



Submission to the Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights

In response to the request for submissions on military activities and toxics:

Israel's genocide and ecocide: military destruction of Palestinian life and environment

1 April 2025

Submission by Al-Haq

Al-Haq is an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in Ramallah, West Bank. Established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the organisation has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Al-Haq documents violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians in the OPT, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, and seeks to end such breaches by way of advocacy before national and international mechanisms and by holding the violators accountable. The organisation conducts research; prepares reports, studies and interventions on breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law in the OPT; and undertakes advocacy before local, regional and international bodies. Al-Haq also cooperates with Palestinian civil society organisations and governmental institutions in order to ensure that international human rights standards are reflected in Palestinian law and policies. The organisation has a specialised international law library for the use of its staff and the local community.

Al-Haq is the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists - Geneva and is a member of the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net), the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), the Palestinian Human Rights Organisations Council (PRHOC), and the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO).

I. Background

The United Nations (UN) predicted that Gaza would be unlivable by 2020, owing to the ongoing siege and blockade of the Gaza Strip, forcing rapid urbanization of a captive population with a high population density and no space to move, and causing the collapse of crucial water and infrastructure systems.¹ However, Israel's genocide has accelerated the unlivable nature of Gaza beyond prediction. Between October 2023 and November 2024, the Israeli military dropped 85 thousand tonnes of explosives on the Gaza Strip, exceeding the amount of bombs dropped during the entirety of World War II.² By bombing Gaza at an unprecedented rate of scale and intensity,

¹ GA/SHC/4242, *Gaza "Unliveable," UN Special Rapporteur for the Situation of Human Rights in the OPT Tells Third Committee*, (24 Oct. 2018), <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-unliveable-un-special-rapporteur-for-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-opt-tells-third-committee-press-release-excerpts/#:~:text=In%20fact%2C%20the%20United%20Nations,immediate%20end%20to%20this%20disaster.>

² "Environmental Quality Authority:" *The occupation dropped more than 85 thousand tons of bombs on the Gaza Strip*, Al-Quds (6 Nov. 2024), <https://www.alquds.com/en/posts/140890>.

Israel's genocide has devastated Palestinian life and the environment by deliberately inflicting conditions to bring about their destruction.³

Prior to 7 October 2023, Israel's six previous military aggressions – exacerbated by an illegal military occupation and an ongoing 17-year-blockade and siege, and fragmented by Israel's discriminatory apartheid of the Gaza Strip⁴ – caused severe devastation to Gaza's environment and health. In particular, during Operation Cast Lead (2008-2009) and Operation Protective Edge (2014), Israel caused serious damage to Gaza's wastewater treatment infrastructure.⁵ The Israeli occupation imposes restrictions on access to and control over natural resources throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including water.⁶ Israeli-imposed electricity cuts and fuel restrictions severely crippled Gaza's sanitation services, forcing 108,000 cubic meters of untreated sewage to be released from Gaza into the Mediterranean Sea per day,⁷ creating a severe, and occasionally deadly, environmental hazard.⁸ As of 2018, approximately 97 percent of the already-scarce water available in Gaza was unfit for human consumption.⁹ Gaza's extreme population density of 2.3 million Palestinians in 365 square kilometers leads to the high-risk of water-spread diseases, which is a leading cause of child mortality in Gaza.¹⁰

³ *Genocide Scholars and 100 Palestinian and International Civil Society Organisations Call on Prosecutor Khan to Issue Arrest Warrants, Investigate Israeli Crimes and Intervene to Deter Incitement to Commit Genocide in Gaza*, Al-Haq (20 Oct. 2023), <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/21946.html>; *Palestinian Human Rights Organisations urge UN Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect, that Immediate and Effective Measures are Needed as Genocide is Unfolding in the Gaza Strip*, Al-Haq (2 Dec. 2023), <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22282.html>; *How to Hide a Genocide: The Role of Evacuation Orders and Safe Zones in Israel's Genocidal Campaign in Gaza*, Al-Haq (1 Jan. 2025), <https://www.alhaq.org/publications/25781.html>; *The Systematic Destruction of Gaza's Healthcare System: A Pattern of Genocide*, Al-Haq (23 Jan. 2025), <https://www.alhaq.org/publications/25846.html>.

⁴ See Legal Consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, Advisory Opinion, 2024 ICJ (19 July); Al-Haq, 'Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism' (2022), <https://www.alhaq.org/publications/20940.html>;

⁵ Operation Protective Edge inflicted \$34 million in damages to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in Gaza. Shira Efron, Jordan R. Fischbach, & Giulia Giordano, *Gaza's Water and Sanitation Crisis: The Implications for Public Health*, (14 Feb. 2018), https://www.rand.org/pubs/external_publications/EP67494.html; Saba Azeem, *CASE 4. Essential infrastructure: The targeting of wastewater plants in Gaza*, PAX (5 Aug. 2014), https://protectionofcivilians.org/wp-content/uploads/reports/PAX_POC_BOOK_CASE04_SINGLE_PAGES_FINAL-1.pdf.

⁶ A/HRC/34/39, para. 57.

⁷ *Gaza Ten Years Later*, UN Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory (July 2017), p. 20, https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/gaza_10_years_later_-_11_july_2017.pdf.

⁸ *Gaza Ten Years Later*, UN Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory (July 2017), p. 20, https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/gaza_10_years_later_-_11_july_2017.pdf.

⁹ *GVC and UNICEF help improve access to water in the Gaza Strip*, UNICEF (5 Apr. 2018), <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/gvc-and-unicef-help-improve-access-water-gaza-strip>

¹⁰ A/HRC/48/43, para. 59 <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/the-allocation-of-water-resources-in-the-opt-including-east-jerusalem-report-of-the-united-nations-high-commissioner-for-human-rights-advance-unedited-version-a-hrc-48-43/>; *Gaza's Water and Sanitation Crisis: The Implications for Public Health*, *supra*, fn 5; *Protecting Children from Unsafe Water in Gaza: Strategy, Action Plan and Project Resources*, UNICEF (March 2011), <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-193011/>.

Israel's repeated military aggressions and intense bombardment of the Gaza Strip since 2008 has not only poisoned the soil and groundwater, but has also caused a heightened rate of birth defects among children.¹¹ The crippling blockade and siege prevents access to heavy machinery to clear rubble, essential equipment for drilling, and tools for water purification through the imposition of a restrictive "dual-use" policy.¹² Due to the inability of Palestinians to be able to effectively clear the rubble and rebuild, many families are forced to live alongside the rubble and in partially destroyed or damaged homes, leaving them at risk of prolonged exposure to pulverized building materials (PBMs) and heavy metal exposure from concrete rubble.¹³ Long-term exposure to dust particulates poses serious health risks, including cancer.¹⁴ A UNEP assessment in 2009 found rubble was contaminated with hazardous waste, in particular, asbestos.¹⁵ In 2018-2019, the only environmental associations found for birth defects and preterm deliveries in Gaza was exposure of the mother to military attacks, confirming the long-term effects these have on reproductive health. Indeed, evidence shows that contamination *in utero* of newborns was associated with their mother's exposure to attacks that had occurred two years earlier.¹⁶

Finally, Israel's weapons industry – primarily Elbit Systems, Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) – relies on marketing and selling weapons to international buyers as "battle-tested" against the Palestinian population.¹⁷ Indeed, since 7 October 2023, Israel has developed and tested new weaponry on the Palestinian population in Gaza, raising questions as to what the long-term impacts these new weapons will have on the environment and Palestinian health, as the international community continues to fail to put Israel's crimes to an end and impose accountability.¹⁸

¹¹ Awny Naim, Hedaya Al Dalies, Mohammed El Balawi, et. al., *Birth defects in Gaza: prevalence, types, familiarity and correlation with environmental factors*, Int'l J. Environ. Res. Public Health, (May 2012), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22754469/>.

¹² Gisha, Controlled Dual Use Items - List, https://gisha.org/UserFiles/File/LegalDocuments/procedures/merchandise/170_2_EN.pdf.

¹³ Andy Garrity, *Rebuilding Gaza and the need to assess TRW risks*, Conflict and Environment Observatory (9 Jan. 2015), <https://ceobs.org/rebuilding-gaza-and-the-need-to-assess-trw-risks/>.

¹⁴ Andy Garrity, *Conflict rubble: a ubiquitous and under-studied toxic remnant of war*, Conflict and Environment Observatory (10 July 2014), <https://ceobs.org/conflict-rubble-a-ubiquitous-and-under-studied-toxic-remnant-of-war/>.

