

COMMENTS/INPUTS ON SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND STARVATION, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

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ABOUT THE LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE

1. The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) is a public interest non-profit law clinic in South Africa founded in 1979. The LRC uses the law as an instrument for justice for poor and marginalised persons. The LRC pursues equality, access to justice, and the recognition of constitutional rights for all through creative and effective solutions. To this end, we provide legal advice and legal representation that empowers our clients, take on strategic and impact litigation, and participate in multi-pronged advocacy and law reform.

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR'S THEMATIC REPORT ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD

2. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food aims to make a presentation to UN General Assembly (Autumn 2024 session) on the following:
 - 2.1. Provide an understanding of starvation as a violation of international law and through the lens of human rights.
 - 2.2. Focus on the Palestinian People's food sovereignty as an exemplary case that highlights the relationship between human rights and the prevention of starvation.
3. In order to provide a comprehensive report to the General Assembly, we responded to the following questions presented by the Office of the High Commissioner.

COMMENTS/INPUT

(1) How can human rights provide a way of generating an “early warning” to prevent starvation?

4. Reliable and timely information on food production, availability, prices, and hunger levels is crucial for helping decision-makers anticipate and respond to food crises and their causes. Early warning systems must be placed to collect, analyse, and disseminate information.
5. Human rights serve as an effective instrument for producing early warnings of malnutrition by establishing a legal and social framework that requires action. This can be achieved through establishing the right to food. Which will in turn encourage human rights organisations to maintain and/or bolster monitoring and reporting efforts; and empower local communities to give early warnings from the ground up.
6. Parties responsible for human rights violations, must be held accountable, with the Security Council demanding that the rules of war be adhered to. The use of

starvation as a weapon of war was outlawed by UN Security Council in Resolution 2417 on the Protection of Civilians in armed conflict.¹ This was tactic is a crime that must be prosecuted and punished to protect the most basic right of all: human dignity.

The right to food as a legal obligation:

7. The right to food, as incorporated in international human rights legislation (articles 11 and 25 of the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)² and Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights)³, requires states to:
 - 7.1. **Ensure enough food availability:** This refers to having enough food produced or imported to feed the people.
 - 7.2. **Enable access to food:** people must have the necessary resources (money, land) to get food.
 - 7.3. **Ensure food utilization:** food should be safe, healthy, and culturally suitable.
8. This legislative framework establishes movements responsibility to monitor food security and implement preventative actions to avert famine

Monitoring and reporting of human rights organizations:

9. Independent human rights groups must monitor closely food security and report abuses of the right to food. Such as:
 - 9.1. Food prices
 - 9.2. Food distribution

¹ Adopted on 24 May 2018.

² General Assembly Resolution 217A, adopted on 10 December 1948.

³ General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI), ADOPTED 16 December 1996.

9.3. Vulnerability assessments

10. Early identification of these issues allows for timely intervention before a crisis escalates.

Empowering communities for ground-up warning:

11. Human rights principles must prioritize participation and access to information. This empowers communities to:

11.1. Voice concerns: like farmers experiencing seed shortage or irrigation problem can report difficulties.

11.2. Demand action: Communities can push for government help based on their lived experiences.

12. This bottom-up method identifies concerns that standard monitoring systems may overlook and ensures that disadvantaged communities are heard.

South Africa's Constitution provides a strong foundation for using human rights to generate early warnings on starvation.

13. The right to food in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa:

13.1. Section 27(1)(b) provides that everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water; and

13.2. Section 28(1)(c) goes even further to provide that every child has the right basic nutrition.

14. This creates a legal obligation for the South African government to take proactive measures to prevent situations where people are unable to access food.

