

Statement on the Decision of the Pre-Trial Chambers on the Situation in the State of Palestine

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates
State of Palestine

February 5, 2021

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine welcomes the Decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court on the jurisdiction of the Court over the entirety of the territory of the State of Palestine comprising the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. This Decision conforms to the principles of international law and opens the door to the pursuit of criminal accountability for the most egregious crimes under the Court's mandate, which have been and continue to be committed against the Palestinian people.

The Honorable Judges of the Pre-Trial Chamber have displayed respect to their mandate and independence, commitment to the values and principles of criminal accountability as embodied in the Rome Statute, and courage, impervious to unprecedented acts of outright hostility and intimidation.

The impartiality and independence of the Court have been tested with unparalleled enmity and punitive measures. Yet, the Court has proven that its commitment to the values and principles of accountability outweigh all these measures. In this regard, the Minister reaffirms his unwavering commitment to working with all States Parties to the Rome Statute on protecting and defending the integrity and independence of the Court from all attempts at exerting undue influence.

The Minister also stands ready to cooperate with and extend all assistance to the Prosecutor and the Court during the investigation into Israeli crimes, which should start in short order.

This is a historic day for the principle of criminal accountability. The investigation that this Decision has now facilitated sends a clear message to perpetrators of heinous crimes and their accomplices that they are not out of reach and that their crimes will not go unpunished. Finally and after decades of agony and suffering, the Palestinian people's inherent right to seek justice and accountability will be within reach and justice can be denied no longer.