Congress of Business and Economics

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER



CBE AWARDS 2024

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MESSAGE FROM CBE PRESIDENT ASHFAQ DAWOOD



The Congress of Business and Economics, fondly known as the CBE, has gained its reputation as an activist organisation from inception as it always stood firm on the principles of equality with a zero tolerance for any kind of oppression.

Born as an organisation determined to right the wrongs of discriminatory practices and defending the principles of fairness, the CBE has always rallied with government to consistently protect the interests of those without a voice or ability to defend their rights.

It is no coincidence therefore that the CBE has decided to recognise the South African Presidency and International Court of Justice (ICJ) team for granting a voice to the Palestinian people and pleading the case of this oppressed nation, which has been under siege for more than seven decades.

It is without doubt that the world has seen and acknowledged the horror in Palestine and whilst some remain silent and others have vocalised their disapproval, what is startling is that there is little or no denial from any corner of the globe.

We have to acknowledge that South Africans, irrespective of all our internal challenges today, feel proud of our country and feel a sense of nationalism as we all rally behind our government and its efforts to stop this genocide.

We hope and pray that these efforts are rewarded and there is some sense that prevails, as any single life lost is a life too many.

We cannot ignore the killing of children and women and the starvation and sickness being bred in Palestine.

We hope that this event will propel the efforts of our President and the ICJ to find urgency in finding a peaceful solution to this ongoing tension.

It is imperative that this effort ensures that never again must the world ever witness a horror of this magnitude, irrespective of what any person's culture, affiliation or religion may be, and we hope that sense prevails before any violent escalation.

"The job isn't done while apartheid still exists in Palestine - Let's maintain our solidarity and keep fighting for justice!"

- Yusuf Talia

MESSAGE FROM CBE DEPUTY PRESIDENT YUSUF MOOSAJEE

Truth to Power: A Call to Conscience



Welcome to our 8th edition of the annual Recognition Awards Gala Dinner. It is indeed a bitter sweet celebration given the backdrop of events, more particularly over the last thirteen months in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Congress of Business and Economics extend our heartfelt gratitude to our government and people of South Africa for their unwavering commitment to justice and human rights. By taking a principled stance at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), South Africa has once again demonstrated its steadfast dedication to advocating for those who are marginalised and oppressed.

Our courageous position, rooted in the country's own history of overcoming systemic injustice, serves as an inspiring reminder that the fight for equity and human dignity is universal. South Africa's leadership on the global stage not only amplifies the voices of the voiceless but also reinforces the moral imperative for other nations to act with integrity and compassion.

We salute our government for standing on the right side of history and for championing the principles of justice, peace, and the shared humanity we all strive to protect.

In a world where silence can be complicit, the need to speak truth to power is more pressing than ever. The shift to Israel's blatant genocidal intent cannot be left unanswered. The international community, built on the foundations of justice and human rights, cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering endured by the Palestinian people. The multitude of reports and first-hand accounts reveal an unprecedented cycle of violence marked by disproportionate military responses, systemic dispossession, and the suppression of basic freedoms.

These elements collectively contribute to a narrative that many argue is designed to erode an entire people's existence, culture, and hope.

Recognising the severity of such actions is not just about religious or political alignment but about humanity itself. Standing in solidarity with the oppressed is an essential act of resistance against normalised injustices. We must amplify the voices of those who suffer, hold power accountable, and advocate for peace rooted in equity and dignity for all.

"OUR COURAGEOUS POSITION , ROOTED IN THE COUNTRY'S OWN HISTORY OF OVERCOMING SYSTEMIC INJUSTICE, SERVES AS AN INSPIRING REMINDER THAT THE FIGHT FOR EQUITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY IS UNIVERSAL."

The conversation on Israel's policies and their profound impact on Palestinians is not one to shy away from, even in the face of resistance.

As we stand on the side of truth, let us remain committed to a dialogue that prioritises human rights and challenges power structures that perpetuate cycles of violence and displacement.

Together, may we foster understanding, justice, and the courage to stand firm against any form of oppression, so that peace is not just an aspiration but a reality for every community and nation.

"Zionism offered itself as the solution to anti-Semitism, but became the main reason for its continued presence."

- Ilan Pappe, Israeli historian and political scientist

ABOUT THE CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

OUR HISTORY

Initially called the TIC Business and Economics Group, the Congress of Business and Economics (CBE) was formed by the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) in the late l980's as an activist business group. Within a short period after its inception, it was renamed and established as a separate business organisation.

With a prominent and successful businessperson, the late Setar Motani, at the helm, the CBE enjoyed popular support within its constituency, who were organised into local business chapters.

Following the advent of democracy in South Africa in l994 and the transforming business context, the CBE ceased operations in 2006. In December 20 l 2, former members of the CBE executive re-evaluated its closure. The context of this discussion was the global recession and debate on the National Development Plan, which had been released a few months earlier. In a follow-up discussion with former executive members in Johannesburg in January 2013, a decision was taken to re-establish the organisation.

A Steering Committee was formed immediately thereafter, which subsequently constituted itself as a Board. The CBE established an office in Johannesburg on 2 April 20 l 3. Just three weeks later, a strategic planning workshop comprising a cross-section of 35 business leaders and professionals was held at Sunnyside Hotel. It was addressed by experts in the field. Feedback from a survey conducted at this meeting also unanimously endorsed the re-establishment of the organisation.

OUR VISION

- To provide a forum for members to contribute to a changing economic climate.
- To arrange, organise and host networking seminars, training and research programmes.
- To develop a general awareness of all relevant issues, including rendering of necessary advice.
- To assist in the building of contacts and interface with other sectors within the economic sphere, e.g. business organisations, trade unions and civic associations.
- To provide opportunities for economic empowerment.
- To lobby for appropriate policies which are enabling and supportive of entrepreneurship in the changing economic environment.

OUR PURPOSE

- Empowering and developing businesses to contribute to the growth of South Africa by building principled, strategic and sustainable relationships, including with global partners, through these values:
- Fair and equitable business
- Being environmentally responsible
- Being a socially responsible corporate citizen
- Being ethical
- Embracing world class performance standards

”Doesn't the world see the suffering of millions of Palestinians who have been living in exile around the world or in refugee camps for the past 60 years? No state, no home, no identity, no right to work. Doesn't the world see this injustice?”

- Ismail Haniyeh, assassinated Hamas leader

ABOUT THE CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

OUR COMMITMENT

We subscribe to the Citizen's Charter

SERVICES

We will provide member-focused services

MEMBERS

To provide a networking platform for businesses to grow together

BUSINESS

Promote entrepreneurship and business excellence as a vehicle for sustainable socio-economic development

GOVERNMENT

Engage government, through non-partisan relationships, to create an enabling and accountable environment for business to grow and prosper

THE COMMUNITY

Promote an active citizenry, cultivate philanthropy and volunteerism

EMPLOYEES

Fair, performance-driven and equitable labour practices

DONORS

Build a transparent and accountable partnership with donors

CBE BOARD MEMBERS



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Cas Coovadia



Fuad Cassim



Dr Ismail Vadi



Khalik Mayet



Nizam Kalla



Salim Aziz

”Palestinian citizens of Israel are relegated to lesser rights than even their Jewish counterparts – a stark violation of principles of equality under the law based on race, ethnicity, or religion.

- Andrew Feinstein, former South African politician

"WE HAVE BEEN VINDICATED": PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a national TV broadcast on 24 January 2024 that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) had vindicated the country's decision to charge the state of Israel with genocide in its war with Palestine.

Ramaphosa said the ICJ earlier issued a ruling that is "a victory for international law, for human rights, and above all, for justice."

"The Court has concluded that pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention, it has jurisdiction to adjudicate our application. The effect of the Order that the ICJ has granted today is that there is a plausible case of genocide. This follows the unprecedented action taken by South Africa to take another country to the international court of justice," Ramaphosa said.

The president said that the ICJ ruling marked an important first step in South Africa's quest to secure justice for the people of Gaza.

"Some have told us to mind our own business. Others have said it was not our place. And yet it is very much our place, as people who know too well the pain of dispossession, discrimination, and state-sponsored violence.

"We are also a people who were the victims of the crime of apartheid. We know what apartheid looks like. We experienced and lived through it. Sadly, many of people died and were exiled like our beloved leader Oliver Tambo and others, others were jailed, like the father of our democracy (Nelson Mandela) and others were maimed," Ramaphosa said.

"We, as South Africans, will not be passive bystanders and watch the crimes that were visited upon us being perpetrated elsewhere. We stand on the side of freedom for all. We stand on the side of justice," he added.

Paraphrasing a statement by former president Nelson Mandela made 30 years earlier when he was elected South Africa's first democratic president following 27 years as a political prisoner of the white minority apartheid government, Ramaphosa said: "We say again today, never, never and never again shall it be that acts of genocide are perpetrated with impunity as we, the international community look on."

"Negotiations should commence on a permanent two-state solution, to enable Israel and Palestine to live side by side as independent states," Ramaphosa said as he thanked those in the international community who had supported South Africa's application to the ICJ.

"We will not waver in our commitment to the Palestinian people and their quest for self-determination. Our own painful history obliges us to do no less. We thank the International Court of Justice for upholding its role of achieving justice, promoting peace, preventing genocide and holding those guilty of genocide accountable," Ramaphosa said.

South Africa filed the ICJ application on 29 December 2023, arguing that Israel was in breach of its obligations under the Convention.

PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA TENDERED HIS APOLOGIES FOR BEING UNABLE TO ATTEND THE AWARDS, AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE CBE FOR THE HONOUR BESTOWED UPON THE ICJ TEAM.

"We will have to face the reality that Israel is neither innocent, nor redemptive. And that in its creation, and expansion; we as Jews, have caused what we historically have suffered; a refugee population in Diaspora."

- Martin Buber, Jewish Philosopher, to Prime Minister Ben Gurion

PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA ON PALESTINE



The late President Nelson Mandela remains one of the most iconic figures in modern history when it comes to human rights and the fight for freedom and equality for all. While we recognise his lifelong fight in South Africa against the horrific apartheid regime of the time, let us not forget his support and fight for the liberation of all oppressed peoples around the world – including those in Palestine. Here are just some of his quotes on Palestine and on the freedom of the Palestinian people against Israeli aggression.

1. We need to do more

"All of us need to do more in supporting the struggle of the people of Palestine for self-determination." (1997)

2. Israeli government is a terrorist state

"If one has to refer to any of the parties as a terrorist state, one might refer to the Israeli government, because they are the people who are slaughtering defenseless and innocent Arabs in the occupied [Palestinian] territories, and we don't regard that as acceptable." (1990)

3. Freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians

"The United Nations took a strong stand against apartheid; and over the years, an international consensus was built, which helped to bring an end to this iniquitous system…but we know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians." (1997)

4. Proud to fight for the freedom of Palestine

"We are proud as a government, and as the overwhelming majority of South Africans to be part of an international consensus taking root that the time has come to resolve the problems of Palestine." (1997)

5. We would be less human if we did not fight for the freedom of Palestine

"It behoves all South Africans, themselves erstwhile beneficiaries of generous international support, to stand up and be counted among those contributing actively to the cause of freedom and justice…" (1997)

6. Israeli government is denying basic human rights

"We identify with them [the Palestinians] because we do not believe it is right for the Israeli government to suppress basic human rights [of the Palestinians." (1990)

- themuslimvibe.com

"It is because I recognise the brutality with which my own multi-branched ancestors have been treated that I can identify the despicable, lawless, cruel, and sadistic behaviour that has characterised Israel's attempts to erase a people, the Palestinians, from their own land."

- Alice Walker, author, activist and Pulitzer Prize winner

AHMED KATHRADA ON PALESTINE



Pic: Fakir Hassen

Veteran freedom fighter Ahmed Kathrada launched the Free Marwan Barghouthi campaign on Robben Island on 27 October 2013. Here are excerpts from his address.

This indeed is an historic moment as we declare our support for the freedom of Marwan Barghouthi and the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners. Early this year, at the "Freedom & Dignity" conference in support of Palestinian Prisoners, I made the call for an international campaign for the release of MB and all Palestinian political prisoners. Today is the answer to that call.

Robben Island has become the symbol of the triumph of the human spirit, even though it was here that so many South African political prisoners, including leaders like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba Robert Sobukwe, and hundreds of political prisoners were held. My friends Kwedie Mkaliphi, Eddie Daniels and I, also spent many years here. We do not want to remember it as a place of hatred, or as a monument to our suffering, but as a triumph of the the human spirit, as a victory of the good over evil.

Today Robben Island is the place where we reiterate our support for the Palestinian cause and once again echo the clear and urgent call for the release of Marwan Barghouthi and all Palestinian political prisoners. This place once held captive some of the future leaders of a democratic and free South Africa. Now, the call resounds from this place for the incarcerated political leaders and unity-makers of the Palestinian people to be freed.

Political prisoners are in a position to fully comprehend the ordeal of a fellow political prisoner such as Marwan Barghouti, being held for life in Israel. The experiences of solitary confinement; torture; separation from the outside world, and the progressive erosion of the concept of time cannot be fully translated into words. Imprisonment leaves behind deep scars, both in your flesh and your soul.

"THIS INDEED IS AN HISTORIC MOMENT AS WE DECLARE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE FREEDOM OF MARWAN BARGHOUTHI AND THE THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS."

The Free Mandela campaign eventually escalated into a global outcry from the international community, calling for freedom and a just future for the South African people.

The call here is no different. It is a call for the release of Marwan Barghouthi and political prisoners, so that a just future could be negotiated out of the ruins devised by the military colonial state of Israel.

"When you hear of the launch of the "Free Barghouthi Campaign" we hope and pray that your strength will be renewed. And that you will know that through this launch from Robben Island, the call will go out to the entire world for your freedom, and the freedom of all do everything in power to ensure sure that our campaign will continue until the Israeli Government listens to the demands of the freedom-loving people of the world.

"The real danger to the world's resistance movements is the attempt to distort reality and to place the blame on the resistance groups' actions without allowing them to portray their perspective."

- Hassan Nasrallah, former secretary-general of Hezbollah

SOUTH AFRICA WELCOMES ICJ ADVISORY OPINION



Minister Ronald Lamola

On 19 July 2024, the Government of South Africa welcomed the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice issued in The Hague in respect of the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

In its Advisory Opinion, which emanated from a request by the United Nations General Assembly on 30 December 2022, the Court unanimously reaffirmed its jurisdiction on the matter and that the State of Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful under international law.

The Court was of the view that the effects of Israel's policies and practices, and its exercise of sovereignty over certain parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, constitute an obstruction to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination. This includes Israel's annexation of parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the fragmentation of this territory, undermining its integrity, the deprivation of the Palestinian people of the enjoyment of the natural resources of the territory and its impairment of the Palestinian people's right to pursue its economic, social and cultural development.

Responding to the Court's Advisory Opinion, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, stated that, "Today's ruling by the ICJ affirms South Africa's long-standing position that the occupation by Israel of Palestinian territory remains unlawful under international law.

"The international community must act to bring an immediate end to the occupation and the gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people. There is now an additional legal obligation for all States to end complicity in Israel's illegal actions and to act to ensure respect for international law.

"THE COURT UNANIMOUSLY REAFFIRMED THAT THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY IS UNLAWFUL UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW."

"South Africa attaches particular importance to the Court's finding that Israel is in violation of Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which provides that "States Parties particularly condemn racial segregation and apartheid and undertake to prevent, prohibit and eradicate all practices of this nature in territories under their jurisdiction.

"This finding of the Court reaffirms that the Israeli Government is guilty of practicing the crime of Apartheid, as the court put it," Lamola said.

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The Court observed that Israel's legislation and measures impose and serve to maintain a near-complete separation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem between the settler and Palestinian communities. For this reason, the Court considereds that Israel's legislation and measures constitute a breach of Article 3 of CERD.

- Issued by Department of International Relations and Cooperation

"Apartheid was in South Africa; now it has been transferred to Palestine."

- Yahya Jammeh - former President of Equatorial Guinea

SOUTH AFRICA HANDS OVER MEMORIAL TO THE ICJ

On 28 October 2024, South Africa filed its Memorial to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its case on the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa vs. Israel).

The Memorial – the name for the document recording the main case of South Africa against Israel – contains evidence which shows how the government of Israel has violated the genocide convention by promoting the destruction of Palestinians living in Gaza, physically killing them with an assortment of destructive weapons, depriving them access to humanitarian assistance, causing conditions of life which are aimed at their physical destruction and ignoring and defying several provisional measures of the ICJ, and using starvation as a weapon of war and to further Israel's aims to depopulate Gaza through mass death and forced displacement of Palestinians.