15. South Africa utilizes a combination of tools for early warnings on food insecurity:

- 15.1. **Monitoring Rainfall and Drought:** Institutions like the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and famine early warning systems (FEWS NET) closely monitor rainfall patterns. Deviations from normal rainfall patterns, especially during crucial growing seasons, can signal potential drought and food shortages.⁴
- 15.2. **Crop Yield Forecasts:** Advanced technology allows for analysis of satellite imagery and weather data to predict crop yields. Below-average yield forecasts can trigger warnings about potential food insecurity.
- 15.3. **Market Monitoring:** Tracking food prices in local markets helps identify trends. Sudden price hikes, especially for staples like maize, can indicate potential food shortages and disruptions in the food supply chain.
- 15.4. **Vulnerability Assessments:** Regular assessments of vulnerable populations like small-scale farmers and low-income households help identify areas at higher risk of food insecurity during droughts or other crises.

(2) If starvation is caused by political failures, what international institutional changes are necessary to avoid such failures?

16. Starvation caused by political failures requires significant international institutional changes to prevent such tragedies in the future. Some key changes that are necessary include:⁵

- 16.1. **Strengthening international governance mechanisms:** International organizations such as the United Nations (UN), World Food Programme (WFP), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) need to be empowered with greater authority and resources to address food insecurity effectively.

⁴ <https://www.sadc.int/pillars/food-security>

⁵ ABDULLAH; WANG QINGSHI; AWAN, MUHAMMAD AKBAR; ASHRAF, JUNAID., The Impact of Political Risk and Institutions on Food Security. 2020. <http://www.foodandnutritionjournal.org/volume8number3/the-impact-of-political-risk-and-institutions-on-food-security/>

This includes enhancing coordination, early warning systems, and response mechanisms to prevent and mitigate famines.

- 16.2. Promoting global cooperation and solidarity: Countries must work together to address the root causes of food insecurity, including conflict, climate change, and weak governance. International cooperation through partnerships, agreements, and funding mechanisms can help build resilience and ensure sustainable food systems.
- 16.3. Investing in conflict prevention and resolution: International institutions should prioritize conflict prevention and resolution efforts to create a peaceful environment conducive to agricultural activities and humanitarian assistance. Diplomatic initiatives, peacekeeping missions, and mediation efforts can help address political instability and violence that contribute to food crises.
- 16.4. Holding governments accountable: International institutions should hold governments accountable for their actions or inactions that lead to food insecurity. Mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and addressing violations of human rights, corruption, and mismanagement are essential to ensure that governments prioritize the well-being of their citizens.
Imposing of sanctions; The Security Council may impose sanctions on entities that impede humanitarian assistance, access to humanitarian assistance or the distribution of humanitarian assistance. Such measures are only possible in the event of unanimity, which does not generally exist in the Security Council at present. Supporting capacity building and institutional strengthening: International institutions can provide technical assistance, training, and resources to help countries strengthen their governance structures, improve infrastructure, and invest in agriculture. Building resilient institutions and promoting good governance are critical for preventing political failures that result in food insecurity. By implementing these international institutional changes, the international community can work

towards preventing starvation caused by political failures and ensuring food security for all.

South Africa's National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)

17. This national school feeding programme was launched in 1994 in order to realise children's rights to basic nutrition and basic education as per section 28(1)(c) read with section 29(1)(a). The programme feeds over 9 million children nation-wide today. It specifically targets schools in the most disadvantaged socio-economic areas. The NSNP therefore reaches millions of households who experience the worst food insecurity in the country and require nutritional support the most.
18. However, in March 2020, as a mechanism to combat the spread of COVID-19 virus all schools in South Africa were closed and all households were forced into a nationwide lockdown. Consequently, the aforementioned 9 million children lost access to their guaranteed NSNP daily meal, and a large majority of families lost their sources of income. Food insecurity skyrocketed.
19. After a variety of attempts to engage with the Department of Basic Education (DBE), in July 2020, a group of civil society organisations approached the High Court with an urgent application to declare the right to education and basic nutrition as interdependent. Furthermore, the civil society organisations, on behalf of a large variety of school children and their families, argued that the DBE's decision not to roll out the NSNP to all qualifying learners (after promising to do so safely) was irrational, unreasonable and unlawful.
20. On 17 July 2020, the High Court ruled that the Minister of Basic Education, and eight of the Education Members of the Executive Council, had neglected their Constitutional duties by failing to roll out the NSNP to children whether they were at home or attending school during the pandemic.⁶

⁶ *Equal Education and Others v Minister of Basic Education and Others* (22588/2020) [2020] ZAGPPHC 306; [2020] 4 All SA 102 (GP); 2021 (1) SA 198 (GP) (17 July 2020).

21. Importantly, the Court declared that a child's right to basic education and the right to basic nutrition are unqualified rights that are immediately realisable. It was held that the government cannot delay their duties to ensure that learners' right to education and nutrition are met.
22. Justice Potterill, in relation to food insecurity of children highlighted that, "if there was no duty on the Department to provide nutrition when the parents cannot provide the children with basic nutrition, the children face starvation. A more undignified scenario than starvation of a child is unimaginable. The morality of a society is gauged by how it treats its children. Interpreting the Bill of Rights promoting human dignity, equality and freedom can never allow for the hunger of a child."⁷
23. The NSNP and the litigation in relation to it establishes the right to food for children and provides a domestic legal mechanism to enforce this right. In this sense, South African jurisprudence at this moment shows developments on the right of food for children but as of yet it has not been extended further to everyone. However, section 27(1)(b) of the Constitution does leave the door open for further development with respect to a grander right to food in South Africa and therefore combatting food insecurity and starvation in the country.
24. It is important to note that this legal development is in line with South Africa's international law obligations with respect to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)⁸, which the South Africa signed in 1993 and ratified in 1995. Therein Article 24 recognises the child's right to, "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health."⁹

⁷ *Equal Education* Supra note 3, para 53.

⁸ General Assembly Resolution 44/25, adopted on 20 November 1989.

⁹ *Ibid*, Article 24, p 15.

25. In particular with respect to the right to food, Article 24(2)(c) states that State Parties shall implement this right to health by taking appropriate measures, “to combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution.”¹⁰
26. Furthermore, Article 24(2)(e) provides that parents and children are supported, “in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, [and] the advantages of breastfeeding.”¹¹
27. Section 27(1)(b) of the Constitution, while it has not been developed fully as to the extent it has for children, is similarly in line with South Africa’s international law obligations with respect to Article 25 of the UDHR.¹² It establishes that everyone has the right to a standard of living that is adequate with respect to the health and well-being of themselves and of their family, including *food*.
28. Therefore, establishing the right to food, is imperative and a binding international obligation as provided by the UDHR and CRC. State Parties must be incentivised and supported so that this right can be developed. This development must be achieved both at a domestic and international level in order to combat and eradicate starvation.

(3) The last two famines, as measured by the IPC were Somalia in 2011 and South Sudan in 2017. What were the root causes of famine in each case and who was responsible? What lessons were learned about preventing famine from those two situations?

¹⁰ General Assembly Resolution 44/25 supra note 5.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² General Assembly Resolution 217A supra note 2.

Somalia, 2011

29. The famine was caused by the following factors: ¹³

- 29.1. Drought: A severe and prolonged drought in the region led to crop failures, livestock deaths, and a lack of water resources for the population. This significantly reduced food production and availability.¹⁴
- 29.2. Conflict and instability: Somalia has been plagued by conflict and political instability for many years, which disrupted food distribution systems and hindered humanitarian aid efforts. The presence of armed groups further exacerbated the situation by limiting access to affected areas.¹⁵
- 29.3. High food prices: The global rise in food prices, combined with local market distortions and trade restrictions, made food unaffordable for many Somalis, further worsening food insecurity.
- 29.4. Limited humanitarian access: Humanitarian organizations faced challenges in accessing affected populations due to security concerns and restrictions imposed by various armed groups, hindering the delivery of aid and relief efforts.

