

Signature Campaign to Stop the Genocide



**A case for justice:
India's must stand against
The Israeli genocide in Gaza**

Petition addressed to: The Union Govt. of India

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#1. Understanding the Palestinian Crisis

Historical Background and Context

The Palestinian tragedy is not just a conflict — it is a relentless story of a people stripped of their land, their freedom, and their dignity. For over a century, Palestinians have endured dispossession, military occupation, and an unbroken chain of systematic oppression. What began in the late 19th century with the rise of a political ideology "Zionism" and the colonization of Palestine was not a search for coexistence, but a deliberate project to erase an indigenous people from their homeland. Generation after generation, Palestinians have been driven from their homes, their history rewritten, and their very existence denied — a wound that bleeds to this day.

The Foundation of Injustice

In 1917, the Balfour Declaration promised British support for establishing a "Jewish homeland" in Palestine, effectively ignoring the rights and aspirations of the native population who had lived on this land for centuries, including the Arab Jews often called Palestinian Jews. This marked the beginning of a systematic process of dispossession that would span generations.

The 1947 UN Partition Plan stands as a monumental betrayal of justice: despite Jews being only a third of the population, the world's powers carved out 55% of Palestinian homeland for a foreign state. The Jewish population consisted largely of recent immigrants and refugees fleeing Nazi Germany and other parts of Europe. The Arab Jewish population peacefully coexisted with the Arab Muslims and Arab Christians for centuries together, and shared cultural and social ties with them. India opposed this injustice at the UN, but it was forced through with violence and terror.

This plan was no mere diplomatic map—it unleashed the Nakba, the catastrophe. Zionist militias swept across the land, razing over 500 villages, slaughtering families, and ethnically cleansing over 750,000 Palestinians from their ancestral homes. The native communities were shattered, history erased, and the right to return denied—a deliberate campaign to uproot an entire group of people and replace them with another. The Nakba is not just a distant memory: it is the open wound of a nation waiting for justice, still refused even the dignity of acknowledgment.

Ongoing Occupation and Settlement Expansion

Since 1967, Israel has maintained a brutal military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip, creating what many international observers describe as an apartheid system. The construction of illegal settlements in the occupied territories violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and has been consistently condemned by the international community, yet continues unabated.

Since 1967, Israel has transformed the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip into open-air prisons, subjecting millions of Palestinians to a merciless military occupation. Every aspect of our lives is controlled, restricted, and surveilled. Illegal settlements spread across

the Palestinian land like a cancer, devouring hills, uprooting olive groves, and suffocating the communities—all in blatant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and every principle of justice. The world condemns these crimes, but condemnation is meaningless in the face of bulldozers, checkpoints, and walls that choke the hopes and future of Palestinians. Apartheid is a documented reality in Palestine: segregated roads, stolen water, children imprisoned, families evicted at gunpoint. The Palestinian homeland is fragmented into isolated enclaves, their rights routinely trampled, dignity assaulted, their lives snatched way too often —yet, the machinery of occupation grinds on, unpunished and unchecked.

The Gaza Blockade

Since 2007, Gaza has been suffocated under an unrelenting land, air, and sea blockade, caging over 2.3 million Palestinians in a territory no bigger than a city district—what has rightfully been called the world's largest open-air prison. The children grow up knowing only bombed-out homes, blackout nights, and the daily uncertainty of survival. No one is spared: medicine, food, water, fuel were rationed at the whim of a distant Zionist authority. This blockade is not just a political measure—it is a tool of collective punishment, forbidden by international law, designed to break the spirit of the Palestinian people.

To call the Palestinian tragedy a mere “territorial dispute” is a cruel distortion. This is not simply about borders. It is a battle for the most basic human rights: freedom, dignity, and the ability to choose their own future. For over seventy years, Palestinians have been denied self-determination, enduring a relentless system of colonial domination, military aggression, and forced isolation. Palestinian crisis is the story of a people determined to reclaim their justice—no matter how high the walls, no matter how long the siege.

The unjust Zionist mission of “Greater Israel”

Since its establishment in 1947, Israel has pursued a strategy of military aggression and expansion aimed at realizing its "Greater Israel" dream—a vision that seeks to annex not only Palestinian lands but also parts of neighboring Arab countries to create a larger Israeli state. From the wars against its neighbors in 1948, 1956, 1967, and beyond, to ongoing incursions into Lebanon and Syria, Israel's actions have been characterized by invasions, occupations, and repeated campaigns of destruction. One disturbing Israeli military strategy, known as “mowing the lawn,” refers to periodic, often brutal military operations in Palestinian territories, especially Gaza, designed to suppress resistance by inflicting wide-scale damage — similar to cutting back grass to maintain control without offering any long-term resolution. This approach reflects a broader pattern of dominance and control, treating Palestinian lives and lands as expendable in pursuit of territorial and political goals. These invasions and occupations embody colonial aggression and ethnic cleansing, causing immense suffering,

displacement, and loss of life. The annexation policies, illegal settlements, and repeated military incursions deepen the crisis, ensuring that rather than peace, Palestinians face ever-more entrenched apartheid-like conditions and a shrinking future. This relentless expansionism and violence starkly reveal Israel's intent to erase Palestinian presence and sovereignty in favor of an exclusivist state that extends beyond its internationally recognized borders, trampling on the rights and dignity of millions across the region.

#2. The Human Cost of Israeli Genocide in Gaza

A Humanitarian Catastrophe of Unprecedented Scale

The Israeli genocidal military campaign in Gaza, launched in October 2023, has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe that has shocked the global conscience. The scale of death, destruction, and suffering inflicted upon Palestinian civilians represents a stark violation of international humanitarian law and basic human dignity.

Devastating Human Toll

By August 2025, over 62,700 Palestinians have been brutally killed in Gaza, including 18,000 innocent children. Women and children make up nearly 70% of the dead—an unrelenting testament to the indiscriminate nature of the carnage that has ripped apart families, communities, and futures. Those who survived wounded had to endure the pain and trauma of amputations, and other surgeries without anesthesia as Israel besieged Gaza and stopped the humanitarian aid which includes medicine to treat the wounded.

Independent studies suggest that the actual death toll may be significantly higher, when accounting for those buried under rubble and indirect casualties from disease and starvation.

Targeting of Civilians and Infrastructure

Israel's forces have methodically targeted the very heart of Palestinian life: over 70% of Gaza's critical infrastructure lies in ruins. Hospitals, schools, refugee centers—the sanctuaries of civilians—have been reduced to rubble. The killing of 217 journalists and media workers, the highest toll of any recent conflict, and the deaths of over 224 humanitarian aid workers reveal a deliberate campaign to silence truth and suffocate aid.

Orchestrated Famine and Starvation

The blockade of Gaza has created conditions of deliberate starvation that meet the definition

of using famine as a weapon of war:

- Famine Conditions: UN experts have declared that famine thresholds have been reached across most of Gaza, with widespread malnutrition and starvation-related deaths.
- Blocked Aid: 83% of essential food aid has been systematically blocked by Israeli forces.
- Children at Risk: Nearly one in five children under five in Gaza City is now acutely malnourished, with over 5,000 children admitted for malnutrition treatment in just two weeks.
- Deaths from Hunger: At least 147 people, including 88 children, have died from malnutrition-related causes.

Since May 2025, the desperate masses of Palestinians seeking humanitarian aid in Gaza have faced a horrifying reality akin to a real-life Hunger Games. Starving families, including children and the elderly, have been met with deadly gunfire from Israeli forces as they attempt to reach aid distribution points. Hundreds have been shot and killed—unarmed civilians hunted while simply trying to survive. Witnesses recount how Israeli tanks and soldiers open fire without warning, turning lines for food into killing fields where innocence offers no protection. The systematic targeting of aid seekers reveals a merciless strategy to control, terrorize, and subjugate a people already crushed by siege and starvation. This ruthless violence strips away any illusion of humanitarian relief, leaving Palestinians to gamble with their lives for basic survival. It is a stark testament to a calculated policy of collective punishment—one that the world must no longer ignore.

Mass Displacement and Collective Punishment

More than 90% of Gaza's population has been violently uprooted, many displaced multiple times, herded away from their homes into shrinking "safe zones" that cover less than 12% of the land. These forced evacuations, executed with scant warning, are not collateral damage—they constitute collective punishment, a blatant breach of international law. This systematic siege—targeting civilians, destroying infrastructure, starving the vulnerable, and forcing mass displacement—is an orchestrated campaign to make Gaza uninhabitable for Palestinians.

This is not just war. It is a calculated genocidal policy, a cruel attempt to erase a people, their history, and their right to exist. It demands the world's urgent condemnation, justice, and immediate action to end the relentless suffering inflicted upon Palestinian lives and land. The plight of Gaza is a spotlight on the enduring Palestinian struggle against annihilation and dispossession—an unyielding call for justice and human dignity.

#3. Palestinian Demands and call for Justice

The Palestinian people's demands are fundamentally rooted in internationally recognized rights that form the bedrock of modern international law. These demands are not merely political aspirations but legal rights that the international community has repeatedly affirmed.

1. Immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire in Gaza

- **Demand:** An immediate end to Israel's military attacks that kill and injure civilians, destroy civilian infrastructure, and target hospitals, schools, refugee centers, journalists, and humanitarian workers.
- **Backing:** International humanitarian law prohibits deliberate or indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian objects. These acts constitute war crimes if done with criminal intent. The destruction of over 70% of Gaza's critical infrastructure constitutes collective punishment forbidden under international law.
- **Fact:** Since October 2023, over 62,700 Palestinians, including 18,000 children, have been killed; nearly 70% of fatalities are women and children. Hundreds of journalists and aid workers have been killed.

