

SOUTHERN AFRICA LITIGATION CENTRE

29 November 2022

Honourable António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

Your Excellency, Secretary General

Subject: Re-Commitment to the Unwavering Solidarity of Peoples of Palestine by Civil Society Organisations in Africa on the International Day of Solidarity, the Palestinian People

On 14 September 2022, the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) submitted a [joint statement](#) highlighting, amongst others, the attack on civil society organisations in Palestine by qualifying them as a ‘terrorist organisation’. About 130 African human rights organisations undersigned this statement. While the attack on civil society organisations has been continuing, and there has been no response from you or your office, we call on you again to take determined action to end the tyranny of oppressing those who stand up for human rights.

SALC is deeply concerned about the situation in Palestine and the attempt to shrink the civic space. As a human rights organisation that promotes and advances human rights and the rule of law, we stand in solidarity with the people and our colleagues of Palestine.

However, as the world stands together with the people of Palestine today, solidarity can only be the first step. The people of Palestine need more than our solidarity. The need for decisive action by the international community and the United Nations has never been more crucial. The closure of civic spaces is only one symptom of how oppressive regimes attempt to maintain their power. It is in that spirit that we call upon you to echo the voices of civil society organisations on this matter, including the 130 African human rights organisations that have signed the statement from 14 September 2022.

For a world free of oppression and inequality, it calls for everyone to act for the common good and protect the ones in need. This climate of fear and repression calls for swift action on a bilateral and multilateral level. Therefore, we call on the United Nations to transform today’s International Day of Solidarity into action to protect human rights and human rights defenders.

Yours faithfully



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