The evidence is detailed in over 750 pages of text, supported by exhibits and annexes of over 4,000 pages. South Africa's Memorial is a reminder to the global community to remember the people of Palestine, to stand in solidarity with them and to stop the catastrophe. The devastation and suffering have been possible only because despite the ICJ and numerous UN bodies' actions and interventions, Israel has failed to comply with its international obligations.

The action taken by South Africa since December 2023, culminating in the filing of this Memorial has generated overwhelming national and international interest.

The action taken by South Africa and joined by other states is primarily to stop a genocide in Palestine peacefully, through holding Israel accountable in the institutions set up for this very purpose by the United Nations.

Israel has been granted unprecedented impunity to breach international law and norms for as long as the UN Charter has been in existence. Israel's continued shredding of international law has imperilled the institutions of global governance that were established to hold all states accountable.

"SOUTH AFRICA'S MEMORIAL IS A REMINDER TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO REMEMBER THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE."

The Palestinian struggle against imperialism, Israeli Apartheid and settler colonialism is the daily reality of the Palestinian people. Since 1948, they have faced various forms of colonisation, often backed by historical colonial powers and, more recently, by states intent on shaping a world order in their interests.

The international community cannot stand idly by while innocent civilians – including women, children, hospital workers, humanitarian aid workers and journalists, are killed for simply being. That is a world we cannot accept.

South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice is a comprehensive presentation of the overwhelming evidence of genocide in Gaza.

- Issued by: The Presidency, Pretoria

"I went to Iraq because I wanted to see what one year of occupation had done to Iraqi society, and I went to the West Bank and Gaza Strip because I wanted to see what three generations of occupation had done to Palestinian society. I found a lot more hopelessness and despair in Palestine."

- Michael Franti, American singer-songwriter and musician

DR IMTIAZ SOOLIMAN: GIFT OF THE GIVERS



Pic: capetownpc.org.za

Gift of the Givers fully supports, endorses and acknowledges South Africa's additional submission at the International Court of Justice on Monday 28 October against the terrorist, illegal, apartheid, genocidal state of Israel.

We call on South Africans to support humanity, justice and truth. Not that truth needs any support as Truth is self-propagating.

The divine injunction is very clear: "Truth has arrived and falsehood perished; for falsehood by its nature is bound to perish."

We applaud South Africa for making that bold move in January 2024 for its first submission against the terrorist, illegal, apartheid occupation, genocidal state of Israel.

It served as a catalyst for truth to propagate itself with countries throughout the world that decided to join South Africa; when students at universities and communities worldwide of all nationalities, all religions, all classes and all cultures stood out to support South Africa and support humanity.

The Zionist project is on the path to self-destruction.

76 years of lies, untruths, injustice, apartheid, occupation, settler colonialism, collective punishment, illegal imprisonment, hardship, difficulty, detention, killing, murder, rape – every type of injustice; has now been exposed.

"WE CALL ON SOUTH AFRICANS TO SUPPORT HUMANITY, JUSTICE AND TRUTH."

Israel is on a path of self-destruction and in our time, we are going to witness its collapse because the promise of the Almighty is true that the truth always conquers falsehood and the oppressor will always lose and the oppressed will stand out victorious.

We look forward to that moment and we look forward to South Africa for its bold stance.

I'm proud to be South African.

I'm proud of our government.

I'm proud of our legal team.

"You can't be a feminist in the United States and stand up for the rights of the American woman and then say that you don't want to stand up for the rights of Palestinian women in Palestine. It's all connected."

- Linda Sarsour, American activist

ARUNDHATI ROY: WRITER AND ACTIVIST



Writer and activist Arundhati Roy has been awarded the PEN Pinter Prize 2024. Shortly after having been named for the prize, Roy announced that her share of the prize money will be donated to the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund. The following are excerpts from her acceptance speech, delivered on the evening of October 10, 2024, at the British Library.

Pic: www.thechakkar.com

Like every state that has carried out ethnic cleansing and genocide in history, Zionists in Israel – who believe themselves to be "the chosen people" – began by dehumanising Palestinians before driving them off their land and murdering them.

I ask you, which of us sitting in this hall would willingly submit to the indignity that Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank have been subjected to for decades? What peaceful means have the Palestinian people not tried? What compromise have they not accepted—other than the one that requires them to crawl on their knees and eat dirt?

Israel is not fighting a war of self-defence. It is fighting a war of aggression. A war to occupy more territory, to strengthen its Apartheid apparatus and tighten its control on Palestinian people and the region.

Since October 7th 2023, apart from the tens of thousands of people it has killed, Israel has displaced the majority of Gaza's population, many times over. All this is supported both morally and materially by the wealthiest, most powerful governments in the world.

Not all the power and money, not all the weapons and propaganda on earth can any longer hide the wound that is Palestine. The wound through which the whole world, including Israel, bleeds.

Palestinians want to be free, like South Africa is, like India is, like all countries that have thrown off the yoke of colonialism are. Countries that are diverse, deeply, maybe even fatally, flawed, but free.

when South Africans were chanting their popular rallying cry, Amandla! Power to the people, were they calling for the genocide of white people? They were not. They were calling for the dismantling of the Apartheid state. Just as the Palestinians are.

"ISRAEL IS NOT FIGHTING A WAR OF SELF-DEFENCE. IT IS FIGHTING A WAR OF AGGRESSION."

The war that has now begun will be terrible. But it will eventually dismantle Israeli Apartheid. The whole world will be far safer for everyone – including for Jewish people – and far more just. It will be like pulling an arrow from our wounded heart.

As the horror we are witnessing in Gaza, and now Lebanon, quickly escalates into a regional war, its real heroes remain outside the frame. But they fight on because they know that one day— From the river to the sea, Palestine will be Free. It will. Keep your eye on your calendar. Not on your clock. That's how the people – not the generals – the people fighting for their liberation measure time.

"The time has come to end the suffering and the plight of millions of Palestine refugees in the homeland and the Diaspora, to end their displacement and to realise their rights, some of them forced to take refuge more than once in different places of the world."

- Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine

POEM BY LOOKS MATOTO : SA DISABILITY LEADER

Looks Matoto is a leader for people with disabilities in South Africa Matoto is the deputy chairperson of human rights at Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) and the chairman of Hashtag Looksability.

My Last Song for the World (From a Palestinian child)
By Looks Matoto

I'm just a child, but I've seen too much
The sky is red, and everything I touch
Turns to dust, turns to pain
Will I ever see a peaceful day again?

Mama says to close my eyes, just pray
But the bombs, they never go away
My toys are gone, my friends can't play
I wonder if I'll see tomorrow's day

South Africa, can you hear me cry?
I'm singing though I don't know why
The world is quiet while we burn
Will anyone care if I don't return?
You've known pain, you've known fear
Please don't forget that I was here
If this is my last song, my last goodbye
Please hold my hand as I close my eyes

I had a dream once, of flying high
But now I only dream of the sky
Where the drones hum, and the fire rains
Can you make them stop, take away the pain?

They say you've fought for those like me
You've broken chains so we could be free
But I don't know if I'll grow old
Will my story ever be told?

South Africa, can you hear me cry?
I'm singing though I don't know why
The world is quiet while we burn
Will anyone care if I don't return?

You've known pain, you've known fear
Please don't forget that I was here
If this is my last song, my last goodbye
Please hold my hand as I close my eyes

I don't want to leave before I've lived
But there's nothing more that I can give
The walls are closing, the sky's on fire
Is this the end of all desire?

I'm just a child, I should be free
To run, to laugh, to climb a tree
But all I know is the sound of war
I'm afraid I won't see anymore

South Africa, can you hear me cry?
I'm singing though I don't know why
The world is quiet while we burn
Will anyone care if I don't return?
You've known pain, you've known fear
Please don't forget that I was here
If this is my last song, my last goodbye
Please hold my hand as I close my eyes

Maybe I won't see the morning light
Maybe this is the end of my fight
But if you remember me, then I'll survive
In your heart, I'll stay alive

South Africa, you're my only hope
Please don't let go, don't let us cope
With this alone, this endless fight
Keep singing for me, long after tonight...

"The pre-eminent obstacle to peace is Israel's colonisation of Palestine."

- Jimmy Carter, former US President

JUDGE NAVI PILLAY : FORMER UNHRC COMMISSIONER



Former UN Commissioner for Human Rights and Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Judge Navi Pillay, shared some of the challenges of her task and her views on South Africa's legal action at the ICJ in an interview with award-winning journalist Imran Garda on TRT World. Here are some extracts from that interview.

We've made like 20 or 25 requests to Israel, and they're just silent about letting us in to investigate. That is a challenge, but it has not put off the team, my brave team that is working on these matters day and night.

It's helpful that so much of the atrocities are being filmed and videoed and put on social media by many people, including the Israeli Defense Force or Israeli security forces, I should say. It's terrible, obviously, for the victims, but it's useful for investigation that we have access to that material.

I've never come across a situation where a government is actually acting in defiance of international law. You must cooperate and work with the United Nations, not against the United Nations and definitely not attacking the United Nations officials.

You should be, everyone should be, on the side of compliance with international law, especially international human rights law. However, these opponents did not win. And I feel comforted that almost 87 states voted to ask for the ICJ legal opinion because we identified that the root cause of the conflict is that the occupation is unlawful."

Pillay agred with Garda's view that South Africa's intervention at the International Court of Justice, joined by others, was a massive step. "And we are the ones, the Commission, who motivated it. We set out all the facts on the ground. We set out the law. We set out that it's a 70-year-old conflict. Our mandate requires us to identify the root cause of the conflict.

"I'VE NEVER COME ACROSS A SITUATION WHERE A GOVERNMENT IS ACTUALLY ACTING IN DEFIANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW."

resolution requiring an ICJ opinion, which they've delivered, but the application by South Africa. I'm very proud of the South African lawyers who were able to get the provisional measures under the Genocide Convention. These are very, very serious. And these are steps that states should have taken a long time ago. I had nothing to do with it, but I'm very happy that South Africa had the courage to bring that application."

"The U.S. and Israel have been slaughtering the Palestinians, just slaughtering them, for years. Robbing them and slaughtering them."

- Bobby Fischer, American chess grandmaster

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

In 2022, internationally-renowned human rights organisation Amnesty International released a comprehensive report on the Israeli oppression of Palestinians, which Israel tried to block initially. The following was part of its conclusion and recommendations, including action by the international community to institute action at the ICJ. Eventually it fell upon South Africa to start this process.

"The totality of the regime of laws, policies and practices described by Amnesty International demonstrates that Israel has established and maintained an institutionalised regime of oppression and domination of the Palestinian population for the benefit of Jewish Israelis – a system of apartheid – wherever it has exercised control over Palestinians' lives since 1948.

Amnesty International concludes that the State of Israel considers and treats Palestinians as an inferior non-Jewish racial group.

The segregation is conducted in a systematic and highly institutionalised manner through laws, policies and practices, all of which are intended to prevent Palestinians from claiming and enjoying equal rights to Jewish Israelis within the territory of Israel and within the OPT, and thus are intended to oppress and dominate the Palestinian people. This has been complemented by a legal regime that controls (by negating) the rights of Palestinian refugees residing outside Israel and the OPT to return to their homes.

Dismantling this cruel system of apartheid is essential for the millions of Palestinians who continue to live in Israel and the OPT, as well as for the return of Palestinian refugees who remain displaced in neighbouring countries, often within 100km of their original homes, so that they can enjoy their human rights free from discrimination.

Amnesty International is calling on Israel to remove all measures of discrimination, segregation and oppression currently in place against the Palestinian population and to undertake a review of all laws, regulations, policies and practices that discriminate on racial, ethnic or religious grounds with a view to repealing or amending them in line with international human rights law and standards.

"THE STATE OF ISRAEL CONSIDERS AND TREATS PALESTINIANS AS AN INFERIOR NON-JEWISH RACIAL GROUP."

The numerous UN Security Council resolutions adopted over the years have remained unimplemented with Israel facing no repercussions for actions that have violated international law apart from formulaic condemnations.

In fact, some states have actively supported Israel's violations by supplying it with arms, equipment and other tools to perpetrate crimes under international law and by providing diplomatic cover, including at the UN Security Council, to shield it from accountability. By doing so, they have completely failed the Palestinian people and have only exacerbated Palestinians' lived experience as people with lesser rights and inferior status to Jewish Israelis.

The UN Security Council must therefore ensure that perpetrators of the crime against humanity of apartheid and other crimes under international law in Israel and the OPT are brought to justice by referring the entire situation to the ICC or an international tribunal to try alleged perpetrators."

"The Zionist argument to justify Israel's present occupation of Arab Palestine has no intelligent or legal basis in history."

- Malcolm X, American human rights activist

MALAYSIA FOREIGN MINISTER ASSAN AT THE UN



Muhammad Assan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, speaking at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, slammed Israel's action in Gaza. Here are some excerpts.

In Gaza we stand at a critical juncture in world history on the failure of global governance to address the genocide of Palestinians and it has echoed across the world in a dismal response by world leaders to end these horrendous crimes.

Yet there are also many of us who have pursued Justice for the people of Gaza. For almost one year now we have raised our voices in protest and sought to establish a ceasefire. Again and again our voices have been shut down in the Security Council through the veto power. It is clear the mechanisms of Security Council have been abused to enable mass atrocities.

Our failure to establish a ceasefire is no longer justifiable. We have run out of excuses. It is time to address the problem. The veto should not be exercised at will. There must be interceptions in cases of crimes against humanity and attacks of civilian infrastructure we must commit ourself towards reforming UN Justice and begin with ending impunity and ensuring accountability.

For this to be realised the undemocratic veto must be limited or abolish altogether. The humiliating paralysis of the Security Council must be corrected through the empowerment of this General Assembly, where the voices of the majority prevail. Indeed the elevation of dialogue and respect for international law have been compromised in this assembly for some time now. Israel has violated every international law, including the Genocide Convention, Geneva Convention and Human Rights treaties. Just months ago the world witnessed Israel's mockery and utter disrespect of the United Nation in this very hall with the insolent shredding of the UN Charter.

Malaysia and 143 member states are in support of extending the UN's principle of equality among nations to the state of Palestine this year and we strongly urge the remaining minority to join the majority. It is time to realise Palestine's right to statehood and full membership in this Assembly.

"IN GAZA WE STAND AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN WORLD HISTORY ON THE FAILURE OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE TO ADDRESS THE GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS."

Israel's actions with each passing day raise our doubt as to whether it actually believes in the UN system or values its membership in this organisation. Its illegal occupation has entrenched a system of apartheid and discrimination against Palestinians. the Israel regime has itself declared its intent to wipe out an entire population. This is, Mr President without question, a genocide.

"I believe that we now have a duty to remove the aggressor from our land and to regain the Arab territory occupied by the Israelis. We can then engage in a clandestine struggle to liberate the land of Palestine, to liberate Haifa and Jaffa."

- Gamal Abdel Nasser, former President of Egypt

"INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT NEEDED" - AHMED MOTALA



Lawyer Ahmed Motala, a former United Nations war crimes investigator, says – like it happened in South Africa – Israel must be isolated to see any freedom in Palestine, wrote Ismail Suder in this edited article which first appeared in Al Qalam.

Top South African lawyer Ahmed Motala, who formerly served as a UN Human Rights investigator in Geneva, says while our Government must be praised for pursuing a genocide case against Israel at the ICJ, the only way the Israeli apartheid regime will be brought to its knees is through a sustained international boycott – the same as was done in this country.

Motala – who recently retired after spending over two decades at the UN Human Rights Commission in Switzerland – told Al-Qalam that the submissions filed with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) this week were an extraordinary compilation of evidence to prove the intent of Israeli genocide against the people of Gaza.

Motala worked at the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneve, where Judge Navi Pillay once served as High Commissioner. Motala, who retired recently, led war crimes investigations in Libya and Sri Lanka and was the lead trainer of war crime investigators at the headquarters of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Motala believes only a sustained international boycott against the Zionist regime will force it to halt genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people – a similar strategy that was used to bring the former South African apartheid regime to crumble.

He said only stringent sanctions against Israeli ministers and senior officials, including the freezing of assets, travel bans, military sanctions – and an international economic boycott – will curb the genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

He added: "The South African public should be questioning our government as to why it has not ended diplomatic ties with Israel and imposed such stringent sanctions," Motala said.

"THE ONLY WAY THE ISRAELI APARTHEID REGIME WILL BE BROUGHT TO ITS KNEES IS THROUGH A SUSTAINED INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT."

"In this historic resolution, the General Assembly has placed an obligation on all member states of the United Nations to end Israel's illegal occupation of the OPT through sanctions including ending military, political and economic relations with the occupying apartheid state, and to impose sanctions on Israeli nationals and companies.