2. Immediate, Unconditional and dignified Humanitarian Access

- **Demand:** Full, rapid, safe, dignified and unhindered entry of humanitarian assistance—including food, water, fuel, and medical supplies—to all areas of Gaza without obstruction.
- **Backing:** Under the Fourth Geneva Convention (Article 23) and customary international humanitarian law, an occupying power or controlling authority must allow free passage of essential humanitarian relief to civilians in need. The blockade and frequent aid obstruction by Israeli forces violate this right and have been condemned by UN officials and multiple human rights organizations as collective punishment and violations of international law.
- **Fact:** Currently, over 83% of food aid is blocked, with Gaza facing famine conditions and widespread malnutrition—one in five children under five acutely malnourished.

3. Immediate end to Israeli siege and blockade of Gaza.

- **Demand:** The total removal of the land, air, and sea blockade suffocating Gaza, which restricts freedom of movement and access to vital resources, including food, fuel, medical supplies, and essentials.
- **Backing:** Long-term sieges and blockades that cause starvation and deprive civilians of essentials are violations of the prohibition of starvation as a method of warfare under international law and amount to collective punishment.
- **Fact:** The blockade has pushed Gaza to the brink of famine, with over 90% of the population dependent on aid and facing starvation, while key supplies are denied entry.

4. End Forced Displacement and Evacuation Orders

- **Demand:** Immediate cessation of forced displacement; Gaza's population must not be confined to shrinking enclaves or relocated forcibly, with guarantees of return to their homes.
- **Backing:** Forced transfer or deportation of civilians is prohibited except for imperative military necessity solely to protect civilians, which is not justified in Gaza's case. Forced displacement constitutes a war crime and may amount to elements of genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention.
- **Fact:** Over 90% of Gaza's population has been displaced multiple times; evacuation orders have confined inhabitants to less than 12% of the territory, with proposals for a coercive "humanitarian city" seen as a guise for ethnic cleansing.

5. Comply with International Law and Hold Israel Accountable

- Demand: Full compliance with international law, including the immediate accountability and prosecution of Israeli leaders responsible for grave international crimes such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, starvation used as a method of warfare, and other war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Backing: The 1948 Genocide Convention, Geneva Conventions, and customary international law define and prohibit these crimes and mandate accountability mechanisms for perpetrators.
- Fact: The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants in November 2024 for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, charging them with war crimes and crimes against humanity related to the Gaza conflict. These charges include the use of starvation as a method of warfare, murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts.

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory documented deliberate Israeli attacks on Gaza's healthcare system and civilian infrastructure, constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity, including extermination. The UN Special Committee and Human Rights Council have described Israeli actions as consistent with the use of starvation as a weapon of war and genocidal intent, with warnings that there must be "due reckoning" through credible judicial processes. (UN OHCHR, 2024)

Amnesty International's landmark 2024 report concluded that Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza amounts to genocide under international law. The report finds clear evidence of intent to physically destroy the Palestinian population through killings, infliction of severe harm, and deliberately imposing conditions calculated to bring about destruction, including blockades and systematic destruction of food, water, and medical infrastructure. Amnesty calls for urgent global action to halt these crimes and prevent complicity by states supplying arms to Israel. (Amnesty International, 2024)

6. The Inalienable Right to Self-Determination

- **Demand:** A political resolution respecting the inalienable right of the Palestinian people, including Gazans, to self-determination, statehood, and an end to occupation and annexation policies.
- **Backing:** The right to self-determination is a fundamental principle under international law, recognized by the UN and the International Court of Justice.
- **Fact:** The ongoing occupation, annexation plans, and military campaigns violate these rights and international legal obligations.

International Legal Framework Supporting Palestinian Rights

The Palestinian right to self-determination is firmly established in international law:

- UN Charter Article 1(2): Establishes self-determination as a fundamental principle of the United Nations.
- International Covenants on Human Rights (1966): Both covenants affirm that "all peoples have the right of self-determination".
- ICJ Advisory Opinion (2004): The International Court of Justice explicitly recognized the Palestinian right to self-determination and declared Israel's wall in the occupied West Bank illegal.
- ICJ Advisory Opinion (2024): The court reaffirmed that Israel's occupation is illegal and that the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination.

