

July 24, 2025

**To: The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State of the United States
US Department of State
Washington, D.C.
July 2025**

Subject: Sanctions Against Palestinian Authority Officials for Engaging in Efforts to Have the International Criminal Court Prosecute Israelis

Dear Secretary Rubio,

Executive Order 14203 signed by President Donald J. Trump on Feb. 6, 2025, calls for “tangible and significant consequences” to be enforced against “any foreign person determined by the Secretary of State... to have directly engaged in any effort by the ICC to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute a protected person,” including “our close ally Israel.” It adds, “For the purposes of this order: (a) the term ‘person’ means an individual or entity; (b) the term ‘entity’ means a government or instrumentality of such government.”

I formally request that the US State Department investigate whether the terms of the president’s Executive Order apply to the Palestinian Authority (PA), the PLO, their officials and all Palestinian entities who have actively aided, coordinated, and taken credit for the ICC’s investigation of Israel and Israelis and the ICC’s decision to issue arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. Moreover, after the President announced the Executive Order, the PA did not withdraw its complaints but has continued its active work through its legal teams. The PA prepared new complaints which were submitted in July 2025 through a legal team that the Palestinian Bar Association had given Power of Attorney to submit the Palestinian complaints. PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas recently bragged that “the biggest ‘no’ that we told the Americans, was when they pressured us not to approach the international courts – the ICC.”

The following is some of the extensive evidence of the PA, PLO and its senior officials’ engagement with the ICC, expressed openly by PA officials and representatives and transmitted through the official PA media. All source material in Arabic will be supplied upon request.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Itamar Marcus
Palestinian Media Watch, Director

Introduction

On June 11, 2020, during his first term, President Trump signed Executive Order 13928 authorizing the US to impose sanctions on foreign persons and entities that engaged with the ICC against the US and US allies, such as Israel. The Palestinian Authority ignored Trump's Executive Order, and four months later, PA Minister of Justice Al-Shalaldeh announced that the PA is "currently working to gather criminal evidence... [we] will submit lawsuits directly to the ICC." [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Oct. 15, 2020]

As this report documents, the PA has engaged continuously with the ICC since then, involving high-level officials and extensive legal preparations and documentation. PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas is the political architect, joined by then PA Minister of Foreign Affairs Riyad Al-Malki and Head of the PA Attorney's Office for International Legal Cooperation Jamil Sajadiyeh and many others who continue to execute the PA's ICC strategy.

The PA takes pride in snubbing the US. PA leader Mahmoud Abbas bragged about what he called "our brave decision to reject the [US] pressures," saying: **"I have told the Americans 'no,' more than 30 times... the biggest 'no' that we told the Americans, was when they pressured us not to approach the international courts – the ICC."** [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, May 25, 2025]

Mahmoud Abbas also bragged that the PA went to the ICC, knowing that it violated the Oslo Accords: **"The Oslo Accords did not give us the right to go to the ICC to sue Israel and its leaders... but we did it despite Oslo."** [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, May 8, 2025]

The ICC responded to the PA's ongoing and repeated complaints by issuing arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. The PA efforts have positioned the PA as the central player in ICC proceedings against Israel. The PA takes credit for the ICC's decision to request arrest warrants against Israeli leaders, and PA officials and members of Fatah, the party headed by Mahmoud Abbas, have publicly declared that the ICC decision was a Palestinian achievement and attributed it to Mahmoud Abbas.

On Feb. 6, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14203, which calls for "tangible and significant consequences" against "any foreign person determined by the Secretary of State... to have directly engaged in any effort by the ICC to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute a protected person," including "our close ally Israel." It adds, "For the purposes of this order: (a) the term 'person' means an individual or entity; (b) the term 'entity' means a government or instrumentality of such government."

Ignoring President Trump's second EO as well, the PA continued to engage with the ICC, its legal teams meeting and preparing additional complaints, which were submitted by a legal team appointed to represent them, through a **"Power of Attorney granted to the team of international lawyers by the [PA-established] Palestinian Bar Association."**

- In February 2025, PA-funded Prisoners' Club Director in Hebron Amjad Al-Najjar described the PA's preparation of thousands of testimonies for use in the ICC: "Regarding the case in the ICC, we sent the appropriate reports and documented testimonies... **the Prisoners'**

Club, together with the PLO Commission [of Prisoners' Affairs], with thousands of testimonies... [Official PA TV, Feb. 19, 2025]

