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**General Assembly**  
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**Seventy-ninth year**

**Question of Palestine**

**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and  
disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including  
special economic assistance: assistance to the  
Palestinian people**

**Letter dated 10 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you regarding the Chair's summary of the "Tehran International Conference on Palestine" convened on 23 December 2023 (see annex). At the conference, the participants, including high-ranking officials, ministers and scholars from around the world, expressed their strong support for the Palestinian people and called for an immediate end to the war in the Gaza Strip.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under items 35 and item 72 (b), and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Amir Saeid **Iravani**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 10 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Further to my previous letters on the Gaza war, including the letter dated 7 November 2023 ([S/2023/847](#)), I would like to inform your Excellency that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in continuation of its diplomatic efforts to bring attention to the crimes committed by the Israeli regime in Gaza, convened the “Tehran International Conference on Palestine” on 23 December 2023. The Conference aimed to shed light on the persistent and daily atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli regime in Gaza as well as the unwavering commitment to alleviating the plight of the Palestinian people.

In this conference, high-ranking officials, ministers, members of Parliaments and political parties, scholars, religious clerics, thinkers and journalists from five continents expressed their views on the ongoing war against the Palestinian people. The participants took part in two panels, namely “Political and Legal Effects of the War on Gaza” and “Role of Media, Thinkers and Religious Leaders in the War against Gaza”, and exchanged views on the various subjects of the war against Gaza, in the presence of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They, in their statements, extended strong support for the Palestinian people and unequivocally condemned the Israeli regime for its crimes and atrocities against them.

The Chair’s summary, presented by myself, is as follows:

- In recent weeks, the Gaza Strip has borne the brunt of relentless attacks by the occupying regime. Shockingly, the toll has been devastating, with more than 20,000 lives lost and over 58,000 Palestinians left injured. Disturbingly, a substantial 70% of those affected are women and children. The aftermath of these attacks paints a grim picture of widespread destruction, including vital infrastructure, hospitals, residential buildings, mosques, churches, water and electricity supply networks, schools, and other internationally supported facilities. Aligned with the sentiments of numerous concerned individuals and advocates for human rights, I express my profound dismay at the continuation of these assaults. The scale of these attacks is not only tragic but also reprehensible, leaving an indelible scratch on the global public consciousness. It is imperative to condemn these heinous crimes unequivocally. The ongoing assaults are clear violations of both international law and international humanitarian law.
- The heightened international response to crimes committed by the occupying regime in the Gaza Strip is primarily due to its use of prohibited weapons. These include phosphorus bombs and cluster munitions, alongside alarming threats to use nuclear weapons by this regime that have resulted in killing civilians, including women, children, relief team members, medical personnel, international aid workers, and journalists within the Gaza Strip. It is crucial to emphasize that these reprehensible acts cannot be justified as legitimate or self-defense. Consequently, it is expected that international legal and judicial bodies, notably the International Criminal Court (ICC), will take decisive steps to prosecute the crimes committed by the occupying regime, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide, reflecting the gravity of the situation.
- In accordance with international law, all states, as well as international and regional organizations, bear certain obligations to address the prolonged suffering endured by the Palestinian people. We recognize that a genuine resolution to the Palestinian conflict necessitates an objective understanding and

settlement of its root causes. The current crisis is rooted in the occupation of Palestinian territories, displacement of original inhabitants, organized and systematic killings and terrorism, looting of natural resources, apartheid, systematic discrimination, and sustained aggression on al-Quds over the past 75 years.

