

Palestine Vows Cooperation with International Criminal Court on Israeli Crimes



Ramallah, January 19 (RHC)-- The Palestinian Authority says it will fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) after The Hague-based body's announcement of an initial investigation into Israel's war crimes against Palestinians.

Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki hailed the move as "historic," adding that Palestinians would provide the ICC with "whatever information, documents and testimonies it needs to prove that there were crimes committed against the Palestinian people." He made the comments in an interview with Palestinian newspaper, al-Ayyam.

The ICC prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, said she would conduct the examination in "full independence and impartiality" into the Tel Aviv regime's war crimes in the besieged Gaza Strip.

During the latest Israeli war on the coastal enclave, which ended in August 2014 through an Egypt-brokered truce, more than 2,140 Palestinians, including 577 children were killed. Over 11,100 others, including 3,374 children, 2,088 women and 410 elderly people, were wounded.

The Palestinians also want the ICC to investigate Israel's illegal construction activities in the occupied Palestinian territories. More than half a million Israelis live in over 120 illegal settlements built since Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank including East Jerusalem in 1967.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said in a statement that he rejects the "scandalous" ICC decision to launch the probe, claiming that the court has no jurisdiction over Palestine as it is not a state.

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