- In June 2025, Mahmoud Abbas met with the PA's Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR). "The delegation members... noted that the **ICHR is increasingly taking action on the international level, in cooperation with the international legal entities and particularly with the ICC.**" [Official PA TV News, June 4, 2025]
- On July 5, 2025, "**The Palestinian National Council** (the PLO's legislative body) **issued a statement demanding that the ICC immediately launch an investigation** of the open incitement to genocide by [Israeli] officers, soldiers, and ministers... In addition, the PNC called [on the ICC] to include these acts in the legal proceedings being taken against the Israeli war criminals." [Official PA TV News, July 5, 2025]
- On July 8, 2025, the PA Foreign Affairs Aide on UN and its Organizations Affairs, Omar "Awadallah noted the importance of the reports being prepared... such as **the report of the [PA's] Committee to Resist Settlements and the Wall that will be submitted to all the international bodies including the international courts** (i.e., ICC), which have begun to act by issuing arrest warrants against several Israeli war criminals." [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 8, 2025]
- On July 10, 2025, another submission was made to the ICC: "Tomorrow... a formal complaint will be filed with the ICC regarding the severe violations of [the Palestinian prisoners'] human rights." [PA TV News, July 9, 2025] The following day, the PA-funded Prisoners' Club confirmed the submission: "The legal team announced that it had submitted a list including 21 names of Israeli officials whom it demands to prosecute, and added that this was **"the result of cooperation between Palestinian and international legal institutions."** [TRT Arabic (Turkey), July 10, 2025]

The international legal team that submitted the latest complaints to the ICC on behalf of the PA was formally appointed by the PA-established Palestinian Bar Association, by a **"Power of Attorney granted to the team of international lawyers by the Palestinian Bar Association (PBA)... written on Oct. 7, 2023."** [Global Magazine (Kuwait), Dec. 8, 2023] The same day that Hamas committed its terror atrocities against Israelis, the PA started preparing for another ICC assault on Israel.

The Head of the international legal team, Dr. Faisal Khazaal announced that the lawyers received a second Power of Attorney, in January 2025: **"I also thank the Palestinian Bar Association... [for] granting the legal Power of Attorney on behalf of the Palestinian people to the international team of lawyers,** through the Power of Attorney number 2023/6939."

[Dr. Faisal Khazaal, Twitter account, Jan. 19, 2025]

PA Officials and Branches Involved in the ICC Process

The following Palestinian persons, officials, representatives, and entities have played an active role in promoting ICC action against Israel, justifying their inclusion in penalties under the Executive Order. Below is a detailed list of their roles, actions, and direct quotes from Palestinian sources that define and highlight their activities. The quotes include a link to the material that appears on Palestinian Media Watch's (PMW) website, often in greater detail:

OFFICIALS

1. Mahmoud Abbas (Palestinian Authority and Fatah Chairman)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Initiated membership and led the contacts with the ICC, making the decision to petition the court and directing the PA's legal strategy, as well as ordering submissions of files.
- Traveled to the ICC to meet the prosecutors
- Formed a legal team to submit complaints
- Bragged that he initiated the ICC engagement, knowing it was against US wishes and in violation of the Oslo Accords.
- Credited by PA officials for the ICC's decision to investigate Israel and issue arrest warrants

Evidence:

From an interview with Mahmoud Abbas by Arab journalist Badiya Fawaz Yassin in which Abbas brags about his “more than 30” refusals to follow American requests, and especially the US demand that the PA not go to the ICC:

PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas:

“I have told the Americans ‘no’ more than 30 times... The biggest confrontation and the biggest ‘no’ that we told the Americans, was when they pressured us not to approach the international courts – the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the [UN] International Court of Justice (ICJ) – as well as the [UN] Human Rights Council. They used unprecedented threats, and our firm stance was that we said ‘no’ and continued the move towards these courts. You see today the result of our brave decision to reject the pressures and turn to a blockade on Israel and a demand for an accounting from it for its occupation and aggression: the ICC’s decisions to charge Israel with committing war crimes, and also the latest advisory opinion of the ICJ that considered the Israeli occupation in the Palestinian territories that [Israel] took over in 1967 as an illegal occupation, which it and its consequences must be put to an end as soon as possible.”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, May 25, 2025]

From an interview with Mahmoud Abbas by Arab journalist Badiya Fawaz Yassin in which Abbas bragged that “From 2015 until now, we have been submitting monthly complaints to the ICC” and that in 2018 “we filed a lawsuit against the US in the ICJ”:

Mahmoud Abbas:

“We have made every effort to fight the Israeli occupation... and therefore it was necessary to confront it through the international bodies, foremost among them the ICJ...

