



الشبكة العربية للمؤسسات الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان
The Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions

13 October 13, 2023

Members of the Human Rights Council

Urgent Request for a Special Session on Gaza Aggression

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned National Human Rights Institutions to urgently request a Special Session of the Human Rights Council to address the grave situation unfolding in Gaza.

Since October 7, 2023, Israeli airstrikes have caused significant civilian casualties, killing over 1500 people, including children and women, and injuring over 6000. Civilian infrastructure, hospitals, and schools have been targeted, and a blockade exacerbates the humanitarian crisis.

Since October 11, Gaza has been undergoing a full electricity blackout, which has brought essential health, water, and sanitation services to the brink of collapse, and exacerbated food insecurity. Mass displacement continues. In the Gaza Strip, the cumulative number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) now exceeds 423,000, of whom over two-thirds are taking shelter in UNRWA schools."

We also have grave concerns about reports suggesting that Israel may be planning to evacuate the civilian population to Egypt, a move that would further endanger the lives and rights of the people in Gaza.

This violence constitutes a war crime and a serious breach of international humanitarian law. We implore the OHCHR to take swift action to protect innocent lives and promote a just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within the framework of International Humanitarian Law.

Thank you for your commitment to upholding international law and the principles of justice. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

National Human Rights Institutions

Members in

The Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions

National human rights institutions established in accordance with the Paris Principles in (Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Comoros, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania)