

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**United Nations Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth Session, 15 June - 3 July 2015**

Item 7

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN
TERRITORY, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM**

Mr. President,

The report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict echoes many other reports by local and international human rights organizations in finding that both Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups committed serious violations of international humanitarian law, and likely war crimes, during the hostilities.

The question now is what happens next. Will there be any form of justice for the 1,462 Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, 551 of whom were children, and the six civilians in Israel killed during the conflict? Will there be any form of accountability for Israeli military and political leaders whose policy decisions led to the complete destruction of more than 16,000 homes in the Gaza Strip? Or will the pattern of impunity and inaction simply repeat itself yet again?

Amnesty International believes that only significant external pressure on the Israeli and Palestinian authorities will bring any hope of justice for the victims or accountability of the perpetrators. We urge prompt and full implementation of all the Commission's recommendations, and especially its call for all states to support actively the work of the International Criminal Court in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and to exercise universal jurisdiction over crimes under international law.

We urge this Council to request that the General Assembly ensure that the Commission's report is submitted to the Security Council at the earliest opportunity, and also to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

In addition, this Council should still request that the General Assembly ensure that the report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the (2008-2009) Gaza Conflict is finally submitted to the Security Council, together with the Commission of Inquiry's recent report.

Action must be taken today towards accountability for serious violations of international law, including war crimes, on both sides. Once more, there is an opportunity for this Council to take a stand against impunity. We urge the Council not to squander it.

Thank you Mr. President.