"As evidenced in the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa, only through international solidarity and concerted efforts in countries throughout the world to isolate Israel will the occupation of Palestine and consequent suffering of the Palestinians end. South Africa was one of the co-sponsors of the General Assembly resolution."

"It would be my greatest sadness to see Zionists (Jews) do to Palestinian Arabs much of what Nazis did to Jews."

- Albert Einstein, most influential theoretical physicist

"ANTI-ZIONIST IS NOT ANTI JEWISH' - RONNIE KASRILS



Anti-apartheid stalwart Ronnie Kasrils said in an interview with Turkish news agency Anadolu that being anti-Zionist cannot be equated to being anti-Jewish. Kasrils, who is also of Jewish heritage, said he has been branded by some as an antisemite for his stance in favour of Palestinians' rights.

"There are righteous Jews in the world who say being anti-Israel is not equivalent to being anti-Jewish or anti-Judaic. Being anti-Zionist does not mean one is anti-Jewish. We don't equate Zionism, a political doctrine, with our ethnic origin," he said.

During his time as a government minister from 2004 to 2008, Kasrils said he started a process in South Africa where Jews signed petitions calling for peace and an end to Israel's war on Palestine. Since Oct. 7, more than 1,000 Jews have signed a petition calling for an immediate cease-fire, he added.

"Israel claims it represents Jews everywhere, which is not the case. It's a lie. We want a world where people stand together for justice against injustice. That gives one hope and I believe the Palestinians will win in the end. I support that totally," Kasrils said.

The conditions that Israel has imposed in Palestinian territories and on Palestinians are very similar to what South Africans experienced under apartheid, he said.

Many South African freedom fighters, including former President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and even ordinary South Africans who have visited the occupied Palestinian territories were disturbed by what they saw, said Kasrils, also served as a former intelligence minister.

"It just reminded us of what we experienced during apartheid; the repressiveness, cruelty, police brutality, restrictions on movement, arrests, detentions and illegal settlers who have taken Palestinian land. Israel's "invasion and appropriation of water and land, as well as the destruction of Palestinian homes and olive farms is a racist measure."

"ISRAEL CLAIMS IT REPRESENTS JEWS EVERYWHERE, WHICH IS NOT THE CASE. IT'S A LIE."

Israel is using a tactic similar to what the former South African apartheid regime employed when it pushed Black South Africans off their land to create Bantustan territories that were only for Black people, he said.

"Israel is an apartheid state. It's a settler state, which was what South Africa was during the apartheid era. Unlike in South Africa, where the colonialists exploited Black people for labour, the Israeli regime does not want Palestinian workers for fear of demographics, and is sourcing workers from African countries like Malawi and Thailand.

"In our short stay here we have seen and heard enough to conclude that Apartheid has been reborn here. In its reborn form it is however worse than its predecessor. Even during the worst days of Apartheid we did not have walls to divide and control people."

- Ahmed Kathrada, the late South African anti-apartheid leader, after visiting Palestine

VOICES: MARWAN BARGHOUTI



Marwan Barghouti, imprisoned since 2002 and often referred to as the “Palestinian Mandela”, remains a steadfast symbol of Palestinian resistance and resilience. From his prison cell, he addresses the Palestinian people with a message of unyielding hope and determination. "Our people deserve freedom and dignity, not oppression and occupation," he asserts, emphasizing the right of Palestinians to live freely on their land. He calls on his fellow Palestinians for unity, stressing, "The time has come for us to stand together, to heal our divisions, nd to resist as one people. Only through unity can we achieve our aspirations. We must resist with all means available to us, but our strength lies in our unity and our commitment to justice," he states, advocating for a balanced approach. This is a battle for dignity. Our demands are simple – fair treatment, justice, and humanity for our prisoners." Despite the hardships, Barghouti’s voice remains a beacon of hope and resistance for Palestinians, inspiring them to continue the struggle for self-determination and justice. "Freedom is our right, and we will achieve it," he vows, embodying the enduring spirit of Palestinian resilience.

VOICES: BASSEM YUSSEF



Bassem Youssef has consistently used his humour to highlight the suffering of Palestinians. Known for his satirical approach, Youssef refuses to be labelled strictly as an activist, yet he sees comedy as a powerful tool to confront propaganda and dismantle the dehumanisation of Palestinians. Youssef easily navigates complex and murky political issues with audiences, by keeping his comedy rooted in personal experience and thought provoking dark humour. He is known to blend satire with solemnity, underscoring how humour can expose the absurdity of propaganda, bringing humanity to a painful issue. Speaking at a recent news event, Youssef described the effects of state-sponsored propaganda as creating an “alternative reality” that makes people “be okay with” what’s happening in Gaza. “You cannot refute propaganda with facts and truth,” he explained. “Propaganda is meant to make you emotional, to provoke a visceral reaction..The lies are so elaborate they prevent you from using common sense.” He argued that Israeli propaganda, through “lies and emotional blackmail,” has convinced millions that Palestinians “deserve to die.” For Youssef, satire remains the most effective counter to such powerful propaganda, which he calls the “kryptonite” of propaganda. “When you laugh at someone, you stop fearing them. When you ridicule their lies, they have no leg to stand on. And when you use common sense, laced with a little bit of humour, their talking points self-implode.”

“Palestine belongs to the Arabs in the same sense that England belongs to the English or France to the French.”

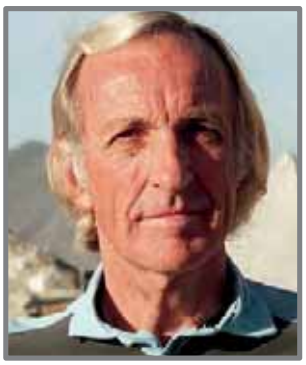
- Mahatma Gandhi, Indian lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer

VOICES: MOTAZ AZAIZA



Palestinian photojournalist Motaz Azaiza has become a critical voice in the international media, capturing the heart-wrenching reality of life under siege. Known for his unwavering dedication to his people and homeland, Azaiza documents the violence, displacement, and struggles of everyday Palestinians with an honesty that transcends borders. “I’m not leaving Gaza. This is my home, this is my land,” he affirmed, despite facing immense personal danger amid intense bombardment. His posts on Instagram and other platforms have gained millions of views, bringing global attention to the harrowing scenes of destruction that would otherwise remain unseen. Azaiza captures moments of both devastation and resilience—images of crumbling neighborhoods, families huddled together in makeshift shelters, and children playing amid ruins. “We are humans, we deserve to live,” he states, his voice often trembling as he films the aftermath of relentless airstrikes. His words resonate deeply with viewers worldwide, becoming a rallying cry for the humanitarian rights of Palestinians. For many, Azaiza’s work serves not only as documentation but as a testament to the strength of the Palestinian people, who continue to endure unimaginable hardship. Through his unfiltered lens, he brings a human face to the ongoing crisis, challenging audiences to confront the realities of war and occupation.

VOICES: JOHN PILGER



The late Australian journalist and filmmaker John Pilger had been a long-standing, outspoken critic of Israel's occupation of Palestine. In his 1977 documentary,’ Palestine Is Still the Issue’, Pilger exposed the severe hardships imposed by Israel's policies, describing Palestinian society as being systematically degraded, with everyday life becoming a "maze of controls, roadblocks, checkpoints" aimed at crushing Palestinian resistance and self-determination. Pilger argued that 'Israeli colonialism' is the root cause of ongoing violence in the region, comparing the conditions in Palestine to apartheid in South Africa. In a 2017 article of the same title, he reaffirmed his unwavering belief in the eventual victory of the Palestinian people, writing, 'When the Palestinians rise again, as they will, they may not succeed at first, but they will eventually if we understand that they are us, and we are them. The Palestinians are again fighting for their lives, refusing to live in the prison known as Gaza, controlled and policed by Israel with Palestinians killed and maimed, unreported, day after day. Now their resistance, to which they have a right, is called 'unprovoked'." Pilger’s conviction that humanity will prevail underscored his vision of the Palestinian struggle against occupation as both a right and a historic inevitability.

“The supply of weapons from Western states, enabling Israel’s commission of the genocide of innocent Palestinians and war crimes against Lebanon is condemnable.”

- Imran Khan, former Prime Minister of Pakistan.