- A lasting resolution to the question of Palestine hinges on ending the occupation, recognizing the right to resist and oppose occupation and aggression, respecting the inalienable right to self-determination, and securing the full rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of an independent state.
- In addition to advancing towards a comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian question, it is imperative to address the pressing issues faced by the Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza. Like advocates for peace and humanity, I strongly call for an immediate cessation of hostilities against the Gaza Strip. It is evident that creating conducive conditions for a normal life in Gaza requires the withdrawal of occupying military forces, the complete lifting of the siege, and the unimpeded reopening of border crossings to facilitate the immediate, sufficient, continuous, and unhindered delivery of essential aid. This aid includes water, food, medicine, fuel, and other necessities, ensuring equitable access for all residents of the Gaza Strip. Additionally, I emphasize the importance of securing the freedom of all Palestinian detainees and prisoners.
- The conference also delved into the distressing issue of military pressures forcing the evacuation of Gaza Strip residents. Having endured a prolonged siege, the Gaza Strip is referred to as the world's largest open-air prison. Recent weeks have witnessed an exacerbation of suffering among the Palestinian people due to openly declared orders for evacuation, destruction of vital infrastructure, military assaults on hospitals and medical facilities, repeated denial of access to essential services like water, electricity, fuel, and communication, as well as impediments to the delivery of humanitarian aid.

According to figures released by human rights bodies, approximately 1.9 million people, equivalent to 85% of Gaza's population, are displaced. This situation not only heightens the risk of diseases but also increases the likelihood of further casualties among the residents of the Gaza Strip.

- Violent approaches which violate international law have resulted in the displacement of millions of Palestinians over the past decades. In Jordan alone, over 2 million Palestinian refugees are registered with UNRWA. The Israeli regime's policies, involving land usurpation and the illegal construction of Zionist settlements in the West Bank, coupled with discriminatory and racist practices against Palestinians, depriving them of their fundamental rights, have persisted for decades. The military rule imposed by this regime, characterized by a frightening, humiliating, and suppressive approach, has disrupted all aspects of normal life in the occupied territories of Palestine for many years. Therefore, any form of displacement and forced migration of residents in the Gaza Strip, as well as alterations in the demographic composition of all Palestinian lands, are vehemently rejected. Simultaneously, the illegal policy of building settlements must be immediately halted, as it blatantly violates international law and has fueled excessive violence among settlers towards Palestinians, particularly in the West Bank, resulting in the massive killing and injures of the Palestinian people.
- People who value freedom and justice expect effective actions by international bodies and diplomatic channels to bring an end to the ongoing war and bloodshed. The activation of Article 99 of the UN Charter by the United Nations Secretary-General was initially welcomed by many, but disappointment arises

as the United Nations Security Council falls short of fulfilling its responsibility in addressing a threat to international peace and security, especially with the potential for the crisis to escalate. Continuing international efforts to halt the occupying regime's attacks on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank should persist through UN agencies, particularly the General Assembly and Human Rights Council.

- We welcome regional and international endeavors, including measures by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and other collective actions by states, aimed at ending attacks on Palestinians and alleviating the suffering of civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Sustaining consultations and following initiatives to secure the rights of the Palestinian people, such as forming an international mechanism for Palestinian supporters or establishing an international fund for Gaza's reconstruction, is crucial. These efforts must respect the fact that decisions regarding the Palestinian government's future should be based on the right to self-determination and made by duly elected representatives of the Palestinian people.
- We believe that the situation in Palestine serves as a litmus test for substantiating assertions in support of fundamental human values, including human rights and freedom. Thus, I express the hope that countries, international bodies, and non-governmental organizations will continue their effective efforts through holding meetings and consultations to halt the war, end the suffering of the Palestinian people, and realize their cause and rights. Our actions today will face judgment in the future, and assuming responsibility and playing a role in ending occupation and war crimes means standing on the right side of history.
- Once again, we demand his Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, the honorable Secretary-General of the United Nations, to strongly condemn the atrocities and illegal actions of the Israeli regime, which daily violate international law. We also urge his Excellency to take necessary measures in alignment with his legal duties under the UN Charter for the immediate and unconditional termination of aggression, the lifting of the Gaza blockade, and ensuring free access for the Palestinian people to international humanitarian aid.

(Signed) Hossein **Amir-Abdollahian**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Islamic Republic of Iran