In July 2018, we filed a lawsuit against the US in the ICJ, after the American administration moved its embassy to Jerusalem in 2017 while advancing the so-called ‘deal of the century’...

Our activity was not confined just to the ICJ, and we also turned to the ICC – a matter that raised the concerns of the occupation state (i.e., PA euphemism for Israel) and its supporters worldwide. We have been under tremendous pressures which are being exerted on us until now... From 2015 until now, we

have been submitting monthly complaints to the ICC, which include the main Israeli crimes in the territory of the State of Palestine.”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 1, 2025]

Excerpt of a column by Muwaffaq Matar, Fatah Revolutionary Council member and regular columnist for the official PA daily, quoting Abbas saying that the PA knowingly violated the Oslo Accords when it went to the ICC, the ICJ, and the UNHRC:

“President Mahmoud Abbas [said] in response to a question as part of an interview with media woman Badiya Fawaz Yassin in August 2024... **The Oslo Accords did not give us the right to go to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to sue Israel and its leaders for the war crimes they are committing against our people, nor did it give us the right to turn to the [UN] International Court of Justice (ICJ), the [UN] Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and many international organizations that we are now members of in order to prove that we are a state like the rest of the world’s states, but we did it despite Oslo.**”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, May 8, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/37207>

In June 2025, Mahmoud Abbas continues to direct the submission of material to the ICC:

“[PA] President Mahmoud Abbas received the annual report for 2024 from the Independent [PA] Commission for Human Rights (i.e., **ICHR**, see note below), while meeting with a delegation led by ICHR General-Commissioner Issam Al-Aroui. The delegation members... noted that the **ICHR is increasingly taking action on the international level, in cooperation with the international legal entities and particularly with the International Criminal Court (ICC)**, to expose the crimes and atrocities of the occupation (i.e., Israel).

The delegation expressed appreciation for the president's efforts and directives that place supreme priority on the cooperation between the ICHR and the public institutions... **His Honor the President emphasized the need for full cooperation between the public institutions and legal institutions (i.e., ICC)**, with the aim of exposing the ongoing crimes of the occupation.”

[Official PA TV News, June 4, 2025]

Independent [PA] Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) – a human rights organization under the PA which was established by former PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in a presidential decree in 1993.

Abbas travelled to the Hague to meet the Prosecutor of the ICC Fatou Bensouda

“The Prosecutor of the ICC Mrs. Fatou Bensouda and representatives of her Office received H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, the President of Palestine and his delegation at the Seat of the Court in The Hague, Netherlands.”

[October 30, 2015, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/president-palestine-he-mr-mahmoud-abbas-visits-icc-prosecutor>]



Abbas praised for leading the “submitting complaints... at the ICC”

Coordinator of the Palestinian factions in Tulkarem Faisal Salameh:

“There is a Palestinian leadership that is leading the political confrontation at all the international platforms by **submitting complaints against the occupation at the ICC**. [This is a confrontation] that is being **led by an expert legal team under the leadership and guidance of [PA] President Abbas**.”

[Official PA TV, Dec. 17, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/36782>

Director of the PA-controlled Committee to Resist Settlements and the Wall Muayyad Sha'ban, explains they are working with the ICC under Abbas' guidance:

Muayyad Sha'ban:

“We in the Committee to Resist the Wall ... **are also represented in the committee that was entrusted by [PA] President [Abbas] with monitoring these violations and reporting on them to the ICC**) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also a **major partner together with the PA attorney general**, [organizing] all these documents, all the information in all cases. Everything that is required by the ICC. We are accurately documenting the crimes. We have a database of these settlers' names and who they are, including identity numbers. **All this has been submitted [to the ICC]**, but the case is still not complete... **All the names that are mentioned from time to time and have been sanctioned by the American administration or the European Union are names that were submitted by the Palestinians.**”

[Official PA TV, Dec. 11, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/36775>

Fatah Revolutionary Council member Tayseer Nasrallah explains that the PLO is also involved, led by Abbas:

Tayseer Nasrallah:

“The measure taken to petition the international bodies and the state of Palestine's entry as a member among them must continue because this matter hurts the occupation... **These measures being taken by the PLO and the Palestinian Authority led by our brother, President Mahmoud Abbas**, are bearing fruit and are very important.”

[Official PA TV, May 21, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35296>

PA Attorney's Office for International Legal Cooperation headed by Jamil Sajadiyeh prepared the material for the ICC submissions on Abbas' instructions:

Jamil Sajadiyeh:

“Palestine has submitted all it can in order to carry out these [ICC] investigations... **according to the instructions of His Honor President [Abbas]** and all the relevant parties.”

[Official Palestinian Authority TV, May 25, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35694>

The Palestinian National Council says that the ICC investigation is a credit to Abbas:

“The National Council said that the announcement of ICC Chief Prosecutor [Fatou Bensouda on launching an investigation against Israel] is... **a magnificent victory of**

Palestinian diplomacy... Fatah Spokesman Jamal Nazzal... continued: **'The fact that Palestine has reached this day is credited mainly to the decision of [PA] President Mahmoud Abbas** – who was supported by Fatah and the leadership – to join the Rome Convention, which constitutes a condition for membership in the ICC at The Hague.'"

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 4, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/18644>

Abbas' office praised the ICC's criminal investigation and the PA Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its work with the ICC, "as directed by Mahmoud Abbas":

"The Palestinian Presidency today expressed its great appreciation for the decision of the Prosecutor of the ICC to open a criminal investigation into the Situation of Palestine... The Presidency praised the independence and courage of the Prosecutor in defending the right and freedoms, while also praising 'the tireless efforts made in previous years **to reach the goals we seek.**' The Presidency also expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and its diplomatic staff, which carried out its duties **as directed by President Mahmoud Abbas** in defense of the rights of the Palestinian people, praising, in particular, the role of the National Committee for Follow-up of the Court's file and civil society institutions in this field."

[Wafa, official PA news agency, English edition, March 4, 2021]

<https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/123529>

International law researcher Jihad Al-Harazin said the PA "has been submitting daily requests to the ICC Prosecutor," and praised Abbas' wisdom in joining the ICC:

Jihad Al-Harazin:

"Since Palestine joined the ICC, **it has been submitting daily requests to the ICC Prosecutor...** about everything happening on Palestinian soil... We had to join this court, and our membership did not come out of a vacuum rather **from extensive diplomatic efforts, led particularly by President Mahmoud Abbas...** From this, a brilliant political vision emerged that would **force the occupation's leaders to be brought before the most important international body for justice, the ICC,** so they would be held accountable for their crimes. This leads us to appreciate the foresight and wisdom of **President Mahmoud Abbas' vision** when he decided to join the ICC."

[Official PA TV, *From the Capitals*, November 25, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35692>

Fatah official Nasri Hamamreh praised Abbas for the achievements at the ICC:

Fatah Jenin Branch member Nasri Hamamreh:

"The political and diplomatic efforts, which we see as part of the political and diplomatic conflict with the occupation, reached their height upon the achievement of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision... It is **an achievement for the wise leader of the Palestinian people [PA President Mahmoud Abbas]** who thinks of every way possible to bolster the Palestinian people's resilience and to push the Israeli occupation into a corner, and to expose it, to expose its true ugly face to all the nations of the world."

[Official PA TV, May 21, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35341>

The PA leadership under Abbas has been involved in the ICC for years:

“Fatah Movement Deputy Chairman [and Fatah Central Committee member] Mahmoud Al-Aloul said that our people carried out intifada in order to resist the occupation's crimes... He also emphasized that **the leadership has decided to transfer the matter of [Israeli] settlement to the International Criminal Court.**”

[WAFA, official PA news agency, July 26, 2017]

<https://palwatch.org/page/12760>

2. Riyadh Al-Malki (former PA Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- As Foreign Minister served as the PA's main liaison with the ICC, ensuring constant pressure on the court
- Coordinated and led direct communication with ICC prosecutors
- Submitted legal files to the ICC against Israeli leaders
- Confirmed that the PA submitted periodic reports to the ICC
- Conducted frequent meetings with ICC officials to advance cases against Israel, including with ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda
- Publicly demanded that ICC prioritize Palestinian cases

Evidence:

Upon returning from a meeting with ICC prosecutor Bensouda, PA Minister of Foreign Affairs Riyadh Al-Malki said he pushed her to “expedite” the cases against Israel:

“[PA] Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Riyadh Al-Malki emphasized that ‘The contacts will continue with International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, despite all the obstacles being placed by the occupation (i.e., Israeli) authorities... In the meeting with Bensouda it was emphasized that the launch of the investigation [of Israel] must be expedited and the cases must be transferred in the transitional period of the new president (sic., new ICC chief prosecutor), and that there need to be practical steps on the ground to advance them instead of reexamining the cases with the ICC’s new team.’”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 23, 2021]

Riyad Al-Malki's meeting with ICC:

Official PA TV newsreader:

“[PA] Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Riyadh **Al-Malki...met with the ICC general prosecutor** close to the start of the 21st Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute – which established the ICC in The Hague – that will last until Dec. 10.”

