

South Africa accuses Israel of 'genocidal acts'



Palestinians remove dead body from rubble after Israeli airstrike on Jabalia refugee camp. [Ramez Mahmoud/AP Photo]

South Africa has filed a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accusing it of crimes of genocide against Palestinians. The ICJ is a UN civil court that adjudicates disputes between countries. All UN member states are bound by this Court.

South Africa described Israel's actions as "genocidal in character because they are intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethical group... The acts in question include killing Palestinians in Gaza, causing them serious bodily and mental harm, and inflicting on them conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction."

Six weeks before the case was filed, on 16 November a group of UN experts said that grave violations committed by Israel in Gaza against Palestinians in the aftermath of 7 October, point to a genocide in the making.

They were also "profoundly concerned about the support of certain governments for Israel's strategy of warfare against the besieged population of Gaza, and the failure of the international system to mobilise to prevent genocide."

UK government

In the UK the International Criminal Court Act (2001), makes genocide illegal. The UK government has supported Israel by

- systematically obstructing ceasefire resolutions at the UN Security Council
- providing military equipment, communications intelligence, and aerial surveillance

Stop the UK complicity in genocide!