

WHEREAS: Palestinians have experienced an escalating genocide since their dispossession and occupation in 1948.

WHEREAS: Palestinian prisoners have been held in abominable conditions governed by an illegal and illegitimate military court system considered evidence of apartheid, which has a 96% conviction rate, based largely on 'confessions' extracted under duress and torture during interrogations.

Whereas the National Lawyers Guild's Palestine Subcommittee has long been involved in the issue of Palestinian prisoners, including issuing a report in 2014 entitled "**Prisoners of Injustice**" written by our delegation to Palestine which found, *inter alia*, that administrative detention is used to intimidate and deter Palestinian political resistance and highlighting the imprisonment of hundreds of children and poor conditions,

WHEREAS: On March 30, 2026, the Occupation government passed a law (Amendment No. 159 to the Penal Law) establishing mandatory execution for Palestinian prisoners who have been convicted of murder in an illegitimate kangaroo court lacking in all due process and human rights, in direct violation of international law Common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, which prohibits the passing of sentences and carrying out of executions without a previous judgement by a regularly constituted court that affords essential judicial protection

WHEREAS the key provisions of this law include:

- **Mandatory Nature**: It establishes the death penalty as a default sentence for Palestinians in the West Bank convicted of killing Israelis in military courts, even without a prosecutorial request
- **Target Scope**: This racist law specifically applies to nationalistic murders targeting the existence of Israel, which is designed to target Palestinians while excluding Jewish Israelis.
- **Execution Timeline**: The law requires executions to be carried out within 90 days of sentencing.
- **Clemency**: It limits the ability to appeal or commute the sentence.
- **Purpose**: It aims to kill Palestinian prisoners faster and with less scrutiny.

WHEREAS: The Occupation has continued to escalate violent strikes in Gaza targeting displaced people and tent cities and killing more than 72,000 people, over 700 of whom have been killed since the alleged ceasefire was announced in October 2025.

WHEREAS: The Occupation continues to control all borders to Gaza, preventing lifesaving humanitarian medical supplies, shelters, food, and other essential items from entering, and leading to derelict living conditions, malnutrition, spread of illness, inadequacy of medical care, and death.

WHEREAS: Escalations of settler violence backed by the Israeli Occupying Forces across at least 90 Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank, including fire setting, intimidation, shootings, and assaults, killing at least seven people and displacing at least 1,500.

WHEREAS: The Occupation government has completely restricted all access to Al Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher during Ramadan and Easter this year, prohibiting Palestinians from exercising their faith and pursuing worship at their most holy sites, foreshadowing the threatened demolition of Al Aqsa Mosque.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the National Lawyers Guild condemns in the strongest possible terms the amended penal law to execute Palestinian prisoners and will work together with other U.S., Palestinian, and international human rights organizations to expose and oppose this racist draconian law;

ABD BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the National Lawyers Guild condemns in the strongest possible terms the continued occupation of Palestine, and the genocide of the Palestinian people - including continuous strikes in Gaza and deprivation of life preserving supplies; escalations of settler violence and forced evictions across the West Bank and occupied 1948 territory; and the closing of holy sites for Muslims and Christians, including Al Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the National Lawyers Guild calls upon all states to hold the illegitimate state of Israel accountable in all forums by supporting South Africa's case in the International Court of Justice, enforcing the arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant in the International Criminal Court, and pursuing prosecutions of war criminals who have perpetrated, aided, and abetted genocide against the Palestinian people through their service in the Israeli Occupying Forces.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the National Lawyers Guild calls for all businesses, corporations, governments, and civil society to completely divest from the illegitimate state of Israel in all sectors both military and civilian until there is full compliance with international law.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the National Lawyers Guild calls for respect for the Palestinian people's right to resist their occupation by any means necessary including armed struggle as guaranteed by international law.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the National Lawyers Guild demands an end to the Occupation and a Free Palestine.

IMPLEMENTATION: International Committee and Free Palestine Sub-Committee

IMPACT: The National Lawyers Guild entities required to implement this resolution have been contacted. The International Committee and Free Palestine Sub-Committee have been contacted and consent to implementation.

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