



Indigenous Water Bank Co-operative

We who move with the waters of memory and breathe in the law of the land cannot remain silent.

As a global **Indigenous international co-operative operating in the private sector** and committed to restoring balance through **water, culture, and co-creation**, the **Indigenous Water Bank (IWB)** affirms our **solidarity** with the **Palestinian people**—the original and continuous inhabitants of the lands known today as **Gaza and historic Palestine**.

Palestinians are Indigenous people. They hold uninterrupted **ancestral, spiritual, and agricultural relationships** with their **land, language, and traditions**. Their identity predates modern political borders and state systems, and their existence has endured through centuries of **foreign rule, colonization, and forced displacement**.

We recognize the events of **7 October 2023** as a **tragic affront to human life**. The loss of any innocent lives—Israeli or Palestinian—is a **wound to our collective humanity**. **We do not endorse violence in any form, by any party**. Yet we also recognize that this single day has been used to justify an even deeper and more violent assault on the Palestinian people—one rooted in a system of **apartheid, occupation, and displacement** that has been in place since **1948**.

In that year, the creation of the **State of Israel**, backed by colonial and geopolitical interests, resulted in the **Nakba** (“catastrophe”)—the forced expulsion and displacement of more than **700,000 Indigenous Palestinians**, the destruction of over **400 villages**, and the permanent exile of families from their ancestral homelands. This foundational act of erasure set the precedent for the ongoing denial of Palestinian land rights, cultural continuity, and the **right of return**.

What continues to unfold in Gaza is not simply retaliation—it is the **escalation of settler colonial violence**, enabled by **global complicity** and enforced through **military might**. It is the **forced removal of families**, the **desecration of land and memory**, and the **weaponization of history**. Most egregiously, it now includes the **deliberate use of starvation as a tactic of war**—cutting off access to food, water, and humanitarian aid in violation of the most basic codes of dignity and international law.

We state unequivocally: the **State of Israel is in direct violation of international humanitarian law**. These violations include:

- **Customary IHL Rule 53** – prohibiting the **starvation of civilians as a method of warfare**;
- **Additional Protocol I, Article 54** of the **Geneva Conventions** – forbidding attacks against food, water, and relief supplies essential for civilian survival;
- **Article 8(2)(b)(xxv)** of the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court** – defining the intentional starvation of civilians as a **war crime**, especially when coupled with the obstruction of humanitarian aid.



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These codes are not symbolic—they are binding. To starve a people is to destroy not only bodies, but culture, community, and future generations.

As an **Indigenous international co-operative operating in the private sector**, we stand for:

- The **right of return** for displaced Palestinians;
- The **immediate end** to military occupation and settler expansion;
- Global recognition of the **Palestinian people's status as Indigenous** under frameworks such as the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**;
- An international movement toward **reparative justice, sacred restoration, and cultural remembrance**.

We call on the **United Nations**, and specifically the **UN Security Council**, to order an **immediate and binding international ceasefire**—extending to all parties and enforced with urgency. While General Assembly Resolutions ES-10/21 and ES-10/22, and Security Council Resolution 2728 (adopted on **25 March 2024**), have called for humanitarian pauses or limited ceasefires, **no lasting and enforceable ceasefire has been implemented. We therefore formally request that the UN act now to mandate a full ceasefire without delay.**

As a voice within the **worldwide Indigenous collective**, and in alignment with the spiritual intent of the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, we implore the United Nations to listen to the ancestral conscience of the world. The Indigenous Water Bank Co-operative stands not only for water and land—but for life, truth, and a future in balance.

To our **Palestinian relatives**:

We see you. We hear you. We remember with you.

And we walk with you toward **renewal**.

In service to **water, truth, and ancestral integrity**,
Indigenous Water Bank Co-operative (IWB)

7 August 2025

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