VOICES: GEORGE GALLOWAY



British politician and broadcaster George Galloway's commitment to Gaza has also shaped his political career in the UK. In the 2024 Rochdale by-election, he ran on a pro-Palestine platform, highlighting Gaza's crisis and challenging the UK's foreign policy stance. His victory speech, in which he dedicated his win "for Gaza," criticised the Labour and Conservative parties for failing to support Palestinian rights, particularly regarding the Gaza ceasefire. His approach resonated with many pro-Palestinian supporters, particularly those from Muslim communities who felt let down by Labour's attitude. Galloway claimed that his victory represented a "shifting of tectonic plates" in UK politics, emphasising rising popular dissatisfaction with conventional parties on this topic. Galloway is a notable advocate for Palestinian rights, using his position to advocate for justice and humanitarian aid in Gaza. He organized the Viva Palestinian aid convoys, which brought critical humanitarian supplies to the region amidst a harsh blockade. Through these convoys, Galloway delivered medical and food aid, raising awareness of Gaza's dire conditions. Reflecting on the suffering he witnessed, he stated, "It's desperate," noting the devastating impact of restrictions on daily life, with people even scavenging for food. Galloway characterised the embargo as a fabricated humanitarian catastrophe placed on Gaza as punishment for its democratic choices.

VOICES: OWEN JONES



Owen Jones is a British cloumnist, author and political activist He writes: "Israel's genocidal mayhem has given me a hideous understanding into the great horrors of the past. How could so many people who regard themselves as decent, humane, 'moderate' become complicit in unspeakable atrocities? It's something I've always wondered. After all, only a tiny proportion of any society are actually sociopaths. Well, this great crime of our age offers the answers.The British media and political elites are full of people who aren't even pretending. Their worldview is clear. Israelis are "us". Palestinians are "them". Accordingly, every Israeli life has meaning and value - it is inherently precious. A Palestinian life is worth virtually nothing. It is less than cheap. A bag of rats drowned in a lake is likely to elicit more sympathy. The worst imaginable atrocities committed over and over again, but because the victims are Palestinian, no outrage or horror or anguished demands that this must stop, whatever it takes. There is, at best, empty handwringing and platitudes, while our government continues to arm the perpetrators. But when an attack is launched against Israel in which not a single Israeli is killed, then there is wall to wall horror, disgust, outrage from our political and media elites. I don't live in the same moral universe as these people. They now disgust me: I am repulsed by them. Millions of people in every country, on every continent, are feeling this, and it gets stronger with every passing day. The consequences will be felt for many, many generations".

"The thesis that the danger of genocide was hanging over us in June 1967 and that Israel was fighting for its physical existence is only bluff, which was born and developed after the war."

- Israeli General Matityahu Peled, Haaretz, 19 March 1972.

Adila Hassim

"THE RISKS TO THE PEOPLE OF GAZA ARE IMMINENT, IRREPARABLE, AND RAPIDLY INCREASING."



Pic: www.lifeesidimeni.org.za/

Adila Hassim SC graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Natal. She was awarded the Franklin Thomas Fellowship to pursue a Master of Laws (LLM) at the Saint Louis University School of Law of Saint Louis, Missouri, graduating in 1999, and the Rev Lewers–Bradlow Foundation Fellowship to become a Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD) at Notre Dame Law School of Notre Dame, Indiana, which she completed in 2006.

Hassim was a Constitutional Court law clerk to Pius Langa and Edwin Cameron, participating in the 1997 Soobramoney v Minister of Health case. Hassim was admitted to the Johannesburg Society of Advocates, South Africa's largest Bar, in 2003.

In the 2000s, Hassim worked for the AIDS Law Project. In 2007, she sat on a Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) committee alongside the likes of activists Andrew Feinstein and Cheryl Gillwald to support Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge in the wake of her dismissal as Deputy Minister of Health.

Hassim co-edited Health & Democracy: A Guide to Human Rights and Health Law and Policy in Post-apartheid South Africa (2007) and The National Health Act: A Guide (2008).

In 2010, Hassim helped to found the public-interest organisation Section27, where she would serve as Director of Litigation. She is also a founding member of Corruption Watch. Notable cases that Hassim has worked on include the Limpopo Textbooks Case, which went to the Supreme Court in 2015. She represented Sonke Gender Justice and the Treatment Action Campaign in the 2015 Silicosis class action lawsuit against 32 mining companies.

In 2017, Hassim became Lead Counsel in the Life Esidimeni Arbitration, representing Section27 and the mental healthcare patients who died in the scandal.

"The Arab population of Palestine are victims of genocidal actions; their lands are confiscated or deprived of water supplies in the semi-desert areas, and their homes are destroyed with heavy wrecking equipment."

- Fidel Castro, President of Cuba

Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh

"EACH DAY, AN AVERAGE OF 629 PEOPLE WILL BE WOUNDED, SOME MULTIPLE TIMES OVER AS THEY MOVE FROM PLACE TO PLACE DESPERATELY SEEKING SANCTUARY."



Pic: www.irishlegal.com/

Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh KC is an Irish barrister, practicing in England and Ireland. She specialises in Human rRghts and International Law.She graduated_from Queens' College, Cambridge with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Modern and Medieval Languages (French and Latin), obtaining First Class Honours, for which she received a Foundation Scholarship.

After graduating, Ní Ghrálaigh worked for a think tank, for an NGO, and as a paralegal for human rights firms in London and the North of Ireland. She went on to qualify as a barrister, completing the Graduate Diploma in Law and the Bar Vocational Course in London on a Lord Bowen Scholarship, and undertaking her pupillage in 2005-2006 at Matrix Chambers, where she remains in practice.

She subsequently obtained a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Legal Studies at New York University. Ní Ghrálaigh was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2005, to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 2013 and to the Bar of Ireland in 2017. She was Vice Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee from 2014 to 2019, was appointed a Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School in 2016-2017, and was admitted to the International Criminal Court's List of Counsel in 2021. She was appointed King's Counsel (KC) in March 2023.

Ní Ghrálaigh advises and acts for individuals, States and other national and international bodies, appearing in domestic courts at all levels and before international courts and tribunals, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

In her submissions as part of the South African Team at the ICJ, Ní Ghrálaigh asserted it to be "the first genocide in history" to be broadcast "in real-time", and pointed out the "dehumanising genocidal rhetoric" by Israeli governmental and military officials.

She also outlined that the number of Palestinian orphans caused by Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip had led to a "terrible new" acronym 'WCNSF' (Wounded Child No Surviving Family), and highlighted that UNICEF called Israel's actions a "war on children".

"Tonight, mothers in Gaza will again hold their children and hope they sleep. And they, and we, will pray that they wake."

- Bollywood actress Gauahar Khan

John Dugard

"IT SEEMS THAT SETTLERS ARE ABLE TO TERRORISE PALESTINIANS AND DESTROY THEIR TREES AND CROPS WITH IMPUNITY."



Pic: www.doughtystreet.co.uk

John Dugard is a South African lawyer, specialising in International Law and Human Rights Law.

During the apartheid era in South Africa, he directed the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, a unit committed to litigation and advocacy in defence of human rights.

After the fall of apartheid, he participated in the drafting of the Bill of Rights for the new South African Constitution, which was adopted on May 8, 1996 by the Constitutional Assembly,

In 2013 He was awarded the Order of the Baobab, South Africa's highest award for community service and has received several honorary doctorates from South Africa universities for his work in the fields of Human Rights and International Law. He is a senior counsel of the High Court of South Africa.

Dugard is Professor Emeritus of the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Leiden. He has held visiting professorships in universities in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia.

From 1995 to 1997 Dugard was Director of the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge.

Dugard has published widely and has authored eight books. He is an honorary member of the American Society of International Law and a member of the Institut de Droit International.

For fifteen years he was a member of the UN International Law Commission and served for many years as judge ad hoc on the International Court of Justice.

From 2001 to 2008 he was UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and has chaired two commissions of inquiry into Israel's violations of international law.

The first was for the United Nations in 2001 into violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed in the course of the Second Intifada; and the second, for the League of Arab States into crimes committed in Operation Cast Lead in Gaza.

"It is our hope that Palestine will soon be welcomed to the community of nations with full - in my opinion - full membership in the United Nations."

- Mwai Kibaki, former President of Kenya

Lerato Zikalala



Pic: www.lva.org.za

"WHEN INDIVIDUALS SEE THEMSELVES REPRESENTED BY THOSE TRUSTED TO RESOLVE DISPUTES, THEY MAY BE MORE INCLINED TO TRUST THE OUTCOMES OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM."

Lerato Zikalala holds an LLB degree from Rhodes University.

Before coming to the Bar, Lerato served as a law clerk of the Constitutional Court where she was awarded the Ismail Mohamed Scholarship.

