



Statement

by

Lebanon

at the **sixth committee**

**Agenda Item 83:**

"The rule of law at the national and international levels"

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*Check against delivery*

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Mr. Chair,

Every day that passes by in Gaza continues to test our humanity, our so-called “universal” values and to question our respect to the rules of international law.

What has been happening in Gaza for the past days, what has been happening to the Palestinian people in the past decades, lays bare the selective indignation and double standards in the respect for international law.

International law, hailed – particularly - last year as an instrument aimed at shielding people and nations has been strangely put away, ignored and forgotten lately. It is put away, ignored and forgotten whenever it comes to the Palestinian people.

How can we then be credible to this people, to this nation when talking about the rule of law, when talking about a multilateral rules-based order, when talking about justice?

Mr. Chair,

I read a few days ago, Mr. Chair, a quote that says it all: *“Stressing basic rules of international humanitarian law is quickly becoming a radical opinion.”*

The respect for international humanitarian law, which is an imperative, suddenly becomes optional for the Palestinian people.

How many more children, women, elderly, paramedics, journalists need to be killed before International Humanitarian Law becomes no longer optional, but applies universally, as it should be?

How much longer before there is, not only condemnation of the Israeli crimes, but calls for accountability, and for putting an end, right now, to these atrocity crimes?

Silence only furthers this culture of impunity.

It should be about blind justice, not blind revenge, not even revenge for that matter.

The principle of human dignity is the cornerstone of the Universal Declaration of Human rights, the Geneva Conventions, which are about to mark their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary – in the upcoming weeks and upcoming months -. But it seems that such principle has constantly been denied to the Palestinian people.

Mr. Chair,

Humanitarian action, as vital as it is, cannot justify political paralysis.

Moving beyond words and into action is the only way forward.

Implementing obligations – and I repeat – obligations under international law is the only way out of this situation.

The recipe for peace is embedded in international law. It is found in the United Nations Charter, in the numerous relevant resolutions of the Security Council and of this General Assembly.

Mr. Chair,

It is in these times where we are tested that international law matters, that multilateralism matters and matters the most maybe.

Advancing the rule of law entails consistency, with the respect of the rules established for all, with advancing justice for all and promoting peace for all.