



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

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NEW YORK, 26 OCTOBER 2023

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITEM 5 - ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

I begin my statement today by expressing Liechtenstein's grave condolences to all those affected by the violence both in Israel and Palestine since the attack by Hamas on Israel, on 7 October. In the face of the ongoing escalation on the ground, we are concerned that, despite concerted efforts, the Security Council has as yet been unable to discharge its primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. For those grieving and suffering in Israel and Palestine today, but also for our public back home, its silence is incomprehensible. We welcome the leadership of the Secretary-General Guterres and his personal engagement for the protection of civilians. But the political organs of our organization must not remain silent in a situation where civilians have been victimized at a large scale and remain in a very precarious situation in Gaza. We therefore welcome the opportunity to meet in the format of Emergency Special Session today, including to

consider the Special Report transmitted from the Council in the wake of the veto cast last week, as well as the one we understand will be transmitted as the result of the further double veto yesterday. We encourage you, Mr. President, as you have done before in meetings resulting from a use of the veto, to produce a summary of this meeting for transmission to the Security Council.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein condemns in the strongest possible terms the heinous terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas and other groups, and the massive violations of international humanitarian law they have committed, including mass killings, torture, abduction and hostage taking and the threat of killing of hostages. We join the call for the unconditional and immediate release of all hostages, and express our gratitude to those who contributed to the release of the first four hostages. The firing of rockets from Gaza on civilian targets and the deliberate targeting of civilians are grave violations of international humanitarian law, amounting to war crimes and possibly crimes against humanity. Liechtenstein deplores the massive loss of life. We affirm Israel's right to defend itself and to protect its population - in accordance with international law. We also underline the need for the full respect of international humanitarian law in this massive crisis of the protection of civilians, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality. Any collective response to Hamas's atrocity crimes must place the protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian law at its center. The disturbing number of civilian casualties, many of them children, in Gaza are unacceptable.

Mr. President,

The ongoing investigation of the International Criminal Court into the situation in the State of Palestine has to be an important part of our discussion. Where international humanitarian law is violated at a large scale, accountability is essential. For almost a decade the ICC has had jurisdiction over international crimes committed on the territory of the State of Palestine as well as those committed by Palestine nationals. This investigation has gained an even increased sense of urgency since 7 October, particularly given the need for clarity concerning some of the most disturbing incidents, such as the explosion at the Al-Ahli Hospital which has resulted in massive casualties, the exact number of which yet remains to be determined. We expect concrete action and pronouncements from the ICC Prosecutor.

Mr. President,

The people of Israel and of Palestine have been brought to this point by a cycle of military retaliation and revenge. Civilians have been paying the price in hurt, grief, and loss for failed and self-serving policies of those in power and effective control. Their suffering has reached unprecedented heights in the past weeks, and it must be stopped as soon as possible. A diplomatic solution will be the only way to achieve this goal. We must begin by addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of Palestinians and to work for the unconditional release of all hostages. We support the calls for humanitarian pauses that allow for the full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian assistance. The Government has decided to contribute 100'000 Swiss Francs to the ICRC to support its activities to protect civilians and provide

humanitarian assistance.

Mr. President,

In response to the horrors of the Second World War, the Charter of the United Nations included in its purposes: “To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace”. Liechtenstein reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, which is the only way to ensure the rights and deliver on the aspirations of the Palestinian people – a vision of two States living side-by-side in peace and security, within internationally recognized borders. We commit again to a peace guided by the purposes of our organization.

I thank you.