

# Annex

**From**

The Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness)

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[REDACTED]

**To**

Office of the Prosecutor

International Criminal Court (ICC)

P.O. Box 19519

2500 CM, The Hague

The Netherlands

**Brief before Pre-Trial Chamber I President**

**Seeking leave of the court to file a brief as an amicus curiae**

**Pursuant to Rule 103(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence**

**Subject:** The current situation in the State of Palestine

On behalf of,

The Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness), a non-governmental organization concerned with Palestinian human rights, headquartered in Beirut, and represented by its director, Dr. Mahmoud El Hanafi, for the purpose of this case.

## Reasons for this brief

Pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Rule 103 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence:

“At any stage of the proceedings, a Chamber may, if it considers it desirable for the proper determination of the case, invite or grant leave to a State, organization or person to submit, written or orally, any observation on any issue that the Chamber deems appropriate”

Given that the Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness) has been operating for over 26 years to monitor the situation of the Palestinian people, possessing legal means, expertise, and qualifications that qualify it to act as an amicus curiae. It monitors, through local, regional, and international experts, the legal status of the Palestinian state in international law and maintains a team dedicated to monitoring and documenting violations and crimes committed against civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly within the framework of systematic ethnic cleansing, involving war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Considering that the Pre-Trial Chamber I deemed it appropriate to allow the United Kingdom to submit written observations not exceeding 10 pages, to be filed no later than July 12, 2024. Similarly, the Chamber set July 17 as the final deadline for any other requests for leave to file amicus curiae observations. Thus, pursuant to Decision issued on June 27, 2024, Case No. ICC-01/18,

Given the current situation in Palestine and the ongoing violations which have profound effects on the lives of its residents, jeopardizing Palestinians' right to remain on their lands and exercise their right to self-determination under severe humanitarian crimes, the Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness) emphasizes the jurisdiction of the court and its importance in ensuring

accountability for those responsible for violating principles of international law and the Rome Statute. Witness seeks leave from the International Criminal Court to submit an amicus curiae brief in the case concerning the situation in the State of Palestine.

In this regard, (Witness) affirms its intention to present factual and legal arguments, utilizing its intellectual and human resources to serve this case and strive for accountability regarding these crimes. Particularly, it intends to submit its observations at this stage as an amicus curiae.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**The Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness),**

**Represented by its director**

**Dr. Mahmoud El-Hanafi,**

