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October 19, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: U.S. Complicity in Israel's Unfolding Genocide Against the Palestinian People

Dear Mr. President,

There is a plausible and credible case, based on powerful factual evidence, that Israel is attempting to commit, if not actively committing, the crime of genocide in the occupied Palestinian territory, and specifically against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. Enclosed is a legal brief assessing Israel's unfolding crime of genocide of the Palestinian people.

The gravest of crimes under international law, genocide refers to specific actions – such as killing or deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of the group in whole or in part – taken with the intention of destroying, in whole or in part, the group targeted, including on ethnic or national grounds.

Like both Palestine and Israel, the United States is a signatory to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the first human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and considered the building block of the international human rights system. The Genocide Convention places a duty on all 153 signatories to both prevent and punish genocide. The Convention criminalizes not just the commission of genocide, but incitement and attempts to commit genocide, as well as complicity in genocide, which is detailed in the brief.

Israel, the United States, and indeed, all States, must immediately comply with their obligations under the Convention. The United States has been obligated, from the time learning of the serious risk of genocide of the Palestinian people, to exercise its influence on Israel to prevent the crime. The United States is not only failing to uphold its obligation to prevent the commission of genocide, but there is a plausible and credible case to be made that the United States' actions to further the Israeli military operation, closure, and campaign against the Palestinian population in Gaza, rise to the level of complicity in the crime under international law.

Thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Ben-Yousef".

Nadia Ben-Yousef
Advocacy Director

CC: Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin