

Filistin'e Özgürlük



FAO: Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Dear Mr President,

We are currently witnessing the most brutal, most harrowing act of occupation of the 21st century. In its judgement on the trial brought by South Africa against Israel for crimes of genocide, the International Court of Justice in the Hague stated that “at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa and for which it is seeking protection are plausible.”

The millions of people throughout the world who have stood up to call for an end to the destruction, death, torture and terror experienced by the people of Gaza for months are aware of the importance of this decision taken in The Hague. Yet we know that such judgements will not stop Israel. Because everything we have witnessed tells us that, unless more effective steps are taken, the violence we have witnessed in Israel’s savage attacks since October will not end of its own accord. As the attacks, destruction and displacement continue, the number of lives lost in Gaza has risen to 30,228.

Those in Israel’s war cabinet are angered by accusations of genocide, yet just one week ago Israeli forces mercilessly opened fire on Palestinians as they tried to collect food aid brought to northern Gaza. This was nothing less than a massacre: 107 people lost their lives, 706 were injured. According to the World Health Organisation, the Israeli armed forces killed another 193 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the last 24 hours, and ten children in Gaza have died of starvation.

Mr President,

On 18 February, you gave a statement in which you said, “What is happening in the Gaza Strip with the Palestinian people has no parallel in other historical moments. In fact, it did exist when Hitler decided to kill the Jews.” We believe that this statement holds great importance, as it represents a significant display of solidarity with the people of Gaza, and is a critical step towards unveiling the attempted genocide that the war ministers of the State of Israel try to excuse by hiding behind the crime of genocide committed by the Nazis. You went on to take another important step by saying that what is happening in Palestine “is not a war it is a genocide”, and you made one of the most concrete displays of solidarity with the people of Gaza by recalling your ambassador to Israel and summoning the Israeli ambassador to Brazil for talks, a step through which you showed your willingness to disrupt diplomatic relations with a perpetrator of genocide while showing no concern for the reactions of the great

imperial powers that support Israel. We have no doubt that this concrete step towards isolating Israel from global politics will go down in history.

These steps you have taken, which undoubtedly further kindled sentiments of solidarity with Gaza, stirring the workers and peoples of Brazil to action, led to Israel declaring you *persona non grata*. We call upon all heads of state, presidents and prime ministers who are on the side of humanity to stand with you in solidarity.

We know that, particularly at a time such as this, you will wear Israel's declaration of you as *persona non grata* as a medal of peace for your stance against the occupation and genocide. For the people of Gaza, for the relatives of all the people, children and elderly who have been killed, for those who are trapped in the region of Rafah, suffering in pain and hunger as they await Israel's new wave of terror, you are a person who, in the name of those you represent, has displayed a concrete act of solidarity.

In the name of all the people throughout the world who stand against war, in the name of the people in Turkey who oppose the occupation and who, since October, have led a campaign of solidarity with the people of Gaza and who defend a free Palestine, we offer our thanks to you and to all Brazilians whose hearts beat with Gaza.

Free Palestine Platform Coordination Committee
5 March 2024, Istanbul

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