

**Embassy of the State of
Palestine
Accra**



سفارة دولة فلسطين
أكرا

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**URGENT INTERVENTION REQUIRED TO PREVENT THE IMMINENT AUTHORIZATION OF
THE DEATH PENALTY FOR ARBITRARILY DETAINED PALESTINIANS BY THE ISRAELI
OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES**

The State of Palestine issues this urgent appeal in light of the adoption by the Israeli occupation authorities of legislation that legalizes the imposition of the death penalty against Palestinian detainees. This alarming development represents a grave and unprecedented escalation in the occupation's long-standing policies of systematic repression, racial discrimination, and dehumanization targeting the Palestinian people. This measure cannot be regarded as an isolated legal act; rather, it forms part of a broader, deliberate framework aimed at legitimizing unlawful killings and entrenching a settler-colonial reality grounded in exclusion and institutionalized violence.

This legislation emerges within the context of a prolonged pattern of grave violations committed against the Palestinian people, including prisoners and detainees held in Israeli custody. International human rights organizations have documented systematic practices including physical and psychological torture, starvation, deliberate medical neglect, denial of fundamental rights, sexual abuse, enforced disappearance, and the withholding of the bodies of deceased Palestinians, depriving their families of the right to a dignified burial. Accordingly, the adoption of the death penalty represents a grave culmination of these policies and a clear codification of extrajudicial execution.

The Embassy affirms that this law constitutes a flagrant and direct violation of international humanitarian law, foremost among them the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which strictly prohibits an occupying power from imposing the death penalty on protected persons in occupied territory except under narrowly defined conditions that are in no way met by this legislation. It further violates the First Additional Protocol of 1977 and contravenes the fundamental principles of international law, including distinction, proportionality, and humane treatment.

Moreover, this legislation represents a clear breach of Israel's obligations under international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right to life, prohibits arbitrary deprivation thereof, and upholds fair trial guarantees. The severity of this violation is compounded by provisions mandating the expedited implementation of death sentences within a short timeframe and denying the right to appeal, in blatant disregard of the most basic standards of due process.

The discriminatory nature of this law exposes its true character, as it applies exclusively to Palestinians, even in cases involving identical acts and circumstances. As such, this law constitutes, in essence, an apartheid law, establishing a legal regime grounded in systematic racial discrimination and institutionalizing inequality before the law on the basis of national identity. A law that prescribes death for one group while exempting another for the same act is not a law of justice, but a legal instrument of domination and segregation.

This legislation must also be understood within the broader context of escalating policies implemented by the occupying authorities across the occupied Palestinian territory, including the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. These include ongoing attacks against civilians and the worsening conditions of Palestinian prisoners, whose number has exceeded 9,500 as of March 2026, including women and children,

many of whom are subjected to inhumane detention conditions that pose a direct threat to their lives and dignity.

Furthermore, this discriminatory law forms part of a wider strategy aimed at undermining accountability and obstructing justice, within a judicial system that functions as a tool to entrench occupation rather than to uphold the rule of law. Israeli military courts, before which Palestinians are tried, lack the most basic standards of independence and fairness, as repeatedly affirmed by United Nations bodies and international human rights organizations.

This legislation also contradicts the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which affirmed the illegality of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory and the full applicability of international humanitarian law therein. Consequently, any legislation enacted within the framework of an unlawful occupation lacks legal validity and constitutes an extension of that illegality.

While this law has been met with widespread international and human rights condemnation and calls for its immediate repeal, such statements, though important, fall short unless translated into concrete and effective measures to halt its implementation and ensure accountability for those responsible.

In this regard, we emphasize that international silence or mere rhetorical condemnation contributes to entrenching a culture of impunity and encourages the continuation and escalation of violations. The international community must therefore assume its legal and moral responsibilities and take immediate and decisive action.

Accordingly, we call for:

- Clear and unequivocal official condemnation of this legislation as null, void, and unlawful;
- Immediate and effective diplomatic and political pressure on Israel to repeal the law;
- Activation of international accountability mechanisms, including recourse to international judicial bodies, to hold those responsible to account;
- The adoption of punitive measures, including sanctions, against entities involved in enacting this legislation;
- Urgent international protection for Palestinian prisoners and the safeguarding of their rights;
- Support for efforts to end the Israeli occupation and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

The Embassy also calls upon governments, international and regional organizations, including the African Union, as well as parliaments, trade unions, and civil society organizations, to intensify their efforts to confront this legislation, reject the normalization of discriminatory laws, and act collectively to uphold international law and human rights.

The Embassy stresses that this law is not only a threat to Palestinians but undermines the very foundations of the international legal order, setting a dangerous precedent that legitimizes discrimination and killing on the basis of identity. It therefore demands a firm and unequivocal international response.

In conclusion, we reaffirm that the Palestinian people, despite enduring injustice and oppression, will continue their legitimate struggle for freedom and independence, and for the establishment of their independent State on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. These policies will not break their will nor undermine their steadfast commitment to their inalienable rights.

"End apartheid, end the occupation, freedom and self-determination for Palestine!"