

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION (EAFORD)**

5 route des Morillons, CP 2100. 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Telephone: (022) 788.62.33 Fax: (022) 788.62.45 email: info@eaford.org
www.eaford.org

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Message from EAFORD

to all who put their signature in support of EAFORD's appeal for the creation of a special tribunal to try
Israelis charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity in Israel's military attack on Gaza

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EAFORD cannot find the words that would be adequate to thank each and every signatory for the support given to the petition, running now in tens of thousands, with many more adding their support every day. Some of you have given your contact addresses and volunteered to place the petition on your websites. Others even offered to take it to the streets to obtain more signatures and raise awareness for the need to create such a tribunal.

All signatories felt that it is high time that the rule of law prevails, not only in international relations, but even more in human relations, and that no exceptions should be made, as the only way to achieve justice and ensure peace in the world. The signatories, who are of all walks of life, from many different countries and followers of many different faiths, including Christians, Muslims and Jews, are representatives of the thoughts and wishes of the citizens of the world in whose name the United Nations has been created and to whom it should be accountable.

Some of the signatories, in their anger at what has happened, have commented in a manner that conflicts with EAFORD's mission as an anti-racism Organisation, and these comments have been removed. The Petition is not a racist petition. It is an appeal for justice and accountability, and only the guilty should be punished.

We feel it our duty to inform you of the action so far taken by EAFORD with respect to the Petition.

1. EAFORD's Geneva office Director, Dr Hanan Sharfelddin, personally met and handed a letter to the President of UN General Assembly about the Petition during his visit to Geneva on 4 March 2009. The text of the letter is posted on EAFORD's website.
2. Letters were also sent to all heads of delegations of member states of the United Nations. The text of the letter is posted on EAFORD's website.
3. The Petition was delivered to all delegates of the UN Human Rights Council.
4. The Petition was delivered to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, and to the following UN Special Rapporteurs:

Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights of the Palestinian People in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967, Mr. Richard Falk

Special Rapporteur on Racism - Mr. Githu Muigai

Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ms. Asma Jahangir

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Mental and Physical Health

Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children in Armed Conflict

Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Special Representative of the Secretary General on internally displaced persons

Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions

Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty

5. EAFORD's accredited representative to the United Nations in New York, Professor Lawrence Davidson, together with representatives of a group of NGOs, will soon start calling on the UN General Assembly and delegates to bring the Petition to their attention and call for action.

Other steps will be taken as the Petition progresses. Signatories also have their role to play in support. We have no illusion that there are those who will do their utmost to prevent the Petition from even reaching the floor of the General Assembly. Any pressure that can be brought to bear on states will move the Petition forward to achieve its goal. And it is here that you have a further role to play. Use all the contacts you may have and press forward. It is a goal worth working for.

The Petition will remain online, and we rely on your support to give it even more attention and impetus.

Thank you, and may peace and justice prevail for the benefit of all mankind.

Dr. Anis Al-Qasem
Secretary General
EAFORD