¹⁵ Environmental Assessment of the Gaza Strip, following the escalation of hostilities in December 2008 – January 2009, UNEP (Sept. 2009) p. 12, https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/8736/UNEP_Gaza_EA.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=1.

¹⁶ Paola Manduca, Nabil Al Baraqui, & Stefano Parodi, *Long Term Risks to Neonatal Health from Exposure to War-9 Years Long Survey of Reproductive Health and Contamination by Weapon-Delivered Heavy Metals in Gaza, Palestine*, Int'l J. Environ. Res. Public Health (8 Apr. 2020), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32276325/>.

¹⁷ Yavuz Aydin, *Anadolu lists weapons tested by Israeli military in Gaza massacre*, Anadolu Ajansi (18 Feb. 2024), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/anadolu-lists-weapons-tested-by-israeli-military-in-gaza-massacre/3141360>; Paddy Dowling, *Dirty secret of Israel's weapons exports: They're tested on Palestinians*, Al Jazeera (17 Nov. 2023), <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>; Field Tested: Elbit Systems, Visualizing Palestine, <https://visualizingpalestine.org/visual/field-tested-elbit-systems/>.

¹⁸ Yavuz Aydin, *Anadolu lists weapons tested by Israeli military in Gaza massacre*, Anadolu Ajansi (18 Feb. 2024), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/anadolu-lists-weapons-tested-by-israeli-military-in-gaza-massacre/3141360>; Paddy Dowling, *Dirty secret of Israel's weapons exports: They're tested on Palestinians*, Al Jazeera (17 Nov. 2023),

II. Israel's genocide is causing severe environmental destruction in the Gaza Strip

Israel is bombing the Gaza Strip at an unprecedented rate of scale and intensity in a genocidal campaign that is intentionally killing Palestinians, causing serious bodily and mental harm including life-altering injuries, preventing births within the group, creating conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of Palestinians, using starvation as a weapon of war, and collectively punishing an entire population.¹⁹ Between 7 October 2023 and early 2024, Israel dropped over 25,000 tonnes of explosives on Gaza – equivalent to two nuclear bombs.²⁰ In just over a year, between 7 October 2023 and November 2024, the Israeli military dropped 85 thousand tonnes of explosives on the Gaza Strip, exceeding the amount of bombs dropped in the entirety of World War II.²¹

Israel's unprecedented bombing of the Gaza Strip is not only killing Palestinians, but the environment as well. According to the UN, Israel's bombing and deliberate destruction of Gaza has produced 14 times more rubble than all other military aggressions on Gaza *combined* since 2008.²² Conflict debris contains unexploded ordinance and unexploded bombs (UXOs) and human remains, released in an uncontrolled manner impacting a wide area.²³ It is estimated that Israel's decimation of buildings and infrastructure in Gaza since October 2023 has produced more than 39 million tonnes of rubble, which contains hazardous materials, including household chemicals, pharmaceuticals, disinfectants, laboratory chemicals, and pesticides.²⁴ It is estimated that it will take five years and around USD \$647-513 million to clear the debris from key infrastructure and

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>; Matt Kennard, *The Cruel Experiments of Israel's Arms Industry*, Pulitzer Center (28 Dec. 2016), <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/cruel-experiments-israels-arms-industry>.

¹⁹ A/HRC/58/CRP.6, "More than a human can bear": *Israel's systematic use of sexual, reproductive and other forms of gender-based violence since 7 October 2023*, Indpdt. Int'l Comm. of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (13 Mar. 2025); Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (*South Africa v. Israel*), Provisional Measures, 2024 ICJ (Jan-May); Palestinian human rights organisations condemn Israel's continued use of starvation as a weapon of genocide, Al-Haq (11 Mar. 2025), <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/26047.html>.]

²⁰ GA/SPD/826, *Fourth Committee Highlights Continuing Destruction in Gaza, Heightened Settler Violence, Emphasizing Need for Ceasefire, End to Illegal Occupation*, (18 Nov. 2024), <https://press.un.org/en/2024/gaspd826.doc.htm>.

