

## **SEHLAC Calls for Immediate and Coordinated Response to Violations of International Law in Palestine**

The Human Security Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (SEHLAC), as a network of professionals and civil society organizations specializing in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, welcomes the convening of the emergency ministerial meeting of the Group of The Hague, to be held in Bogotá on July 15 and 16. This initiative, co-chaired by Colombia and South Africa, represents a fundamental and necessary diplomatic response to the catastrophic humanitarian crisis and the serious violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

This statement underscores the failure of traditional international security mechanisms to respond effectively. It highlights the collective efforts of nations such as Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Malaysia, Namibia, Senegal, and South Africa as a significant step toward reaffirming the importance of the rule of law and unwavering respect for human rights. The document emphasizes that International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) should serve as the foundational principles guiding any endeavour to achieve a just and enduring resolution to the ongoing conflict in Palestine. This conflict is characterized by prolonged occupation, systemic apartheid, and settler-colonial practices that fundamentally breach established international legal standards.

We particularly welcome the meeting's emphasis on the legal obligations of states, as determined by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, as well as on enhancing effective strategies to address this unsustainable situation. Let us recall that the ICJ has recognized the plausibility of genocide against the Palestinian people, which obligates all states to take action to prevent it, in accordance with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The magnitude of this human tragedy necessitates unequivocal action. With over 54,000 civilians killed—predominantly women and children—more than two million individuals internally displaced, and the systematic destruction of hospitals, schools, residences, as well as water and sanitation infrastructure, the situation has reached a critical juncture. The Society for Humanitarian and International Law (SEHLAC) therefore joins the international community in calling for an immediate cessation of all indiscriminate attacks against civilians and their vital infrastructure. We urgently demand the immediate and total cessation of any actions jeopardizing the lives, sovereignty, and well-being of the Palestinian population, alongside the unfettered delivery of humanitarian aid to halt the weaponization of hunger and to alleviate the suffering of over two million residents within the territory.

To avoid perpetuating this scenario of violence, it is also imperative that the international community ensure accountability. Peace cannot be built on impunity. The "coordinated legal and diplomatic measures" to be discussed in Bogotá must lay the foundation for securing accountability for war crimes and a rigorous approach to determining the crime of genocide, which is currently under investigation by the International Court of Justice.

SEHLAC strongly supports the initiative of the host countries and the members of the Group of The Hague. Their leadership demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the principles of human security and multilateralism.

Contact: Human Security Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (SEHLAC), [www.sehlac.org](http://www.sehlac.org)