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MEMORANDUM TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION (DIRCO) AS THE SA BDS COALITION AND ITS AFFILIATE COMMEMORATE THE 74TH ANNUAL NAKBA (CATASTROPHE)

On the 74th anniversary of the Nakba we are once again reminded that the state of Israel is a settler-colonial apartheid state. The dispossession and expulsion of the Palestinian people by the apartheid Israeli state continues, with occupation forces and illegal settlers perpetrating forced removals, land invasions, extra-judicial killing and maiming of Palestinians. Over the last month the world has witnessed the brutal murder of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and attacks on Christian and Muslim Palestinians at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem

Palestinians have been calling for the recognition of Israel's rule as apartheid for several decades. Yesh Din and B'Tselem, Israeli human rights organisations, have called out Israeli apartheid and internationally respected organisations such as Human Rights Watch and, most recently Amnesty International have published detailed reports evidencing Israel's apartheid against Palestinians as a cruel system of domination and crime against humanity.

This adds to the report issued by the South African Human and Sciences Research Council as long ago 2009, eminent South Africans such as international law expert John Dugard and Archbishop Tutu who said that the situation for Palestinians is worse than apartheid in South Africa.

Apartheid is a violation of public international law, a grave violation of internationally protected human rights and a crime against humanity under international criminal law. South Africa knows well from our struggle against apartheid that the international community must play its part in support of the resistance and freedom struggle of the Palestinian people through isolating the pariah Israeli apartheid state.



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This year, we commemorate the 74th year of the Nakba and applaud the Palestinians for their ongoing bravery and resilience in the face of Israeli apartheid. We reaffirm UN General Assembly resolution 37/43 calling for “the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle”.

We resolve to:

- Publicly recognize that international crimes, including the crime of apartheid, are being committed in Israel.
- Support in action and engage with organisations and unions on the call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against apartheid Israel.
- Commit to educational programmes through its structures on the resistance of the Palestinian people to settler-colonialism, racism and apartheid.

We call on the South African Government and regional actors to:

- Recognise Israel as an apartheid state.
- Ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.
- Ensure that South African legal and institutional frameworks are developed and implemented to enable the effective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators including their collaborators in South Africa who aid and abet the crime against humanity of apartheid and consequently prosecute South Africans serving in the IDF under the Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act.
- Support the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement by breaking ties - diplomatic, trade, sporting, cultural and academic - with the Apartheid State of Israel and develop a formative policy on BDS.
- Declare Palestinians visa-free entry.
- Work towards the removal of Israeli accreditation at the AU in contravention of the Constitutive Act of the AU and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights



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- Work towards a UN resolution on Israeli apartheid calling for international sanctions and an arms embargo.
- Condemn Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians and speak out against its cruel system of domination and crimes against humanity.

Representative

Department of International Relations and Cooperation

Representative

SA BDS Coalition

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