[Official PA TV News, Dec. 5, 2022]

<https://palwatch.org/page/32454>

Riyad Al-Malki's meeting with ICC and submitting documents:

“[PA] Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates **Riyad Al-Malki gave ICC General Prosecutor Karim Khan a document** on the severe Israeli crimes against the Palestinian children...**during a meeting between Al-Malki and his entourage with**

the ICC general prosecutor... Al-Malki emphasized the ICC's importance and role in doing justice with the Palestinian people and in demanding an accounting from the Israeli war criminals... He noted that **the State of Palestine is continuing to cooperate with the court and the general prosecutor's team in order to hand over all the documented information** that proves that senior Israeli military and civil officials are committing severe and ongoing crimes against the Palestinian people."

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Dec. 6, 2022]

<https://palwatch.org/page/32454>

Riyad Al-Malki's meeting with ICC and submitting documents:

Official PA TV reporter:

"[PA Minister of Foreign Affairs] Al-Malki and his accompanying delegation discussed ways of developing the activity and cooperation with the ICC, and all the complaint cases against Israel. The ICC also received the evidence, proof, and report of Palestinian General Prosecutor [Akram Al-Khatib] on the case of the assassination of Palestinian Martyr journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the occupation's crimes against our people."

PA Minister of Foreign Affairs Riyad Al-Malki:

"We submitted a copy to him [ICC Chief Prosecutor Khan] of the results of the investigation by the Palestinian general prosecutor... He [Khan] officially asked us to provide him with details about this investigation so that he would be able to follow this issue with the necessary seriousness. We gave him a letter discussing the need to add the crime of apartheid as part of the [Israeli] crimes that the ICC needs to investigate."

[Official PA TV News, June 9, 2022]

<https://palwatch.org/page/36958>

Riyad Al-Malki's reports on constant contact, meetings, and submitting documents to ICC:

Official PA TV host: "Going back to the recent decision of [ICC] General Prosecutor [Fatou Bensouda], have you made contact with her?" ...

PA Minister of Foreign Affairs Riyad Al-Malki:

"Yes, we are in constant contact with her... and her office from the first moment when we set foot in the ICC in 2014... directly or indirectly, through the visits we are making, through contact via our delegation at The Hague, or through the periodical reports we are submitting to the general prosecutor's office. We made contact before the announcement [of the ICC investigation], and we were informed several hours before the announcement that there would be an announcement. We knew about this, but they asked us to keep it secret... Contact has been made between us and the general prosecutor's office regarding the request for a meeting."

[Official PA TV, *Topic of the Day*, March 6, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/18641>

3. Muhammad Shtayyeh (then PA Prime Minister)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Responsible for submitting files to the ICC

- Advocated for ICC action against Israel

Evidence:

Then PA Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh travelled to the ICC to meet with ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and submitted the papers.

[WAFA, official PA news agency, Feb. 15, 2020]

<https://palwatch.org/page/17849>



PA Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh:

“Of course, **we did join [the ICC] and we did submit files.** The Israelis should know, and they should take us seriously.”

[Facebook page of PA Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh, May 29, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/23847>

4. Muhammad Al-Shalalkeh (then PA Minister of Justice Muhammad Al-Shalalkeh)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Submitted lawsuits to the ICC
- Drafted PA strategies for legal proceedings in the ICC
- Called for extradition of Israeli leaders under international law

Evidence:

Then PA Minister of Justice Muhammad Shalalkeh:

“The State of Palestine in that period in 2015 joined [the ICC]... In 2018 it transferred- in other words, **it submitted a complaint... Based on this situation, the ICC investigated and according to the evidence, proofs, and criminal evidence reached the conclusion that the Israeli leaders, and especially [Benjamin] Netanyahu and [former] Minister of Defense Gallant, committed war crimes and crimes against humanity and against the Palestinian people...**

Therefore, I say that from the angle of international law, **the campaign that the Palestinian leadership is waging is a successful legal campaign...**

We need to sue the companies that export weapons and ammunition [to Israel], and the states are also responsible for the actions of their three branches – the legislative branch, the judicial branch, and the executive branch.”

