

21 March 2016

Good Morning

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Dear Mr. President

Today, South Africa commemorates Human Rights day. A reminder of our hard fought struggle against apartheid.

I bear the burden of submitting to the Human Rights Council of the atrocities that are being committed by the most abominable occupying force this world has ever known.

In 2015, according to Israeli Prison Services own statistics:

1. The last quarter of 2015 saw a marked rise in the number of Palestinians in Israeli custody, including administrative detainees, women and minors:

At the end of 2015, 6,066 Palestinians were being held on contentious security grounds, the highest number since July 2010.

[This includes 584 administrative detainees - the most since September 2008; 422 minors - the most since August 2008 and 44 women - the most since September 2009.]

2. Home confinement has also been imposed: Chairman of Prisoners Families Committee of Jerusalem "*home confinement is the worst thing to happen to Jerusalemite children where they are deprived of freedom of movement and going to school*".
3. Home confinement for children violates the International Declaration of Children Rights of 1959, and the Child Rights Convention with reference to articles 3 and 39 respectively prohibiting torture, arbitrary arrest and/or detention and restriction of movement.

Comparative apartheid and violation of Prisoners rights

It is incontrovertible that Israel has legislated discriminatory practises and institutionalised racism constituting apartheid. Israel's administrative detention can be compared to SA's former 90 day detention without trial

Apartheid violates enshrined principles in the bill of rights, offends constitutional and democratic principles and the values espoused in the universal declaration of human rights, treaties, conventions and international law.

In conclusion, I hereby tender the undermentioned proposals for justice to victims and the upholding of enshrined universal human rights:

1. This Council adopts that that there are apartheid practices in the detention, treatment and processing of Palestinian prisoners and children. Hence, there are grave breaches of the *International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid*, "*inhuman acts resulting from the policy of apartheid*" are qualified as crimes against humanity
2. Israel unconditionally and immediately release all prisoners and child prisoners held unlawfully under international law, provide adequate compensation for rehabilitation and conform to principles of due process in accordance with the tenets of international law.
3. Israel immediately cease home confinement and its administrative military detention policy and other inhumane and unjust practises like torture, sexual abuse violation against the (Torture Convention), collective punishment and destruction of homes of detainees which are all inconsistent with international and international humanitarian law.
4. This Council exercise its powers in so far as calling Israel to account for crimes it commits with impunity in contravention of international law and for the referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to exercise jurisdiction and/or the establishment of a War Crimes Tribunal.
5. A declaration that torture of children and Palestinians held in Israeli prisons constitute crimes against humanity and a full disclosure of the names and identities by the Israeli Prison Service and /or its relevant Authorities of the perpetrators of these crimes who must be held accountable under international law.