

Press Release

Forever-Occupation, genocide, and profit

Special Rapporteur's report exposes corporate forces behind destruction of Palestine

«United Nations Human Rights», Office of the High Commissioner



Francesca Albanese
(Picture ma)

Geneva (3 July 2025) – Israel's genocide against Palestinians is being sustained by a system of exploitative occupation and profit, a UN expert warned today in a new report¹ to the Human Rights Council that reveals how corporate profiteering and monetary gain has enabled and legitimised Israel's

illegal presence and actions.

"In the past 21 months, while Israel's genocide has devastated Palestinian lives and landscapes, the Tel Aviv stock exchange soared by 213 percent (USD), amassing \$225.7 billion in market gains—including \$67.8 billion in the past month alone. For some, genocide is profitable",

said Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967.

Albanese's report exposes the corporate infrastructure profiting from Israel's economy of occupation – and its deadly transformation into an economy of genocide.

The report underscores how Palestine has become the epicentre of a global reckoning, exposing the failure of international business and legal systems to uphold even the most basic rights of one of the world's most dispossessed peoples.

"Corporate actors are deeply entwined in the system of occupation, apartheid and genocide in the occupied Palestinian territory," the Special Rapporteur said. "For decades, Israel's repres-

sion of Palestinian people has been scaffolded by corporations, fully aware of and yet indifferent to, decades of human rights violations and international crimes."

Forty-eight separate corporate actors, along with their parents, subsidiaries, franchisees, licensees and consortium partners across sectors are identified in the Special Rapporteur's report, including weapons manufacturers, technological corporations, financial institutions and construction and energy firms.

Albanese found that these entities have failed their most basic legal responsibilities to exercise their leverage to bring an end to the violation at stake or terminate relations and disengage. Instead, they have treated Israel's illegal enterprise in the occupied Palestinian territory as ordinary economic activity—willfully ignoring documented, systemic abuses, even as atrocities mounted after 7 October 2023.

"These actors have entrenched and expanded Israel's settler-colonial logic of displacement and replacement – and this is not accidental", the Special Rapporteur said. "It is the function of an economy built to dominate, dispossess, and erase Palestinians from their land."

The report named companies supplying F-35s, drones, and targeting tech that enabled 85,000 tons of bombs – six times the amount of Hiroshima – to be unleashed on Gaza. It highlighted tech giants that have set up R&D hubs and data centres in Israel, using Palestinian data for AI warfare, fueling what Albanese calls a "livestreamed genocide".

* *Francesca P. Albanese* (born 1977 in Ariano Irpino, Italy) is an Italian legal scholar specialising in international law and human rights. She has been the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 2022. Ms Albanese worked for a decade as a human rights expert for the United Nations, including for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. During this time, she also advised national governments and civil society actors in

the Middle East, North Africa and the Pacific region on human rights, their implementation and standards, particularly with regard to vulnerable groups such as refugees and migrants. She lectures on international law and displacement at European and Arab universities (e.g. at the *Issam Fares Institute* at the American University of Beirut) and appears at conferences as an expert on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Wikipedia).

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

The report points to energy giants having fuelled Israel's blockade, while construction companies continued to supply the equipment that has turned Gaza to rubble and prevented the return and reconstitution of Palestinian life.

Even seemingly neutral actors – tourism sites, supermarkets, and universities are normalising apartheid and the systematic erasure of Palestinian life, the Special Rapporteur's report found.

"This report shows why Israel's genocide continues: because it is lucrative for many", Albanese said.

She warned that the *International Court of Justice* 2024 rulings and the *International Criminal Court* (ICC) arrest warrants should have put all actors – including corporations – on notice.

"The serious, structural and sustained nature of Israel's crimes and violations triggered a *prima facie* responsibility to disengage – one that many corporations ignored", she said. "Corporate fixation on narrow technicalities and isolated violations rather than confronting the structural illegality of their ties to Israel's occupation is disingenuous", she said.

Albanese urged member states to impose a full arms embargo, suspend trade and investment agreements, and hold corporate entities accountable for violations of international law.

"Meanwhile, corporations cannot claim neutrality: they are either part of the machinery of displacement – or part of dismantling it."

"Palestine is a mirror held up to the world's moral and political failures", she said.

Recalling reckonings over corporate complicity in apartheid South Africa and Nazi Germany, Albanese said Palestine today represents a defining moment of whether global markets can exist without promoting and profiting from injustice and impunity.

"Ending this genocide requires not only outrage but rupture, reckoning, and the courage to dismantle what enables it."

Source: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/forever-occupation-genocide-and-profit-special-rapporteurs-report-exposes>, 3 July 2025

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5923-economy-occupation-economy-genocide-report-special-rapporteur>, 16 July 2025