



MEDIA STATEMENT

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) DECISION RECOGNIZED PALESTINE STATUS.

MyAQSA Foundation (MyAQSA) welcomes the International Criminal Court (ICC) decision yesterday recognizing Palestine as a State Party to the Rome Statute and subsequently ruled that the court had jurisdiction to pursue Israeli Zionist crimes in Palestinian lands in particular the West Bank and Gaza.

MyAQSA has been directly involved in this case as Amicus Curiae. Almost a year after MyAQSA legal team submitted the arguments to the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber, finally yesterday three judges at the ICC made a historic decision on the struggle of the Palestinians which is long overdue. MyAQSA is very proud that our submitted arguments have been accepted and used as part of the basis in their judgement.

MyAQSA is very grateful and happy with this decision. This historic decision will allow the crimes of war, genocide and humanitarian crimes committed on Palestinian land, in particular in Gaza and the West Bank, to be brought before the International Criminal Court. Criminals and oppressors of the Palestinian people are no longer free to commit crimes as they pleased on the Palestinian soil.

While this decision is momentous, this case has still a long way to go. With this decision, Prosecutors at the ICC can now begin and complete the investigation into the crimes committed by the Israeli Zionist regime against the Palestinian people based on various reports and evidences that have been submitted by various parties. MyAQSA has also submitted few reports and relevant evidences to the ICC Prosecutor's office since 2018. Meanwhile, in September 2019, the MyAQSA legal team went to several places around Jerusalem and managed to record the testimony of more than 30 witnesses of Israeli criminal conduct.

Nevertheless, this case is significant to the Palestinian status. With this decision the ICC has confirmed that the land illegally occupied by Israeli Zionists belongs to Palestine. With this decision the ICC has recognized Palestine as a state with all legitimate rights under the Rome Statute. This decision has made the ICC as another major international body which recognizes the right of "self-determination" of Palestinians, apart from the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice. This is indeed a tremendous development of the international law.

However, MyAQSA also realizes that this success is only the beginning of a longer struggle. MyAQSA is committed to pursuing this important legal initiative. There will be more subsequent and follow-up actions to be taken. MyAQSA will continue to assist the ICC in any way possible so that the prosecution and sentencing of Israelis perpetrators can be truly materialised.

MyAQSA would like to express its appreciation to all parties involved who had helped and contributed to our legal initiatives. MyAQSA appreciates the assistance and support provided by the Malaysian Government, Wisma Putra, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Embassy in Malaysia. Particularly, the appreciation should be given to the MyAQSA Legal Experts Team comprising of Prof. Dato' Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Mr Lukman Sheriff Alias, Associate Prof. Dr Mohd Hisham Mohd Kamal, Dr Fareed Mohd Hassan, Mr Azril Mohd Amin, Mr Wan Rohimi Wan Daud, Mr. Ahmad Edham Abdulwani.

MyAQSA would like to invite all Muslims to be united together in this fight and we hope that all legal expertise of Muslims around the world can be mobilized to fight the tyranny and crime of the Israeli regime on Palestinian land through international legal instrument.

We believe that the right strategy at the right time, and with the will of Allah SWT, will eventually lead to success.

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