Recent International Developments

The international community has increasingly recognized the legitimacy of Palestinian demands:

- UN Conference on Two-State Solution (2025): A high-level conference co-hosted by France and Saudi Arabia resulted in the New York Declaration, endorsed by 22 Arab League states, 27 EU nations, and 17 additional countries, calling for Palestinian statehood.
- Growing Recognition: Multiple countries including France, Canada, the UK, and Australia have announced intentions to recognize Palestinian statehood if progress is not made toward a two-state solution.
- Legal Victories: The ICJ's provisional measures in the genocide case and its advisory opinion on the illegality of occupation have provided strong legal foundations for Palestinian demands.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stated: "Statehood for the Palestinians is a right, not a reward"^[49]. The denial of these fundamental rights not only perpetuates injustice but threatens regional and global stability.

These demands reflect the urgent humanitarian needs and the fundamental rights of Gaza's people, whose survival and dignity depend on immediate global action consistent with international law.

#4. India's Moral Imperative to Stand with Palestine

Historical Solidarity and Shared Values

India's relationship with Palestine has been built on the foundation of shared experiences of colonial oppression and the struggle for independence. As the first non-Arab country to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1974, and among the first to recognize the State of Palestine in 1988, India has historically stood on the right side of justice.

India's Pioneering Support for Palestine

India's support for Palestine predates most of the international community:

- 1947: India voted against the UN Partition Plan for Palestine, recognizing it as an extension of British imperialism[53]
- 1974: First non-Arab state to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of Palestinians[54]
- 1988: Among the first countries to recognize Palestinian statehood[55]
- Ongoing Support: India has consistently supported Palestinian membership in the UN and the two-state solution[56]

The Moral Case for Cutting Ties with Israel

1. Compliance with International Law

India's continued military, trade, and diplomatic relations with Israel while it commits genocide, ethnic cleansing, and war crimes makes India complicit in these violations. As a nation that champions international law and multilateralism, India cannot selectively apply these principles. Continuing business-as-usual with Israel undermines India's credibility as a responsible global power.

2. Economic Justice and Arms Embargo

India has become Israel's largest arms customer, purchasing \$2.9 billion in military equipment over the past decade. These weapons have been used in the systematic destruction of Gaza and the oppression of Palestinians. By continuing this trade relationship, India is:

- Financing Israel's military machine that commits war crimes.
- Contradicting its stated historical support for Palestinian rights.
- Violating the spirit of international arms embargos called for by human rights organizations.

3. Learning from Our Own History

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "Palestine belongs to the Arabs"[63]. Our freedom struggle against British colonialism teaches us that:

- Colonial occupation must be resisted and condemned.

- The right to resist occupation is enshrined in international law.
- Just as we fought the British Empire for our independence, Palestinians have the right to resist their colonizers.

Policy Recommendations for the Govt of India

Immediate Actions:

1. Suspend Military Cooperation: End all defense deals and military cooperation with Israel until it complies with international law.
2. Economic Sanctions: Implement targeted economic sanctions on Israeli officials and entities involved in settlement construction and human rights violations.
3. Diplomatic Downgrade: Recall India's ambassador from Israel and downgrade diplomatic relations.
4. Support for Accountability: Actively support ICC and ICJ proceedings against Israeli officials for war crimes and genocide.
5. Humanitarian Aid: Increase humanitarian assistance to Palestinians and support UNRWA operations.
6. International Advocacy: Lead international efforts to enforce ICJ rulings and UN resolutions on Palestine.
7. Recognition Enhancement: Upgrade Palestine's diplomatic status in India and support full UN membership.
8. Trade Cooperation: Develop direct trade relationships with Palestine to support economic development.
9. Educational Exchange: Establish scholarship programs and educational partnerships with Palestinian institutions.

Conclusion: Our foreign policy must be extension of our domestic policies

As Prime Minister Nehru said, our foreign policy should be "an extension of our domestic policy." The values that guided our freedom struggle - justice, equality, anti-colonialism, and human dignity - must guide our international relations today.

India's current policy of "de-hyphenation" - treating relations with Israel and Palestine separately - has effectively meant prioritizing Israeli interests while Palestinian suffering continues. This approach has:

- Damaged India's moral authority in the Global South.
- Contradicted our historical solidarity with liberation movements.
- Made us complicit in ongoing violations of international law.

The choice before India is clear: we can continue enabling Israeli crimes through our silence and cooperation, or we can return to our founding principles and stand firmly with the oppressed Palestinian people.

Just as the international community supported India's struggle against colonial rule, India must now lead the world in supporting Palestinian liberation. This is not just a matter of foreign policy - it is a test of our national character and commitment to the values that define us as a civilization.

The Palestinian people's struggle for freedom and dignity echoes our own history. By standing with Palestine, India stands with justice, international law, and the principle that no people should live under permanent occupation. The time for half-measures and diplomatic balancing acts is over. India must choose justice.

This document represents a comprehensive case for India to reassess its relationship with Israel in light of ongoing violations of international law and crimes against humanity. The evidence presented calls for immediate action to uphold India's commitment to justice, international law, and the rights of oppressed peoples everywhere.
