembly, and key States, should bring an immediate end to the fighting, and take immediate steps with a view to achieving as soon as possible, based on international law, a negotiated solution to the establishment of a Palestinian State, existing side by side with Israel and its other neighbors, with peace and security for all in the region, as requested by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of July 2004.

Professor Gentian Zyberi, President of the Albanian branch of the ILA

Tirana, 11 November 2023