



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Tel.: (061) 2829111
Telegram: MINFORA
Fax: (061) 223937/221145/220265
E-mail: ed@mirco.gov.na
Enquiries: B. Amakali

Private Bag 13347
WINDHOEK

22 July 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

NAMIBIA WELCOMES LANDMARK ICJ ADVISORY OPINION ON ISRAELI POLICIES IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

Windhoek, Namibia, 22 July 2024 – The Government of the Republic of Namibia welcomes the landmark advisory opinion delivered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 19 July 2024, addressing the legal consequences of Israel’s policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The Court confirmed that Israel’s occupation and its related policies are illegal, discriminatory, and violate the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Namibia’s involvement in this case was driven by her own unique and painful history of racial discrimination and apartheid, and her belief in the ICJ’s role in establishing a secure legal basis for a lasting political settlement.

In line with Namibia’s arguments, the ICJ made several key findings:

- **Illegal Annexation:** The ICJ stated that Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, along with the proclamation of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, are in violation of international law. These actions also violate rules on self-determination and the prohibition against the acquisition of territory by force.
- **Apartheid and Racial Segregation:** The Court agreed with Namibia’s arguments that Israeli policies are similar to South Africa’s apartheid-era Bantustan policies. Israel’s policies, including residence permits and movement restrictions, create a near-complete separation between settlers and Palestinians. This breaches the prohibition of apartheid and racial segregation under international law.
- **Right to Self-Determination:** The ICJ found that Israel’s actions, such as annexing large parts of Palestinian territory, imposing discriminatory laws, restricting movement, and exploiting natural resources, violate the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination.

- As a consequence, the Court found that, **Israel** must immediately end its presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, stop new settlement activities, repeal discriminatory laws, and compensate for damages. Israel must also respect Palestinian self-determination and comply with international law. **All States** must work with the UN to end Israel's illegal presence, refuse to recognise changes imposed by Israel in the occupied territory, and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law. **The United Nations** and its member organizations must not recognise Israel's illegal presence, distinguish in their dealings between Israel and the occupied territory, and take further action to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Reacting to the judgement, Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, expressed his desire to see the international community using the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, to follow through with this seminal advisory opinion of the World Court and ensure compliance in a manner that shows full regard for international law and international judicial organs.

Namibia remains fully committed to the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination. We commend the ICJ for its thorough examination of the facts and the law and urge the international community to support the rights of the Palestinian people and work towards peace in the region. Namibia also calls on the UN General Assembly, in tandem with the Security Council, to work expeditiously to outline practical steps to end the illegal occupation in line with the advisory opinion.

MEDIA INFORMATION NOTE:

The advisory opinion was requested by the UN General Assembly through resolution A/RES/77/247 on 30 December 2022. Namibia's written submissions were deposited with the ICJ in July 2023 and were followed by oral submissions during public hearings in The Hague in February 2024. Namibia's participation in this case was a joint effort of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation and the Ministry of Justice, with support from the late President Hage Geingob. Key contributions were made by Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Hon. Yvonne Dausab, MP, alongside Professor Phoebe Okowa as legal counsel.

This advisory opinion case is distinct from the ongoing case concerning the *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel) - Provisional Measures* regarding Israel's conduct in the current Israel-Hamas war which has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip.

END/

ISSUED BY:
PENNA NAANDA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR