

Turkey's joining in Israel genocide case could inspire others: *Lawyer*



By Melike Pala
Reporter

PERSPECTIVE

Daniele added that Turkey is an important NATO member which enables its joining in the case to have significant consequences. Saying that the ICJ's injunctions in the genocide case led to significant changes in the approaches of third states, he added that this stems from the states facing the risk of being brought before the ICJ due to complicity.

Arguing that Western countries attach importance to protecting their allies rather than international law, he said: "International crimes are not something that can be forgiven when the allies commit them and condemned when rivals commit them."

"Civilian populations will pay the consequences, as it happened already for the Palestinian civilian population, partly also for the Israelis' young population," he added.

He said the political leaderships of the EU and US have been the "most complicit" in serious human rights violations of Israel. "As a European citizen, I was shocked to hear the unilateralism of the declarations of leaders like (European Commission President) Ursula von der Leyen on their land. It seemed for months and months, while children and women were being exterminated, that nothing was happening, or that this was somehow an unfortunate but forgivable necessity of war," he added.

This is in "striking contrast" to all the solemn declarations of values including accountability for crimes against civilians in the Ukraine war, he said, adding that the EU, alongside the US, is really at "the top of its double standards".

US stance 'beyond hypocritical'

He said the US attitude towards Russia's acts is completely different. He described the US reaction to the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation of Israel as "beyond hypercritical, a

Turkey's recent announcement that it will become a party to South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will encourage other countries to do the same, according to an Italian lawyer.

"More third states should intervene in the South Africa versus Israel proceedings, even just to ask for clarifications about what they should do when a danger of genocide is detected. So, I think that from this point of view, the intervention by Turkey catalyzes more third state interventions in support of South Africa," Luigi Daniele, a senior lecturer at Nottingham Law School in the UK, told Anadolu.



A delegation headed by Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmet Yildiz (R) told the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on February 26, 2024, that the UN Security Council is failing.
● NIKOS OIKONOMOU/ANADOLU AGENCY

preposterous position that undermines the international legal system."

"Actually (it) seems like a sort of tribalism of the Western states, perceiving themselves as a tribe, above the law, and perceiving the law itself as something that is only for their enemies," he added.

Underlining that this attitude threatens international security and increases the risk of world war, he said: "If you keep asserting that the law is only for your enemies, you are basically pushing, escalation by escalation, the worldwide political arena to the thresholds of a world war in which the new rules will be written by war."

Mentioning next month's European Parliament elections, he said the European people have seen what was done against the Palestinian civilian population and demand justice.

"So, if our leaders don't take steps in this direction now, they will pay the prices in the ballots," he said.

Israel has pounded the Gaza Strip in retaliation for an October 7 Hamas attack that killed some 1,200 people. More than 35,000 Palestinians have since been killed in Gaza, the vast majority of them women and children, and over 78,000 others injured, according to Palestinian health authorities.

Nearly seven months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lay in ruins, pushing 85% of the enclave's population into internal displacement amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water, and medicine, according to the UN.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice. An interim ruling in January said it is "plausible" that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, and ordered Tel Aviv to stop such acts and take measures to guarantee that humanitarian assistance is provided to civilians in Gaza.

The article first appeared on Anadolu Agency.

On Ireland recognising Palestine

A welcome development, a message to Israel

PERSPECTIVE

Although Ireland in 1980 was the first EU state to endorse the idea of Palestinian statehood, turning this aspiration into actual recognition of that state has taken nearly a quarter of a century.

Micheál Martin's announcement in the Dáil on Tuesday that Ireland, and several EU allies, will now do so shortly is a welcome and important diplomatic acknowledgment of the well-established reality of Palestinian self-government in the West Bank, and a timely political admonishment of both Israel's war against Gaza and its refusal to advance negotiations on a two-state solution.

In 2014, the Oireachtas passed resolutions calling on the Government to "officially recognise the state of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital, as established in UN resolutions, as a further positive contribution to securing a negotiated two-state settlement to the Israeli-Palestine conflict." To no avail.

The Government's reluctance stemmed from its wish to preserve the common EU foreign policy while attempting over a long period to move the consensus within the Council of Ministers to a position more critical of Israel.

Ireland was not alone but has been seen as an outlier in its support for Palestine. Spain, Slovenia, and Malta have also declared they will recognise Palestine.

Israel has argued, and until now most EU member states have accepted, that recognition would be premature, pre-empting the shape of the agreement reached between it and Palestine in final settlement talks in the framework of the now largely moribund Oslo peace accords and their promise of a two-state solution. Israel has for some years refused to talk.

"We have agreed," Martin told the Dáil, "that the undermining of the Oslo accords and therefore the agreement to



Tánaiste Micheál Martin (standing) speaks in the Dáil Chamber on April 9, 2024, where he said that Ireland intends to recognise the Palestinian state.
● MAXWELLS/PA WIRE

create two states has reached a point where the accords' approach of recognition after a final agreement is not credible or tenable any longer."

The decision is also an important implied challenge to an unwilling Israel to

accept a Palestinian Authority role in the administering of Gaza post-Israeli withdrawal.

The article first appeared on The Irish Times.

Shared historical links between Ireland, Palestine



By Jade Poleon
Author

PERSPECTIVE

Ireland has always been a country that has helped and supported other nations worldwide, especially in turbulent times.

Palestine is a perfect example of this since Ireland has

openly been supportive as Palestine strives to overcome war and seek political freedom.

This article will explore the many shared historical ties between both nations, uncovering the deep, long-standing relationship between two very similar nations with a shared past.

British colonialism — a shared historical tie

One of the main historical links between Ireland and Palestine goes back to their colonial past. Both have been under British rule throughout the years, with Ireland being the first colonial 'experiment', while Palestine was its last.

Palestine was under British rule for around thirty years, from 1917 until 1948, and Ireland remained under British rule for 700 years. Part of Ireland successfully gained independence in 1921.

Because of this pivotal time in history, both nations recognise the struggles and hardships that come with being a suppressed colony, which is what has led Ireland to be a strong supporter of Palestine.

To this day, Ireland, among many other nations, supports Palestine as it continues to strive for its complete independence from Israel.

One of the primary historic ties between Ireland and Palestine dates back to 1980 when Ireland was the first country in the European Union to endorse the idea of a free Palestinian State.

Since Ireland has had its fair share of history regarding the fight for independence, many Irish republicans and government officials have empathised with Palestine and their struggle for freedom.

In 2011, the Foreign Affairs Minister stated that Ireland would indeed "lead the change" regarding Palestine's statehood. In 2024, this step is still in process, with Irish people consistently supporting this issue.



A mural expresses solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza in a Nationalist area on the Falls Road in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
● CLODAGH KILCOYNE/REUTERS

Partitions, violence — nations with similar experiences

It was during the early 20th century that both nations were resisting occupation by British rule.

In 1921, Ireland was divided into Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, while the partition of Palestine occurred in 1948, significantly impacting the population.

Both nations have experienced violence, oppression, and persecution, which has brought the two closer, with many murals of support for Palestine seen through Ireland and Northern Ireland to this very day.

Furthermore, they both share a profound historical bond characterized by unmatched strength and resistance.

Additionally, while conflicts in Ireland were often framed as religious clashes between Catholics and Protestants, a similar dynamic can be observed in Palestine, where it manifests as tensions between Muslims and Jews.

As we all know, this is almost always an anti-colonial struggle rather than a fight between religious groups.

Language, identity — striving for recognition

In addition to other historical ties between Ireland and Palestine, we observe similarities in the realm of official languages.

Irish served as Ireland's official language until colonization, after which it was banned, and communication was mandated in English exclusively.

Only in 2021 did the Irish language attain full official status in the EU, with Northern Ireland granting it official language status in 2022.

Similarly, in Palestine, parallels emerge as Israel altered street signs, excluding Arabic in favour of Hebrew, thereby posing a threat to the Palestinian language and identity.

From their turbulent colonial pasts under British Rule to the recognition of their language and identity, both Ireland and Palestine have plenty in common.

It goes without saying that Ireland is one of the most pro-Palestinian nations in Europe, with Irish and Northern Irish citizens seeing a mirror image of themselves and their historical situations in Palestine.

The article first appeared on Ireland Before You Die.