



## **EFF STATEMENT WELCOMING THE ICJ ADVISORY OPINION OF THE ICJ**

Saturday, 20 July 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) welcomes the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued regarding the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The Advisory Opinion is a result of the request by the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), tabled in front of the Court in 19 January 2023, in terms of which the Secretary General of the UN asked the Court to proffer its advisory opinion on the following questions;

- a) What are the legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, from its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of related discriminatory legislation and measures?
- b) How do the policies and practices of Israel referred to in paragraph 18 (a) above affect the legal status of the occupation, and what are the legal consequences that arise for all States and the United Nations from this status?"

In its Advisory Opinion, the Court reaffirms its jurisdiction and declares Israel's presence in the territory as unlawful under international law. This opinion underscores the importance of upholding international law and respecting the rights of all parties involved. The recognition of the obstruction to the Palestinian people's right to self-

determination sheds light on the complexities of the situation and highlights the need for a peaceful resolution.

South Africa's involvement in delivering a statement to the ICJ demonstrates the importance of global solidarity against oppression and exploitation. The ICJ's conclusion emphasizes that Israel must end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory promptly. This opinion serves as a call to action for the international community to work towards a just and lasting solution that respects the rights and aspirations of Palestinians. It signals the need for dialogue, cooperation, and respect for international norms to achieve peace and stability in the region.

As we welcome this Advisory Opinion, let us reflect on the principles of justice, equality, and respect for human rights that should guide efforts towards a peaceful resolution in the region. It is a reminder of the collective responsibility to uphold international law and ensure the protection of the rights of all individuals and communities affected by conflict and occupation.

The ICJ's decision resonates as a statement of justice and a call for compliance with international law to achieve a just and sustainable peace for all parties involved. The Economic Freedom Fighters welcomes this Advisory Opinion, and calls of our own government to be as forceful as ever in pursuing the interests of freedom for the Palestinian people at all international platforms.

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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