²¹ "Environmental Quality Authority:" *The occupation dropped more than 85 thousand tons of bombs on the Gaza Strip*, Al-Quds (6 Nov. 2024), <https://www.alquds.com/en/posts/140890>.

²² *Gaza: Debris Generated by The Current Conflict Is 14 Times More Than the Combined Sum of All Debris Generated by Other Conflicts Since 2008*, UNITAR (Aug. 2024) <https://unitar.org/about/news-stories/news/gaza-debris-generated-current-conflict-14-times-more-combined-sum-all-debris-generated-other>.

²³ Environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza, UNEP (2024) p. 23-30, https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/environmental_impact_conflict_Gaza.pdf.

²⁴ Environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza, UNEP (2024) p. 27, https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/environmental_impact_conflict_Gaza.pdf.

roads networks.²⁵ Removal and disposal of all debris may take up to 15 years assuming the availability of a reasonable level of heavy machinery, which as stated before, is unavailable in Gaza due to the restrictive dual use list.²⁶ Most alarmingly, UNEP's 2024 analysis estimated at least 800,000 tons of debris in Gaza may be contaminated with asbestos.²⁷ Thus, Palestinians are potentially exposed to severe long-term health consequences as a result of Israel's mass destruction of the Gaza Strip.

III. Israeli weapons industry and use of chemical weapons causes extensive human suffering

Israel has deployed white phosphorus against the Palestinian population in Gaza in violation of international law. White phosphorus ignites upon contact with oxygen, producing a dense white smoke that can reach up to 800 degrees Celsius.²⁸ While white phosphorus is not outlawed as a chemical weapon on its own, its use is strictly prohibited in densely populated areas under the international legal principles of distinction, necessity, and proportionality, as the incendiary weapon which burns through human skin and bone causes extensive human suffering and risk to civilians.²⁹ Israel has repeatedly deployed white phosphorus in Gaza and Lebanon in densely populated urban areas.³⁰

A 2012 study found higher rates of major structural birth defects among children in Gaza whose parents had survived Israeli deployment of white phosphorus.³¹ Contaminants and heavy metals from weaponry, including white phosphorus, remain in the environment in high concentrations over time, and can spread into soil and water impacting fishing, agriculture, and livestock, traveling up the food chain to consumers.³²

²⁵ Environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza, UNEP (2024) p. 27, https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/environmental_impact_conflict_Gaza.pdf.

²⁶ Environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza, UNEP (2024) p. 27, https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/environmental_impact_conflict_Gaza.pdf.

²⁷ Environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza, UNEP (2024) p. 27, https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/environmental_impact_conflict_Gaza.pdf.

²⁸ <https://corruption-tracker.org/blog/behind-the-smoke-the-unlawful-use-of-white-phosphorus>

²⁹ Protocol III of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons outlines restrictions on incendiary weapons, yet the manufacture and use of white phosphorus is not explicitly illegal. See Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III). Geneva, 10 October 1980, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/ccw-protocol-iii-1980>.

³⁰ *Rain of Fire: Israel's Unlawful Use of White Phosphorus in Gaza*, HRW (25 Mar. 2009), <https://www.hrw.org/video-photos/video/2009/03/25/rain-fire-israels-unlawful-use-white-phosphorus-gaza>; *Israel: White Phosphorus Used in Gaza, Lebanon*, HRW (12 Oct. 2023), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/12/israel-white-phosphorus-used-gaza-lebanon>.

Three companies produce the majority of the world's white phosphorus: Israel Chemical Limited (ICL), Monsanto (Bayer), and Pine Bluff Arsenal. All three are located along the Mississippi River in the United States.

³¹ Awny Naim, Hedaya Al Dalies, Mohammed El Balawi, et. al., *Birth defects in Gaza: prevalence, types, familiarity and correlation with environmental factors*, *supra*, fn 11.

³² PAX for Peace, *War and Garbage in Gaza*, (18 July 2024), p. 7, <https://paxforpeace.nl/publications/war-and-garbage-in-gaza/>; Samira Alaani, Muhammed Tafash, Christopher Busby, et. al., *Uranium and other contaminants*

Furthermore, several doctors operating in Gaza since October 2023 have reported observing and treating patients with weapons-inflicted injuries they had never seen before. Dr. Nabeel al-Shawa, a consultant orthopedic surgeon who has worked in Gaza since 1978, stated that the “new rounds the Israeli army used caused injuries I have never seen before. In some cases the limb appeared intact, however, during surgery, I could not distinguish between bone and soft tissue.”³³ Medical teams throughout Gaza also reported that they “observed severe burns on the bodies of Palestinians who were killed and wounded by Israel’s bombs – whether caused by an unknown weapon or not – [and it] is something they have not seen in previous conflicts.”³⁴ Dr. Ahmed el-Mokhallalati from the burn and plastic surgery division at Al-Shifa Hospital described the wounds as “very deep – third and fourth-degree burns, and the skin tissue is impregnated with black particles and most of the skin thickness and all the layers underneath are burned down to the bone.”³⁵

Israel’s military industry sales frequently skirt international monitoring. According to Amnesty International, “with no documentation of sales, one cannot know when [these arms] were sold, by which company, how many and so on.”³⁶ As such, Israel has exported weapons to other regimes around the world, including apartheid-era South Africa, Rwanda during the genocide, El Salvador during the civil war 1980-1992, to the Serbian army during the Bosnian genocide, Azerbaijan in its campaign to capture Nagorno-Karabakh, and Myanmar during the Rohingya genocide and in violation of a 2017 international arms embargo against the country.³⁷ Marketed as “battle-tested” against the Palestinian population, Israeli weapons export figures have doubled over the past decade totaling \$12.5 billion in 2022.³⁸

Furthermore, States continue to deal in arms trade with Israel, despite the purchase and sale of weapons to and from Israel being in violation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which prohibits the sale of weapons at risk of being used in genocide and crimes against humanity. While Israel is not a member of the ATT, 116 States are parties to the treaty, including the UK, Denmark,

in hair from the parents of children with congenital anomalies in Fallujah, Iraq, Conflict & Health (2 Sept. 2011), <https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1752-1505-5-15>.

³³ Paddy Dowling, *Dirty secret of Israel’s weapons exports: They’re tested on Palestinians*, Al Jazeera (17 Nov. 2023), <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>;

³⁴ Paddy Dowling, *Dirty secret of Israel’s weapons exports: They’re tested on Palestinians*, Al Jazeera (17 Nov. 2023), <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>;

³⁵ Paddy Dowling, *Dirty secret of Israel’s weapons exports: They’re tested on Palestinians*, Al Jazeera (17 Nov. 2023), <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>;

³⁶ Paddy Dowling, *Dirty secret of Israel’s weapons exports: They’re tested on Palestinians*, Al Jazeera (17 Nov. 2023), <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>; Amnesty Report: *Israeli companies export weapons to countries that systematically violate human rights*, Amnesty International (21 May 2019), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/2019/05/21/amnesty-report-israeli-companies-export-weapons/>.

³⁷ Paddy Dowling, *Dirty secret of Israel’s weapons exports: They’re tested on Palestinians*, Al Jazeera (17 Nov. 2023), <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>.

³⁸ Paddy Dowling, *Dirty secret of Israel’s weapons exports: They’re tested on Palestinians*, Al Jazeera (17 Nov. 2023), <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>.

Germany, and the Netherlands, which continue to engage in trade or production of weapons and weapons parts for use by the Israeli military in violation of the ATT and the obligation to prevent the crime of genocide.

IV. Conclusion: Israel's Genocide Includes the Crime of Ecocide

Israel's destruction of Gaza's environment must be understood in the larger context of the genocide and Israel's stated intention to destroy the existence of the Palestinian people as a group.³⁹ Furthermore, by creating an unlivable environment that deprives the Palestinian people of their right to live in a clean and healthy environment,⁴⁰ Israel is continuing to kill, dispossess, and displace Palestinians from their land, perpetuating over 76 years of settler colonialism, decades of apartheid, and an ongoing *Nakba*. Israel has caused widespread, severe, and potentially irreversible damage to Gaza's natural environment, in particular to the soil, groundwater, and coastal waters in the Mediterranean Sea. As it stands, international criminal law, the Rome Statute, and the crime of genocide fail to capture the severity of Israel's crime of total devastation of the environment in Gaza, necessitating the inclusion of ecocide in the definition of genocide.

Israel continues to operate with total impunity due to third States continuing to engage in weapons trade with Israel in violation of the ATT and the negative legal obligation to not aid and abet genocide. Furthermore, Protocol III of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons does not go far enough due to its failure to list white phosphorus among prohibited chemical weapons. The total failure of the international community to put an end to genocide will have lasting detrimental consequences on the Palestinian people and the Palestinian environment for generations to come.

V. Recommendations for the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics:

- The duty to prevent genocide rests upon the entire international community. Environmental and toxic remediation cannot take place under constant killing, bombardment, and blockade, unlawful occupation, apartheid and genocide.

³⁹ Israeli authorities have repeatedly stated their intention to deprive Gaza's population of food, water, and fuel, acts which have resulted in the predictable and intended killing of Palestinians via the infliction of "conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction" of the group. Moreover, there is overwhelming direct and indirect evidence that Israeli authorities perpetrated this conduct with the specific intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza, as such. South Africa's submission to the ICJ extensively documents genocidal and dehumanizing rhetoric by Israeli officials against Palestinians in Gaza, providing direct evidence of genocidal intent. *See* S/2024/419/, Annex to the Letter dated 29 May 2024 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, UN Security Council; Al-Haq, Statements by Israeli Officials, Soldiers and Civil Society on Genocide (10 Jan. 2024), <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/22498.html>.

⁴⁰ *The Systematic Destruction of Gaza's Healthcare System: A Pattern of Genocide*, Al-Haq (23 Jan. 2025), <https://www.alhaq.org/publications/25846.html>.

- The Special Rapporteur should raise attention to the specific role of military activities and toxics in this genocide and must call on States and corporations to cease aiding and abetting Israel's genocide and illegal occupation and apartheid.
- Third States must take tangible and specific action to put an end to Israel's genocide, dismantle Israel's settler colonial apartheid regime, end the illegal occupation, and blockade, including taking action to remediate the toxic impact of Israel's illegal actions, supplying clean water and sanitation supplies and infrastructure among other essential humanitarian aid, and conduct studies on the extent of environmental harm to the Palestinian people and land caused by Israel.
- The Special Rapporteur and international community must call on Israel to provide reparations for the human and environmental harms.
- Israel's abuse of white phosphorus highlights weaknesses of Protocol III of the Convention on Conventional Weapons and problematic international armament practices.⁴¹
 - The Special Rapporteur and international community should call for amending Protocol III of the Convention to prohibit munitions with incendiary effects altogether, including white phosphorus.
 - Given Israel's record of repeatedly using white phosphorus in densely populated areas with impunity and in clear violation of the distinction, necessity, and proportionality principles of IHL.
 - The three main corporations that supply white phosphorus should be sanctioned and prevented from producing and selling the weapon, especially to Israel and States which commit grave violations in its use. The three corporations are: Israel Chemical Limited (ICL), Monsanto (Bayer), and Pine Bluff Arsenal.⁴²
- Given the potential toxic remnants from unexploded ordnance in Gaza, and the buildup of such in the Gaza Strip, causing irreparable harm to the Palestinian people and environment, the Special Rapporteur should recommend:
 - That Israel end its military hostilities in Gaza with immediate effect and call for a full and immediate withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian territory, ensuring the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people
- The unprecedented scale of environmental damage in Gaza reveals the inadequacy of environmental protections in international criminal law. For atrocities of this magnitude, a new international crime must be outlined: the crime of ecocide.
 - The Special Rapporteur should call on and support the international community in adding the crime of ecocide into the Rome Statute.

⁴¹ "They Burn Through Everything," *The Human Cost of Incendiary Weapons and the Limits of International Law*, Human Rights Watch (9 Nov. 2020), <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/11/09/they-burn-through-everything/human-cost-incendiary-weapons-and-limits#:~:text=The%2045%2Dpage%20report%2C%20E2%80%9C.by%20parties%20to%20recent%20conflicts.>

⁴² Jack Cinamon, *Behind the Smoke: The Unlawful Use of White Phosphorus*, Corruption Tracker: Documenting Corruption in the Arms Trade (1 Feb. 2024), <https://corruption-tracker.org/blog/behind-the-smoke-the-unlawful-use-of-white-phosphorus.>

- Call on the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to include crimes committed by Israeli political and military leaders in destroying the environment in Palestine, to prevent the survival of the Palestinian people, as an act of genocide.