



2nd March 2024

Your Beatitudes,

Your Graces,

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We reach out to you during these difficult times in Palestine. Despite UN warnings and resolutions and ICJ ruling, Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people continues to persist immensely, particularly in the Gaza Strip. Israel's slaughter and genocidal campaign in Gaza has caused a high death toll, mass destruction, and famine, as part of the deadliest Gaza, in the 21st century.

All efforts made to reach a ceasefire and put an end to the atrocities committed by the Israeli occupation forces have faltered. The international community, despite repeated calls for intervention, has been unable to force Israel to abide by UN resolutions. Israel's disregard for international law, the Geneva Conventions, and its continued perpetration of war crimes against the Palestinian people in all of Palestine constitutes a serious violation of the international rules-based order.

The latest of such atrocities was the intentional targeting by Israeli occupation forces of thousands of hungry civilians awaiting relief trucks near Nablus Square on Rashid Street in northern Gaza. This appalling massacre resulted in the killing of more than 112 Palestinians and the wounding of more than 800.

In Gaza, nearly 2 million Palestinians have been forcibly displaced, grappling with deprivation, hunger, and the spread of diseases in harsh living conditions that lack basic necessities. This dire situation compounds an ongoing genocide, with over 30,000 Palestinians killed, more than 7,000 missing, and over 70,000 wounded, the majority being women, children, and the elderly. Moreover, approximately two-thirds of homes and infrastructure have been destroyed, amplifying the healthcare disaster, exacerbated by Israel's systematic targeting of medical facilities. Most hospitals are now out of service.

On behalf of the Palestinian people, both Muslims and Christians in the Holy Land, we appeal to your shared human values and urge you to make every possible effort to end this genocide in Gaza. Children are dying of hunger. We urge you to denounce



these massacres and deliberate extermination. We urge you to pressure your government, as well as international institutions and relevant parties, to press for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and force Israel to facilitate the entry of urgent relief and medical supplies, while pressuring your governments to cease military aid to Israel, which directly contributes to the killing of our people.

Additionally, we call upon you to persist in your endeavors to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, by holding Israel accountable for its crimes, which take various forms of killings, arrests, settlements and settlements expansion, attacks on Muslim and Christian Holy Sites, and daily Israeli occupation forces into Palestinian cities and villages.

In conclusion, the Palestinian people's aspirations are rooted in the pursuit of peace and justice, ultimately bringing an end to Israel's prolonged occupation. This will usher in an era where the Palestinian people can live freely in an independent state of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of return to their homeland, all of which are rooted in international resolutions.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9).

Sincerely,

Dr Ramzi Khouri

Member of the PLO Executive Committee

Head of the Higher Presidential Committee for

Churches Affairs in Palestine