She served articles with Attorneys Bowmans before joining the Constitutional Court as a researcher to Justice Johan Froneman.

As an attorney at Bowman Gilfillan, Lerato specialised in commercial litigation, public and regulatory law.

She completed her LLM specialising in International Human Rights Law at the University of Notre Dame. Zikalala returned to Bowmans as an associate attorney and thereafter a senior associate attorney in the litigation department.

Lerato Zikalala was called to the Bar in 2016 where she conducts a practice in public and private law, specialising in constitutional and administrative law.

Lerato's areas of practice are general public and commercial law, with a particular interest in constitutional law, administrative and general public regulatory law.

In 2018, Lerato joined the Board of NGO Lawyers Against Abuse, which aims to ensure meaningful access to justice for victims of gender-based violence by providing legal services and psychosocial support, empowering communities and engaging state actors.

"The more Israel sinks into the West Bank, the more it is delegitimised and isolated, the more people call for a single democratic state in all of historic Palestine."

- Thomas Friedman, American commentator and author

Max du Plessis



Pic: ubunyechambers.co.za

"NO ONE IN GAZA IS SAFE BECAUSE, AS THE UNITED NATIONS HAS REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR, NOWHERE IN GAZA IS SAFE."

Max du Plessis holds B.Luris SA LL.B Natal and LL.M Cantab PhD UKZN.

In addition to his practice in Durban, he is an associate tenant in Thulamela Chambers, Sandton, and associate tenant in Doughty Street Chambers, London, and for many years was associate fellow in international law at Chatham House, the Royal Institute for International Affairs, London.

Du Plessis combines practice and academic work and writing, and is currently an adjunct professor at both the University of Cape Town and Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth. He is an honorary research fellow University of KwaZulu-Natal (Durban) and a senior research associate at the Institute for Security Studies (Pretoria).

In South Africa, Du Plessis practises In Public Law, Human Rights, International Law, and Competition Law, appearing regularly before the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court of Appeal, High Courts, and the Competition Tribunal and Competition Appeal Court.

As an international lawyer, he advises governments, international organizations and NGOs, and has appeared or advised on cases inter alia before the International Criminal Court, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the SADC Tribunal, and the East African Court of Justice.

On international law, he has been briefed to submit amicus curiae briefs before the US Supreme Court, the US Court of Appeals, and the Israeli Supreme Court.

Du Plessis is the lead or co-author of various textbooks, including Class Action Litigation in South Africa (2017), Constitutional Litigation in South Africa (2015), Civil Procedure (3rd edition - 2017), and International Law: A South African Perspective (2018 – 5th edition).

As an academic, he has taught for many years as an associate professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and has been a visiting professor or scholar at various universities internationally.

"The reported killing of children sheltering in makeshift tents is unconscionable. For over seven months, we've witnessed this."

- Kareena Kapoor Khan, Bollywood actress and UNICEF ambassador

Sarah Pudifin-Jones



Pic: ubunyechambers.co.za

"THERE IS A CATEGORY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW VIOLATIONS, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED SO OFFENSIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER, THAT ALL STATES CAN BE HELD TO HAVE A LEGAL INTEREST IN THEIR PROTECTION."

Sarah Pudifin-Jones holds a BA(Hons) LLB from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Her LLB was awarded *summa cum laude* and she was the top law student at UKZN.

Thereafter, she completed an LLM and MPhil at Cambridge University, where she studied on an Emma Smith Scholarship at Gonville and Caius College.

Before joining the Bar, Pudifin-Jones clerked for Justice Albie Sachs at the Constitutional Court. She completed her pupillage under Glen Goddard SC in 2011.

Pudifin-Jones appears regularly in the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Appeal, the Competition Appeal Court, High Courts around the country as well as various regulatory tribunals.

She has an established national practice, in both public and private litigation with a particular focus on Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, regulatory matters, Competition Law, Commercial Law and International Law.

Pudifin-Jones is co-editor of the first book in South African law on Class Action litigation, and has written more broadly in academic journals and publications.

"I am a black South African, and if I were to change the names, a description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank could describe events in South Africa."

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Tembeka Ngcukaitobi



Pic: Bobby Shabangu

"PALESTINIANS DO NOT NEED ANY MORE DIPLOMATIC GESTURING; NO MORE ABSTRACT WORDS; NO MORE VACUOUS CONDEMNATIONS AND DENUNCIATIONS OF ISRAEL'S ACTIONS."

Tembeka Nicolas Ngcukaitobi SC is a South African lawyer and legal scholar.

An advocate of the Johannesburg Bar since August 2010, Ngcukaitobi gained silk status in February 2020.

He is currently a member of the Judicial Service Commission and a part-time member of the Competition Commission's Competition Tribunal.

Born in the former Transkei, Ngcukaitobi clerked for Justice Arthur Chaskalson on the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

He spent several years as an attorney for Bowman Gilfillan before joining the bar and the constitutional litigation unit of the Legal Resources Centre.

He has since argued in front of the Constitutional Court on behalf of clients including the Economic Freedom Fighters, the Zondo Commission, and President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Besides his expertise in Constitutional and Public law, Ngcukaitobi has experience in Competition Law, Labour Law, and Land Law. He has written two books about land dispossession and land reform, 'The Land Is Ours' (2018) and 'Land Matters' (2021).

Ngcukaitobi has acted as a judge in the Labour Court, the Land Claims Court, and the High Court of South Africa.

"I will not be going to Israel at this time. I will go to Israel when the walls come down. I will go to Israel when occupation is gone…. I will go to Israel when Apartheid is over. .... I stand with the … BDS Movement."

- Mira Nair, award-winning Indian-American filmmaker

Tshidiso Ramogale



Pic: Facebook

"I WANT YOU TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND ASK: 'WHERE WAS I WHEN GAZA WAS GOING THROUGH A GENOCIDE?'"

Tshidiso Ramogale holds LL.B (Wits) and LL.M (Harvard).

He has appeared in the Constitutional Court of South Africa, High Courts of South Africa, Labour Court of South Africa and Judicial Commission of Enquiry into allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector Including Organs of State

Ramogale completed his pupillage under the mentorship of Tembeka Ngcukaitobi. Before joining the Bar, Tshidiso worked in the public and private sector. He is also a former clerk to Justice Sisi Khampepe of the Constitutional Court and a former legal officer of the South African Human Rights Commission.

At Harvard, Ramogale was the Managing Executive Editor of the Harvard Human Rights Journal. He was also appointed by the Dean to serve on the Task Force on the Academic Community and Student Engagement.

Upon returning to South Africa after graduating from Harvard in 2017, Ramogale became an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa. He was also briefly a sessional lecturer at his alma mater Wits University and joined the Johannesburg Society of Advocates.

In 2014, Ramogale appeared on the *Mail & Guardian*'s 2014 list of 200 Young South Africans.

In 2019, Ramogale was called to the Pan African Bar Association of South Africa.

Prior to studying at Harvard, Ramogale was a legal officer at the South African Human Rights Commission and a law clerk to judge Sisi Khampepe. He founded the nonprofit organisation Change SA, which helps young South Africans become social entrepreneurs, and is an Allan Gray fellow.

Ramogale has written 'Public Interest Law in South Africa (Juta & Co, Cape Town, 2018).

"The Israeli Supreme Court is the only judicial body in the world that doesn't recognise that there is an occupation … it's just … administered territories."

- Noam Chomsky, renowned US academic

Vaughan Lowe



Pic: thelondonconference.org

"SOUTH AFRICA IS HERE BECAUSE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE FACING GENOCIDE IN GAZA, AND YOUR PREVIOUS ORDERS HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN PROTECTING THEM AGAINST THAT."

Vaughan Lowe is a practising Barrister at Essex Court Chambers, mainly in the field of international law, with cases in the International Court of Justice, the Iran-US Claims Tribunal, *ad hoc* Arbitral Tribunals and courts in England and Hong Kong, among others.

He has also sat as an arbitrator in many investment arbitrations, the Permanent Court of Arbitration and other bodies, and on the tribunals addressing the boundaries between Trinidad and Barbados, and between Croatia and Slovenia.

He has sat as an *ad hoc* judge on the European Court of Human Rights and served as the UK-nominated judge on the European Nuclear Energy Tribunal.

Lowe is Emeritus Chichele Professor of Public International Law and an Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College in the University of Oxford.

