



icj

Building a world
based on human
rights standards
and the rule of law

Translate »

Donate to the ICJ
By donating to the ICJ, you are actively participating in
creating a just society.



We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please click "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).



Accept all

Deny all

Cookie settings

USA/Israel/Palestine: Immediately rescind sanctions against UN Special Rapporteur Francesca

[Translate »](#)

We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).



Photo Credits: UN Photo/Mark Garten

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) condemns the US administration's decision to sanction the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian

territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, solely for her fulfillment of her functions as an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, in contravention of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

[Translate »](#)

On 9 July 2025, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio [announced](#) sanctions against Albanese pursuant to a February 2025 [Presidential Executive Order](#), which grants the US authorities



We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).

he travelled to the US. Netanyahu is currently [wanted](#) under an ICC arrest warrant for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza.

“As the International Court of Justice has made crystal clear, UN Special Rapporteurs enjoy immunity when acting in the exercise of their functions and, as such, are protected from any legal process of any kind,” said Saïd Benarbia,

ICJ Middle East and North Africa Programme Director.

[Translate »](#)

“Instead of sanctioning and intimidating Albanese, the US authorities must ensure that the perpetrators of egregious crimes under international law committed in Gaza are not shielded from accountability.”

The sanctions against Albanese are the latest effort by the US



We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).

“If the sanctions against Albanese remain in place unchallenged, their chilling effect will present an existential threat to the mandate of all UN Special Procedures and the entire UN human rights machinery,” added Benarbia.

“The international legal order demands that ICC judges, prosecutors and UN Special Procedures be allowed to fulfil

their functions independently without fear of reprisal.”

Translate »

The ICJ urges the US authorities to immediately rescind the sanctions against Albanese and to comply with their obligations under international law, in particular those on immunity of UN officials, and on preventing and suppressing war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Background



We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).

With respect to the arrest warrant issued against Mr Netanyahu, in November 2024, the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the ICC [found](#) reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Netanyahu bears criminal responsibility for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare, and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution and other inhumane acts. The Chamber also found reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Netanyahu bears criminal responsibility as a civilian superior for the war crime of intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population.

Consequently, the ICC issued an arrest warrant against Mr Netanyahu.

The US opposes the ICC investigation and the prosecution of Israeli and US citizens as a purported violation of their “sovereignty” since neither country has accepted the Court’s jurisdiction. The ICC has consistently held that the acceptance of the Court’s jurisdiction is not required, as the Court can exercise its jurisdiction on the basis of territorial jurisdiction. In the case at hand, Palestine has acceded to the ICC Statute and

[Translate »](#)

We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).

Recent News



Tunisia: Quash sham conviction and sentence of judges’ association President, Anas Hmedi

06 Apr 2026



The UN Human Rights Council makes significant but limited progress in addressing human rights around the world, as atrocities multiply in the Middle East and elsewhere

Translate »

02 Apr 2026



ICJ hosts an African Regional



We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).



30 Mar 2026

[← Previous](#)[Next →](#)[Translate »](#)

Donate to the ICJ



We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).

Translate »

Stay informed

Sign up to for news updates, information on our advocacy, and upcoming events.

First name

Email



We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).

Rue des Buis 3
P.O. Box 1740
1201 Geneva, Switzerland



Contact

[info \(dot\) icj \(at\) icj \(dot\) org](mailto:info@icj.org)

Switzerland office: +41 (0)22 979 38 00

Thailand office: +66 261 984 77

Nepal office: +977 01 5000730/731

[AsiaPacific \(at\) icj \(dot\) org](mailto:AsiaPacific@icj.org)

Belgium office: +32 2 734 84 46

[ECA \(at\) icj \(dot\) org](mailto:ECA@icj.org)

Tunisia office: +216 71 962 287

[Africa \(at\) icj \(dot\) org](mailto:Africa@icj.org)

[Latinamerica \(at\) icj \(dot\) org](mailto:Latinamerica@icj.org)

[Translate »](#)



We use cookies on our website to improve your experience. By clicking "Accept all", you consent to the use of all the cookies. If you'd like to control which cookies we use, please visit "Cookie settings". To find out more, read our [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#).

[Privacy policy](#) | [Cookie policy](#)