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Attorneys for Plaintiffs DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – PALESTINE, et al.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN
INTERNATIONAL – PALESTINE; AL-
HAQ; AHMED ABU ARTEMA;
MOHAMMED AHMED ABU ROKBEH;
MOHAMMAD HERZALLAH; A.N.;
LAILA ELHADDAD; WAEIL ELBHASSI;
BASIM ELKARRA; and DR. OMAR EL-
NAJJAR

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., *President of the
United States*, ANTONY J. BLINKEN,
Secretary of State, LLOYD JAMES
AUSTIN III, *Secretary of Defense*, in their
official capacities,

Defendants.

Case No.: 23-cv-05829

**DECLARATION OF BASIM ELKARRA
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS’
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

Hearing: January 26, 2024 at 9:00 am

Honorable Jeffrey S. White
United States District Judge

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2 I, Basim Elkarra, declare as follows:

- 3 1. I am one of the Plaintiffs in *Defense for Children International-Palestine v. Biden*
- 4 2. The area that my entire extended family lived in - Bani Sohaila, Khuzaa' and Abasan - have
5 been almost completely destroyed. All of my relatives have been displaced. We do not know
6 if their houses still stand. Based on the news reports of the near total demolition of those
7 areas, it is unlikely. All the houses that I used to visit in Khuzaa and Abasan where we would
8 stay when we would visit are likely destroyed.
- 9 3. I believe that we have lost over 70 relatives. It is difficult to know the numbers anymore, as
10 there are several relatives that we haven't heard from in some time. It is unfathomable that
11 we don't know who from our family is alive or dead.
- 12 4. Those who are alive are displaced and hungry. They do not have basic food and water. Some
13 are staying in UN Schools in Khan Younis and Rafah, and others are staying in tents in Khan
14 Younis in Rafah. We have lost touch with many of them.
- 15 5. I am experiencing this trauma of feeling guilty, as an American, that my taxpayer dollars are
16 paying for the bombs being dropped on my family. I'm feeling tremendous guilt and shame. I
17 spend sleepless nights wondering what can I do to stop the genocide.
- 18 6. Not knowing who is alive and who is dead is causing a lot of anxiety. But so is the idea that
19 starvation is being used as a weapon, and knowing that it has been so deliberately calculated.
20 The Israeli defense minister said that he was going to impose a blockade on food and water
21 against my people, and now my family, and the people of Gaza, are starving.
- 22 7. My children keep asking me questions. How am I supposed to explain a genocide against
23 their people to them? How am I supposed to explain to them what is happening to their
24 relatives, to their cousins? I've started to try to shield them because we don't want them to be
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1 traumatized. But at the same time they need to know. So we try to strike a balance. They will
2 say to each other don't waste your food, your cousins have no food or no water to drink.

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4 8. Despite over 20,000 killed and thousands under the rubble, Secretary Blinken and other U.S.
5 officials make comments that seem to only value Israeli lives and Israeli safety. This means
6 that Palestinian lives don't mean anything to the United States. It's very dehumanizing. This
7 is how genocides have historically been justified.

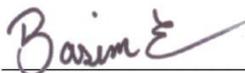
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9 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge
10 and belief.

11 Executed this 22nd day of December, 2023.

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Basim Elkarra

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