Among his more notable cases as counsel are: in the ICJ, the *Antarctic Whaling* case (for Japan), the *Romania v Ukraine*, *Peru v Chile* and *Nicaragua v Colombia* maritime boundary cases (for Romania, Peru, Nicaragua), the *Palestinian Wall* case (for Palestine), the *Avena (Interpretation)* case (for the USA), the *Kosovo* case (for Cyprus), the *Timor-Leste v Australia* case concerning certain documents (for Timor-Leste), and the *Bolivia v Chile* case concerning the obligation to negotiate access to the Pacific Ocean (for Bolivia).

Lowe advises extensively on international law matters, including questions concerning maritime boundaries and offshore petroleum concessions, the Law of the Sea, investment protection, State immunity, territorial title, the structuring and organisation of dispute settlement procedures, peace settlements and various aspects of independence and statehood negotiations, which have been very relevant in the ICJ case.

"I don't think a Palestinian state is going to be created at a conference table; it will be created on the ground in the West Bank, and some day, a peace conference will ratify that which has been built on the ground."

- Elliott Abrams, American politician and lawyer

CBE ACKNOWLEDGES THE FULL ICJ TEAM

The Congress of Business and Economics expresses its gratitude to the entire team of legal representatives, reasearchers and officials from various institutions who were part of the original ICJ team, as recorded at the ICJ.

The Government of the Republic of South Africa was represented by Mr Vusimuzi Madonsela, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and Mr Cornelius Scholtz, Legal Counsellor at the South African Embassy in the Netherlands.

Co-Agents were Mr Ronald Lamola, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services (who later assumed office as Minister of International Relations and Communication (DIRCO) after the General Elections in May); Ms Nokukhanya Jele, Special Adviser to the President; Ms Phindile Baleni, Director-General in the Presidency; Mr Zane Dangor, Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation; and Mr Doctor Mashabane, Director-General of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Counsel were Mr Andre Stemmet, Acting Chief State Law Adviser (International Law),DIRCO; Ms Romi Brammer, State Law Adviser (International Law), DIRCO; and Mr Moses Mokoena, State Law Adviser (International Law), DIRCO.

Assistant Counsel were Ms Rebecca Brown, Ms Susan Power and Ms Helena Van Roosbroeck.

Advisers were Dr Christopher Gavers, Head, Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits University; Mr Ammar Hijazi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs of the State of Palestine, Mr Omar Awadallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies of the State of Palestine, Mr Raji Sourani, Director, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights; Mr Issam Younis, Director, Al-Mezan; Mr Shawan Jabreen, General Director, Al-Haq; Ms Varsha Gandikota-Nellutla, Co-General Coordinator, Progressive International; Ms Hada Wihaidi Mison, and Ms Shehada Andalib.

Other Members of the Delegation were Ms Mamosala Moutlane and Ms Ietje Barbas.

Assistants to the Delegation were Mr G. Hicks and Mr V. C. Ravhura.

Adv Ní Ghrálaigh has since left the team; while Adv Buhle Lekokotla and Adv Andries Custoudis are new members of the team.

CBE also acknowledges the important role played by now retired Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, for her perseverance in taking up the Palestinian matter despite repeated attempts to silence her, both at local and international level.

"Israeli independence - what we Arabs call al-Naqba, 'The Catastrophe' - it created Palestinian identity more than anything else."

- Sayed Kashua, Author

FLASHBACK: CBE WOMENS MONTH 2024

Five women were honoured when the Congress of Business and Economics (CBE) hosted its annual event to honour women achievers for their work in the community recently in Sandton - Shaheda Kazie, Catherine Constantinides, Ruxmani Soma, Yvonne Chaka Chaka and Devi Sankaree Govender.

"Although the CBE hosts many events, mainly related to business and politics, the Women's Month event is a very sentimental one for us. Women will always shape a generation. God's ordainment is that every single human being – man or woman – is born to a woman," said CBE President Ashfaq Dawood as he welcomed the scores of dignitaries and other guests.



























There were many prizes for the scores of women attending (and a few men too!)

FLASHBACK: CBE AWARDS 2023

In 2023, CBE honoured whistle-blowers who put their lives and careers on the line by exposing corruption. Special Legendary Lives Awards were also presented to the families of the late activists Molvi Salojee and (presented left by Nadas Pillay) and Reggie Vandeyar, as well as to The Whistleblowers' House, presented (right) by Rashid Chopdat to Cynthia Stimpel and Ivan Pillay. "The brave men and women that we honour and recognise today are part of a select group of flagbearers of democracy. Many others have unfortunately lost their lives as a result of their bravery," said Yusuf Moosajee.







The Award to Francis Callard was presented by Kamlesh Naran



The Award to Ivan Pillay was presented by Sedick Isaacs



The Award to Adrian Lackay, presented by Jay Pema, was acepted by Ivan Pillay

The Award to Johann van Loggerenberg was presented by Nazir Talia





The Award to Babita Deokaran, presented by Rashid Chopdat, was accepted by a family member

The Award to Martha Ngoye was presented by Shireen Ebrahim





The Award to Cynthia Stippel was presented byAhmed Seedat

The Award to Sarika Lakhrajl was presented by Hassen Mohamed



FLASHBACK: CBE AWARDS 2023













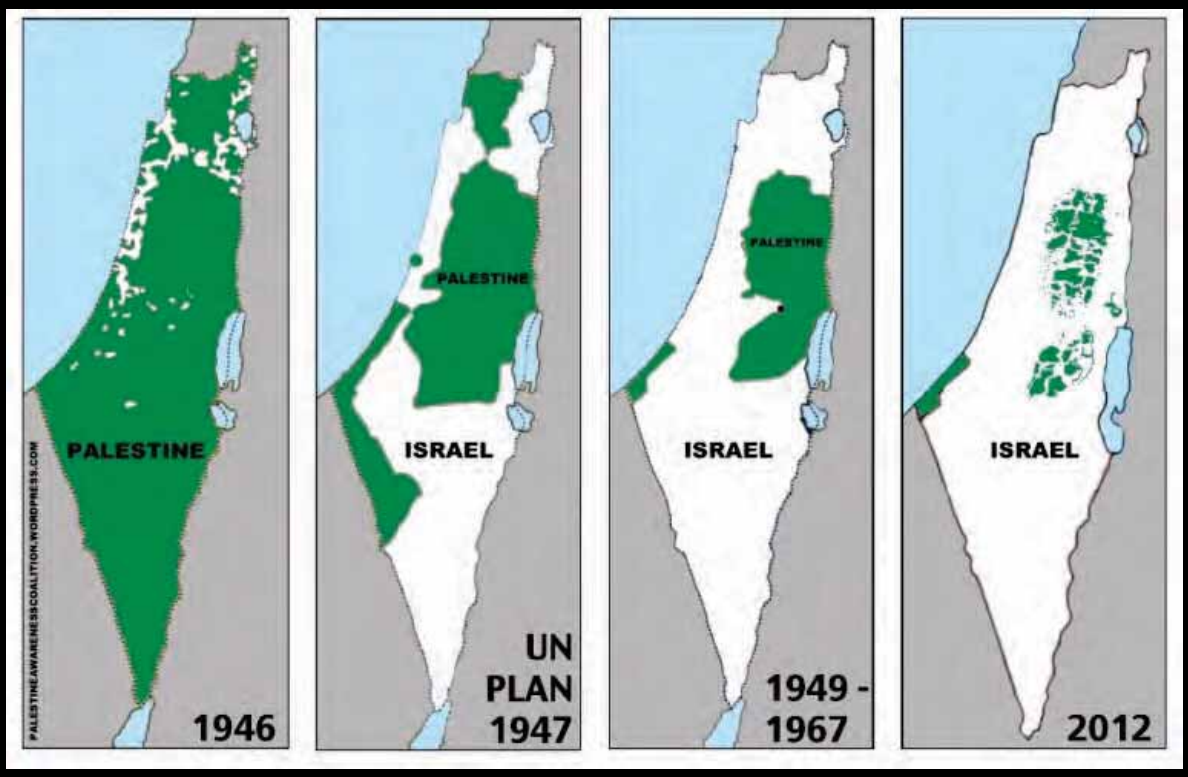




FLASHBACK: CBE AWARDS 2023



Unraveling the Borders of Israel and Palestine Through Time



Posted on December 18, 2023 by Owen Goss on https://blog.

Countries of the World that Recognise the State of Palestine



Wikipedia.com on 24 June 2024

CBE AWARDS 2024

Congress of Business and Economics



SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER