



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

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For immediate release

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Statement on the harassment of Justice Goldstone

The Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) today raised concerns about ongoing attacks against the professional and personal integrity of Justice Richard Goldstone.

Justice Goldstone, a former Justice of the South African Constitutional Court and first Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for Former Yugoslavia has been a longtime advocate of international justice. He was appointed in 2009 by the UN Human Rights Council to lead an independent four-member UN Fact-Finding Mission to investigate violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed in the course of the Gaza War between December 2008 and January 2009. That Fact-Finding mission determined that there had been serious violations, some amounting crimes under international law, both by Israeli forces and Hamas.

Since the report was issued, Justice Richard Goldstone has been subject to sustained efforts to discredit him, including by questioning his judicial record under apartheid in South Africa following the release of the report.

“The allegations that Justice Goldstone was a ‘hanging judge’ in apartheid South Africa are disgraceful. He was one of a small group of judges who did their best to mitigate the harshness of apartheid and suggesting that Judge Goldstone took the side of the racist policies of the apartheid regime is absolute nonsense”, said Justice Arthur Chaskalson, the first President of South Africa’s Constitutional Court and former Chief Justice of South Africa.

The UN Inquiry Commission led by Justice Goldstone has to be given credit for its substantial and independent investigation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law of all parties to the conflict in an unbiased way. It is ultimately directed towards breaking the long cycle of impunity in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). “Rather than discrediting the authors of the report, it is time to focus on the substance of the report and implement its recommendations. Almost a year after the report we are still waiting for fully independent, transparent and comprehensive investigations in order to bring those responsible to justice”, said Wilder Taylor, ICJ Secretary General.

For more information, please contact Gerald Staberock, Director of the Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers at the ICJ (+41 22 979 3800 or + 41 22 979 3803)

The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world’s most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

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