30. Whilst the responsibility for the famine can be attributed to these parties, individually and as a collective:

¹³ Global implications of Somalia 2011 for famine prevention, mitigation and response; Nicholas Haan, Stephen Devereux, Daniel Maxwell, 2012. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/Global_Implications_Somalia2011.pdf

¹⁴ Darcy, J., Bonard, P., Dini, S., 2012. IASC Real-Time Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response to the Horn of Africa Drought Crisis: Somalia 2011–2012. Inter-Agency Standing Committee. <https://library.alnap.org/help-library/iasc-real-time-evaluation-iasc-rte-of-the-humanitarian-response-to-the-horn-of-africa-1>

¹⁵ Hammond, L., Vaughan-Lee, H., 2012. Humanitarian Space in Somalia: A Scarce Commodity. HPG Working Paper. Humanitarian Policy Group, London. <https://media.odi.org/documents/7646.pdf>

- 30.1. Somali government: The weak and ineffective Somali government at the time was unable to adequately respond to the crisis or provide support to the affected population.
 - 30.2. Armed groups: Various armed groups in Somalia, such as Al-Shabaab, hindered humanitarian access, looted aid supplies, and exacerbated the humanitarian crisis through their actions.
 - 30.3. International community: The international community was criticized for not acting swiftly enough to prevent the famine and for failing to provide adequate assistance to the affected population in a timely manner.
31. The Somalian experience has revealed the following lessons:
- 31.1. Importance of early warning systems: Improving and strengthening early warning systems to detect and respond to food insecurity and drought conditions promptly can help prevent future famines.
 - 31.2. Conflict resolution: Addressing the root causes of conflict and instability in regions prone to famine is crucial for ensuring unhindered humanitarian access and effective response to crises.
 - 31.3. Building resilience: Investing in long-term solutions, such as sustainable agriculture practices, social safety nets, and infrastructure development, can help communities become more resilient to future shocks and reduce the risk of famine.
 - 31.4. Coordination and collaboration: Enhancing coordination among governments, humanitarian organizations, and other stakeholders is essential for ensuring a more effective and timely response to food crises. By implementing these lessons learned and addressing the root causes of famine, the international community can work towards preventing similar crises in the future.

South Sudan, 2017

32. The root causes of famine in South Sudan in 2017 were multi-faceted and interconnected. Several factors contributed to the food insecurity crisis in the country: ¹⁶

32.1. Conflict: The ongoing civil war in South Sudan, which began in 2013, has been a major driver of food insecurity. The conflict has disrupted agricultural activities, displaced people from their homes, and hindered the distribution of humanitarian aid. As a result, many farmers were unable to plant or harvest crops, leading to food shortages.

32.2. Economic instability: The economic crisis in South Sudan, characterized by hyperinflation and a depreciating currency, has made it difficult for people to afford food. High food prices, coupled with limited job opportunities, have exacerbated the food insecurity situation in the country.

32.3. Climate change: Erratic weather patterns, including droughts and floods, have had a devastating impact on agriculture in South Sudan. Poor rainfall and water scarcity have led to crop failures and livestock deaths, further exacerbating food insecurity.

32.4. Poor governance: The government of South Sudan has been criticized for its failure to prioritize the well-being of its citizens. Corruption, mismanagement of resources, and lack of investment in agriculture and infrastructure have all contributed to the food insecurity crisis in the country.

33. The responsibility for addressing the famine in South Sudan in 2017 lies with various actors, including the government, rebel groups, and the international community.

¹⁶ Global implications of Somalia 2011 for famine prevention, mitigation and response; Nicholas Haan, Stephen Devereux, Daniel Maxwell, 2012. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/Global_Implications_Somalia2011.pdf

- 33.1. However, the government of South Sudan bears primary responsibility for ensuring the well-being of its citizens and addressing the root causes of food insecurity.
- 33.2. Additionally, the rebel groups involved must share the responsibility for exacerbating the crisis through violence and displacement.
34. The South Sudanese experience therefore further revealed the importance of:
- 34.1. Conflict resolution: Addressing the root causes of conflict and working towards lasting peace are essential for preventing future famines in South Sudan. Political stability and security are crucial for enabling farmers to cultivate their land and for humanitarian aid to reach those in need.
- 34.2. Good governance: Transparent and accountable governance is essential for address.

(4) What are the root causes of food insecurity in places where this is currently a high risk of famine like Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan and Sudan or places of emergency conditions of acute food security such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Pakistan, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen?

35. Root Causes of Food Insecurity:
- 35.1. **Conflict and Violence:** War and civil unrest disrupt food production, distribution, and markets. This is a major threat in countries like Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen.¹⁷
- 35.2. **Climate Change and Extreme Weather:** Droughts, floods, and erratic weather patterns significantly impact agricultural productivity. This is a

¹⁷ World Food Programme: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/hunger-hotspots-fao-wfp-early-warnings-acute-food-insecurity-june-november-2023> describes how conflict disrupts food production and markets, pushing regions into hunger.

growing threat in Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Pakistan, and Yemen.¹⁸

35.3. **Poverty and Lack of Investment in Agriculture:** Poverty restricts access to resources, limiting agricultural productivity and making communities more vulnerable to external shocks. This is a challenge in most of the countries listed, particularly Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Haiti, and Yemen.¹⁹

35.4. **Political Instability and Weak Governance:** Corruption and weak institutions hinder food security efforts. This can be an issue in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.²⁰

35.5. **Population Growth and Resource Scarcity:** Rapid population growth puts pressure on existing food resources and arable land. This is a challenge in countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan.²¹

(5) What actions of solidarity and care are you providing the Palestinian people? Please explain why this work is an act of solidarity.

36. (1) **Political Advocacy:**

36.1. South Africa has a long history of supporting Palestinian rights. It advocates for a two-state solution, condemn Israeli settlements, and call for an end to the blockade of Gaza.

¹⁸ The World Bank: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update> discusses how climate extremes are a major driver of food insecurity, citing a rise in emergencies in 2021 due to extreme weather.

¹⁹ Action Against Hunger: <https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/global-impact/where-we-work/> highlights poverty as a key factor limiting access to resources and making communities vulnerable.

²⁰ Same reference as above

²¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/125b023c-002f-4387-9150-dc7fbbd86cbc/content> discusses population growth as a long-term pressure on food resources.

36.2. **Solidarity Aspect:** This aligns with South Africa's own history of struggle against apartheid. They recognize the Palestinian fight for self-determination and advocate for a peaceful resolution based on international law.

37. **(2) Humanitarian Aid:**

37.1. South Africa provided humanitarian aid to Palestinians through organizations like the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and Palestinian NGOs. This includes food, medical supplies, and assistance for refugees.

37.2. **Solidarity Aspect:** This demonstrates compassion and a willingness to help alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

38. **(3) Cultural and Educational Exchange:**

38.1. South Africa encouraged cultural and educational exchange programs between South Africans and Palestinians. This involves student exchanges, artistic collaborations, or film festivals.

38.2. **Solidarity Aspect:** This fosters understanding and connection between the two peoples, strengthening their sense of shared struggle and promoting peaceful coexistence.

39. **(4) Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement:**

39.1. Some South African civil society groups participating in the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. This involves boycotting Israeli products or pressuring companies to divest from Israeli businesses operating in occupied territories.

39.2. **Solidarity Aspect:** This is a more contentious form of solidarity, aiming to pressure Israel to change its policies towards the Palestinians.

40. **Overall, any actions by South Africa that support Palestinian rights, alleviate their suffering, or promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict can be considered acts of solidarity.** These acts demonstrate a shared struggle for justice and a commitment to human rights, drawing parallels between South Africa's own past and the ongoing situation in Palestine.

(6) What should be done to enhance the Palestinian People's food sovereignty and how can Palestinian peasants, small-scale fishers, pastoralists, and small food producers be supported?

41. According to data from the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural lands cover a total surface area of about 296 527 acres, representing 20% of the total area of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. 90% of all agricultural lands are found in the West Bank and 10% in the Gaza Strip²². It is however worth noting that a large part of the agricultural lands fall within Israeli control.

42. To enhance Palestinian people's food sovereignty, it is crucial to address the structural challenges they face, such as the Israeli occupation, restrictions on movement and access to land, water, and markets, as well as the impact of climate change. Here are some key steps that can be taken to support Palestinian peasants, small-scale fishers, pastoralists, and small food producers:²³

42.1. Promoting Agroecological Farming: Supporting the transition to agroecological farming practices can enhance food sovereignty by promoting sustainable and resilient agricultural systems. This includes diversifying crops, promoting soil health, and reducing reliance on chemical inputs.

²² Ministry of Agriculture. National Agriculture Sector Strategy (2017-2022)

²³ HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG., 2023. <https://ps.boell.org/en/2023/02/14/agroecology-and-food-sovereignty-palestine-way-self-determination>

- Training programs, technical assistance, and access to agroecological knowledge can help farmers improve their productivity and sustainability.
- 42.2. Access to Land and Water: Ensuring Palestinian farmers have secure access to land and water is essential for their food sovereignty. Advocating for land rights, preventing land confiscation, and supporting community land management initiatives can help protect farmers' access to resources. Additionally, investing in water infrastructure and conservation practices can improve water access for agricultural purposes.
 - 42.3. Market Access and Fair Trade: Facilitating market access for Palestinian producers, both domestically and internationally, can strengthen their food sovereignty. Supporting fair trade initiatives, connecting producers to markets, and promoting local consumption of Palestinian products can enhance economic opportunities for small-scale producers.
 - 42.4. Capacity Building and Training: Providing training and capacity-building programs for Palestinian farmers on sustainable agricultural practices, business management, and marketing skills can empower them to improve their livelihoods and enhance their food sovereignty. Collaborating with local agricultural organizations and universities can help deliver relevant and practical training programs.
 - 42.5. Policy Advocacy and Support: Advocating for policies that support small-scale food producers, such as agricultural subsidies, land rights protection, and market regulations, can create an enabling environment for Palestinian farmers. Engaging with policymakers, civil society organizations, and international partners to advocate for policies that prioritize food sovereignty can help address systemic challenges faced by Palestinian producers.
 - 42.6. Building Solidarity Networks: Connecting Palestinian farmers with global food sovereignty movements and networks can provide them with moral support, knowledge exchange, and opportunities for collaboration. Building solidarity with international organizations, community philanthropy groups,

and grassroots movements can amplify the voices of Palestinian producers and strengthen their resilience in the face of challenges. By implementing these strategies and supporting Palestinian peasants, small-scale fishers, pastoralists, and small food producers, efforts can be made to enhance food sovereignty in Palestine and empower local communities to control their food systems and resources.

CONCLUSION

43. The right to food is a fundamentally important legal development within both domestic and international jurisdictions. Hunger and starvation are issues that continue to plague humanity especially within the global south and in countries where there are ongoing conflicts. It is an issue that will not go away overnight as we can see rising inequality rates and a never-ending cycle of violent conflicts on a global scale.
44. It is therefore imperative that international and regional bodies develop, establish and enforce global standards with respect to the right to food, and in particular combatting starvation.
45. This is acutely important with respect to the ongoing violent military occupation of Palestine and its people. As international and regional bodies have witnessed throughout the recent uptick in violent oppression of Palestine, starvation continues to be used as a tool for oppression. This is a violation of the UN Resolution 2417 as it was established that starvation as a war-time weapon is serious breach of international law.
46. Therefore, the right to food must be established such that Israel, and oppressive forces like it, may be held accountable for their denial of access to food, food sovereignty as well as access to humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people.

47. The Legal Resources Centre therefore endorses the UN Special Rapporteur's report with respect to the development of the right to food with a focus on starvation as a violation of international law and through the lens of human rights. And in particular, the report's focus on the Palestinian People's food sovereignty as an exemplary case.

48. We hope that our comments and/or inputs are considered in the report, and we thank you for the opportunity to make these submissions.