

## Declaration

### **Israeli lives and Palestinian lives matter – equally!**

In its ruling of 26 January on Israel's violation of the Convention and punishment of the crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip, the International Criminal Court in The Hague found the allegation of genocide to be plausible and well-founded. Although the Court could not decide to call for an immediate ceasefire, the measures to protect the population from genocide for which it held Israel responsible can only be implemented under the conditions of a ceasefire.

We condemn the bombing of Palestinian cities without regard for civil society, which has killed more than 25,000 people and destroyed the livelihoods of 2.2 million Palestinians, with the same disgust and passion with which we condemned Hamas' attack on Israeli civilians on 7 October, to which 1,200 Israeli citizens fell victim.

We join all international calls, particularly the UN General Assembly resolution, for a ceasefire and the release of hostages held by Hamas and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli administrative detention. We also join Pope Francis' repeated calls for an end to the military operations with their appalling harvest of innocent civilian victims, and for a solution to the desperate humanitarian situation by an opening to the provision of humanitarian aid.

The situation has also worsened in the West Bank, especially with the new far-right Israeli government under Netanyahu. The government program of the nationalist Israeli right-wing government openly declares that the Jewish people have an "exclusive and inalienable right to all parts of the land of Israel." In doing so, the Israeli government is going against international law and the resolutions of the UN General Assembly.

There is a risk of a full-scale regional war involving Lebanon and Iran, which could also trigger the involvement of the USA and other Western armed forces in the Middle East. We reject such a dangerous and destabilizing escalation scenario and call for the demilitarisation of the Middle East.

The international community must act now and do their utmost to promote a ceasefire and negotiations for a sustainable peace. However, the only way to achieve a solution for the two states is to negotiate with each other; we therefore call for the immediate recognition of a Palestinian state of Palestine by the EU and the member states.

The DIALOP coordination team

Vienna, January 2024