

International Criminal Court Sends Team to Assess Israeli Justice System



The Hague, September 5 (RHC)-- An International Criminal Court (ICC) team is to visit the Palestinian territories to examine the competence of the Israeli “justice” system to investigate the regime’s deadly 2014 war on Gaza.

Should The Hague-based court deem the Israeli judicial authorities incapable of conducting or unwilling to perform a decent investigation of the war, the tribunal would take the matter into its own hands.

An Israeli official reported that the ICC working group would arrive in the territories “soon,” according to a report from AFP, the French news agency. The official said the visit — which is to take place at the request of ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda — was intended to probe “how the Israeli judicial system works.”

The Israeli army recently released a statement saying it closed 13 criminal investigations into cases of violations against Palestinian civilians by Israeli soldiers during the war without imposing any punitive measures.

The ICC has been considering a visit to the Palestinian territories for more than a year since Palestinian authorities raised a complaint about war crimes committed in the Gaza war and Tel Aviv's ongoing construction of illegal settlements on occupied lands.

The official did not specify if the team would be given access to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by Israeli authorities.

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