

US SANCTIONS AGAINST INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS REINFORCE IMPUNITY FOR WAR CRIMINALS



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مركز الميزان لحقوق الإنسان
AL MEZAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



المركز العربي لاستقلال القضاء والمحاماة
THE ARAB CENTER FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF
THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION
(ACIJP)



مؤسسة دعم العدالة
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

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**US sanctions against independent Palestinian organizations
reinforce impunity for war criminals**

The Arab Coalition for the International Criminal Court (ICC), comprising 70 Arab non-governmental organizations, condemns the decision of the US administration to impose sanctions on three Palestinian human rights organizations operating in Gaza, one of which is a member of the Coalition, for their cooperation with the ICC.

The Arab Coalition for the ICC, established in 1999, reaffirms its full solidarity with Palestinian organizations that, under the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza, continue to document and monitor war crimes and crimes against humanity committed amid relentless bombardment and starvation claiming the lives of children on a daily basis.

The Arab Coalition further stresses that the recent US sanctions against the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (a founding member of the Coalition), Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, and Al-Haq Law Center fall within the context of the continuous US campaign against the ICC since its establishment under an international treaty ratified by 125 states. The Coalition emphasizes that these sanctions are intended to protect war criminals and allow them to evade accountability for the crimes they stand accused of committing in Gaza.

The US administration has previously imposed sanctions on several judges and prosecutors of the Court, most recently targeting Judge Kimberly Prost and Judge Nicolas Guillou, in addition to two Deputy Prosecutors. These measures follow earlier sanctions against four other judges and clearly demonstrate that the US is in violation of international criminal justice and extends diplomatic protection to war criminals and perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

In light of these challenges to international criminal justice, the Arab Coalition demands:

First: That the US administration immediately cease its reprehensible measures and sanctions against the ICC and its cooperating organizations.

Second: That the member states of the ICC assume their responsibility to support the role of the Court and its cooperating non-governmental organizations.

Third: The Coalition reiterates its call to Arab states to promptly accede to the ICC and to cooperate with it in the prosecution of war criminals and perpetrators of crimes against humanity, so that the legal systems of Arab states may effectively cooperate with the ICC.