

HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM BANGLADESH (HRFB)

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) Deeply Condemns the Brutal Israeli Atrocities Against Palestinian Civilians and Calls for Immediate Cease-fire and Humanitarian Support to Victims

[20 October 2023, Dhaka] Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) deeply condemns the ongoing brutal Israeli atrocities and ruthless killing of unarmed Palestinian and innocent civilians, including women, the elderly and children. HRFB calls for an immediate cease-fire to facilitate humanitarian support to victims of the revengeful and disproportionate brutality as part of Israel's all-out war, waged in the name of response to the earlier attacks by Hamas that killed Israeli civilians, which HRFB also condemns unequivocally. HRFB, however, reminds that one crime can never justify another, not least the disproportionality and ruthlessness being perpetrated by Israel. The Forum also strongly condemns the illegal taking and holding of hostages in contravention of international law.

On 7 October 2023, an armed conflict between Hamas- a Palestinian armed group and Israel broke out following the former's attack towards Israel. In response, Israel declared war against Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza while conducting retaliatory strikes, causing indiscriminate deaths of civilians and destroying local infrastructure. The attacks have not spared hospital and medical staff, causing mounting casualties and unprecedented challenges against humanitarian relief and medical assistance, which are gross violations of international humanitarian law and instruments.

For almost seven decades, Israel attacked Palestinians and their rights were violated repeatedly. Ongoing brutal attacks on Gaza by them have taken thousands of lives, and many of them are suffering from injuries without having any medical aid. The bombings not only killed thousands of unarmed civilians but also left dozens of aid workers wounded and many educational and health institutions ravaged to the ground. This kind of attack and massacre violates people's right to life and their social, economic, cultural, civil, and political rights protected under international treaties and conventions. Quick humanitarian, medical and relief aid, water, and electricity to the Gaza Strip are needed.

HRFB urges for the immediate end of the war and putting an end to the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people. The Forum further urges the UN and international community, including the global big powers who continue to support the Israeli atrocities, to immediately take all possible steps to redress violations of the human rights of the people of Palestine. Time is now for such powerful states to demonstrate if and to what extent they are truly committed to upholding the fundamental principles and practices of human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international instruments.

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