[Official PA TV, *Topic of the Day*, Nov. 24, 2024]

PA Minister of Justice Muhammad Al-Shalalkeh:

“The ICC has full authority for judging and extradition. The Israeli settlers, or the Israeli war criminals... There will be a list of names that may begin. **We can investigate the [Israeli] prime minister...** The ICC will act according to a legal plan, according to the legal measures for extradition and prosecution, and there were experiences with this after World War II: the court in Nuremberg and in Tokyo for prosecuting and punishing the Nazis.”

[Official PA TV, *Palestine This Morning*, Feb. 7, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/18596>

“[PA] Minister of Justice Muhammad Al-Shalaldeh announced yesterday [Oct. 14, 2020] that in a matter of days **the Palestinian judicial system... are currently working to gather criminal evidence in order to submit the first lawsuits... We, in the Palestinian judicial system, will submit lawsuits directly to the ICC.**”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Oct. 15, 2020]

<https://palwatch.org/page/18335>

5. Jamil Sajadiyeh (Head of PA Attorney’s Office for International Legal Cooperation)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Managed legal submissions from the PA to the ICC
- Organized over 80 meetings between PA and ICC prosecutors
- Submitted at least 60 cases detailing allegations against Israeli leaders

Evidence:

Head of the PA Attorney’s Office for International Legal Cooperation Jamil Sajadiyeh:

“There are efforts that have been made with or planned through **joint meetings with ICC. Around 80 meetings have been held between Palestine and the ICC**, of course with the office of General Prosecutor [Fatou Bensouda]. There are **nearly 60 cases and letters that have been submitted**, all of them telling about the Israeli violations. **Monthly reports are being submitted to the ICC via the general prosecutor through the [PA] Ministry of Foreign Affairs...** Palestine has submitted all it can [to the ICC] in order to carry out these investigations. We are [working] according to the instructions of His Honor [PA] President [Mahmoud Abbas] and all the relevant parties.”

[Official PA TV, May 25, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/23849>

6. Qadura Fares (former Director of PLO Commission of Prisoners’ Affairs and Chairman of the PA-funded Prisoners’ Club)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Led documentation effort for the ICC
- Worked with PA committee to submit files to the ICC

Evidence:

Director of PLO Commission of Prisoners’ Affairs Qadura Fares:

“Regarding the question whether the [Palestinian prisoners’] right [to submit complaints] will be subject to a statute of limitations, this will not happen. **We will continue to monitor the matter before the International Criminal Court** or any other judicial authority that deals with crimes against humanity.”

[Official PA TV, Dec. 12, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/37208>

Director of PLO Commission of Prisoners’ Affairs Qadura Fares:

“We in the [PLO] Commission of Prisoners' [Affairs] and the [PA-funded] Prisoners' Club, are documenting all the crimes. **We are cooperating with the committee that was established by decision of [PA] President [Abbas]**, a professional committee led by [PA] Attorney General Akram Al-Khatib. It is documenting the appropriate testimonies according to the required criteria **so that these testimonies will be accepted before the ICC** or the state courts in some of the states that allow suing war criminals.”

[Official PA TV, Nov. 14, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35693>

PA-funded Prisoners' Club Director in Hebron Amjad Al-Najjar:

“Regarding the case in the International Criminal Court (ICC), we sent the appropriate reports and documented testimonies and they were directly delivered to the relevant authorities, including our brothers in South Africa who are managing the case, and also to the team of lawyers led by the famous French lawyer who passed away a month ago, Gilles Devers. We concluded the case for him personally, **the team of the Prisoners' Club, together with the Commission [of Prisoners' Affairs], with thousands of testimonies** on the crimes committed against our prisoners in the occupation's (i.e., Israel's) prisons.”

[Official PA TV, Feb. 19, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/36992>

7. Abbas Zaki (Fatah Central Committee member and Fatah Commissioner for Arab and China Relations)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Managed PA efforts vis-à-vis South Africa to influence the ICC

Evidence:

“At his office in Ramallah, Fatah Movement Central Committee member and Fatah General Commissioner for Arab and China Relations Abbas Zaki received South African Ambassador to Palestine Mr. Shaun Bynevelde. The two sides discussed **the bilateral Palestinian-South African and international process led by South Africa at the ICC at The Hague** to expose Israel's crimes in its war against the unarmed Palestinian people.”

[Fatah Central Committee member Abbas Zaki, Facebook page, Jan. 21, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/36948>

8. Jibril Rajoub (Fatah Central Committee Secretary)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Led Palestinian efforts to influence ICC

Evidence:

Responding to the ICC's decision to open the investigation, Fatah Central Committee Secretary Jibril Rajoub said that the PA deserves the credit for the ICC decision:
Fatah Central Committee Secretary Jibril Rajoub:

“First, the ICC’s decision to investigate is the climax of the **efforts that the Palestinian National Authority, the [PA] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the mechanisms of the state, and the [PA] presidential institutions have invested over the years that have passed**, and now we are picking the fruits of this effort that has meanings and messages. The first message to the Israelis is that your continued contempt for international legitimacy and human rights, **and your continued belittling of international law and international conventions, with cover from Trump or someone else...** For our part, **we will cooperate with the court.**”

[Official PA TV, *Topic of the Day*, March 3, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/32714>

9. Qadri Abu Bakr (former Director of PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Led documentation for the ICC
- Called upon the ICC to expedite its investigation into Israel

Evidence:

“Director of [PLO] Commission of Prisoners’ Affairs Qadri Abu Bakr... said that the [ICC] decision is **a great national achievement** that is saturated in the blood of the Martyrs, the wounded, and the prisoners, and in the Palestinian people’s endless sacrifices. **He called on the ICC to hurry and investigate the severe violations** against the Palestinian people, its lands, and property, and [leading to] prosecuting the leaders and criminals of the Israeli entity as war criminals. Abu Bakr noted that throughout its years of activity, **the Commission of Prisoners’ Affairs has documented the Israeli occupation’s severe violations against the prisoners, which contradict international humanitarian law, the human rights conventions, and human values.**”

[Ma’an, independent Palestinian news agency, Feb. 6, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/18597>

10. Akram Al-Khatib (PA Attorney General)

Role in ICC prosecution:

- Led documentation efforts for the ICC
- Formed formal committee to influence the ICC

Evidence:

Director of PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs Qadura Fares:

“We in the [PLO] Commission of Prisoners’ [Affairs] and the [PA-funded] Prisoners’ Club, are documenting all the crimes. We are cooperating with the committee that was established by decision of [PA] President [Abbas], **a professional committee led by Attorney General Akram Al-Khatib. It is documenting the appropriate testimonies according to the required criteria so that these testimonies will be accepted before the ICC or the state courts in some of the states that allow suing war criminals.**”

[Official PA TV, Nov. 14, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35693>

ENTITIES

In addition to the evidence above showing the leaders in the ICC on behalf of the entities, the following official PA sources document additional involvement of the Palestinian entities with the ICC.

1. The Palestinian Authority

Official PA TV reporter:

“An important legal development is expected tomorrow at The Hague, where a formal complaint will be filed with the International Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the severe violations of [the Palestinian prisoners’] human rights, including the policy of systematic torture and deliberate starvation, which is considered a war crime under international law... The complaint to be submitted to the ICC is not limited just to what is happening in the occupation’s (i.e., Israel’s) prisons, but also includes the occupation’s use of starvation as a weapon against civilians in the Gaza Strip and committing genocide contrary to all the international customs and conventions.”

[Official PA TV News, July 9, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/37211>

PA’s Committee to Resist Settlements and the Wall is preparing new material for the ICC, in July 2025

“[PA] Minister of Foreign Affairs [Varsen Shahin’s] Aide on UN and its Organizations Affairs, Omar Awadallah said that Israel is violating all the rules of international law... Awadallah noted the importance of the reports being prepared [by the PA] on the colonialism and crimes of the occupation (i.e., Israel), such as the report of the [PA’s] Committee to Resist Settlements and the Wall that will be submitted to all the international bodies including the international courts (i.e., ICC), which have begun to act by issuing arrest warrants against several Israeli war criminals.”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 8, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/37206>

Former PA Minister of Justice and lecturer on international law at Al-Quds University Muhammad Shalaldeh:

“Regarding the violations against women, according to the regulations of the International Criminal Court (ICC)... There are **documented Palestinian cases that have been submitted to the ICC on behalf of the State of Palestine, which is a body attached to this treaty** (i.e., the Rome Statute of the ICC, ratified by PA in 2015).”

[Official PA TV, June 10, 2025]

Official PA TV newsreader:

“[PA] President Mahmoud Abbas received the annual report for 2024 from the [PA’s] Independent Commission for Human Rights (i.e., **ICHR**; see note below), while meeting with a delegation led by ICHR General-Commissioner Issam Al-Aroui.

The delegation members... noted that the **ICHR is increasingly taking action on the international level, in cooperation with the international legal entities and particularly with the International Criminal Court (ICC)**, in order to expose the crimes and atrocities of the occupation (i.e., Israel).

The delegation expressed appreciation for the president's efforts and directives that place supreme priority on the cooperation between the ICHR and the public institutions... **His Honor the President emphasized the need for full cooperation between the public institutions and legal institutions.**"

[Official PA TV News, June 4, 2025]

Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) – a human rights organization under the PA which was established by former PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in a presidential decree in 1993.

<https://palwatch.org/page/37209>

Official PA TV host:

"Although moves were made in the past, we had a peak period regarding making these moves vis-à-vis the international legal system, whether at the [UN] International Court of Justice (ICJ) or at the International Criminal Court (ICC). **We made a move that was very important and prominent.**"

[Official PA TV, *Capital of Capitals*, June 16, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/37210>

Attorney and international law expert Abdullah Salah Shannaq:

"We anticipated this matter (i.e., ICC arrest warrants against Israeli leaders). We made statements about it, and we bet on it... Praise Allah, it was realized. This victory is a victory for humanity... The victory for humanity came from Palestine. The victory for human rights, for international justice, and for international law came from Palestine. **Kudos to the Palestinian leadership and to the Palestinian Authority.**"

[Official PA TV, May 20, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/36798>

PA-controlled Committee to Resist Settlements and the Wall Director of Documentation Amir Daoud:

"We as Palestinians **need to continue providing these organizations with real documents and information to expand the scope of sanctions** to ensure that all the occupation's criminals will reach the world's courts to receive their punishment."

[Official PA TV, Nov. 27, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/36770>

Secretary-General of the International Academic Campaign against the Israeli Occupation and Apartheid Ramzi Oudeh:

"The courageous decision of the International Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the arrest of Gallant and Netanyahu is **among the most important achievements of the Palestinian struggle in the past 10 years**. It is considered **the most significant achievement**. Today, this is **a victory for the Palestinian people.**"

[Official PA TV, *Topic of the Day*, Nov. 27, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35738>

Head of PLO Department of Human Rights Qassem Awad:

“We are currently discussing the issuance of two arrest warrants, which **came following a tremendous effort in the leadership of the official Palestinian diplomacy and popular diplomacy**, against war criminals Netanyahu and Gallant. Today there is an expansion of the application of these warrants so they will include 18 from the first line of the occupation’s (i.e., Israel’s) leaders and General Staff, including Chief of Staff, Air Force Commander, and new occupation government Minister of War (sic., Minister of Defense). **All this is a result of tens of thousands of documents submitted by the Palestinian side, by the official and popular Palestinian diplomacy to Mr. Karim Khan recently and to Mrs. Fatou Bensouda.**”

[Official PA TV, Jan. 14, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/36835>

“**The State of Palestine** Thursday welcomed the ICC decision to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and former ‘Defense’ Minister Yoav Gallant... **It affirmed that it would continue to engage with international justice institutions and courts** until all criminals who committed and are still committing crimes against the Palestinian people are held accountable to ensure justice and fairness to Palestinians.”

[Wafa, official PA news agency, English edition, Nov. 21, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35694>

Fatah Jenin Branch member Nasri Hamamreh:

“The ICC’s decision... **is an achievement for the Palestinian leadership, for the PLO, and for the PA.**”

[Official PA TV, May 21, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35341>

Fatah Revolutionary Council member Tayseer Nasrallah:

“**The measure taken to petition the international bodies** and the state of Palestine’s entry as a member among them must continue because this matter hurts the occupation... **These measures being taken by the PLO and the Palestinian Authority** led by our brother, President Mahmoud Abbas, are bearing fruit and are very important.”

[Official PA TV, May 21, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35296>

PA Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Omar Awadallah:

“The International Court of Justice is putting on trial the governmental policy and institutions, legal system, governance system, and military system in Israel, in the sense that all of Israel is accused of committing this crime, **along with our process at the ICC** that is putting the individuals on trial... As we have always said, **this is part of the legal process that the Palestinian [PA] leadership is implementing** to tighten the noose on this colonialist system to dismantle it and end it.”

[Official PA TV, June 3, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35150>

2. The PLO

Official PA TV newsreader:

“The Palestinian National Council (PNC, the PLO legislative body) issued a statement demanding that the International Criminal Court (ICC) immediately launch an investigation of the open incitement to genocide by [Israeli] officers, soldiers, and ministers... In addition, the PNC called [on the ICC] to include these acts in the legal proceedings being taken against the Israeli war criminals.”

[Official PA TV News, July 5, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/37206>

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“The ICC’s decision... is an achievement for the Palestinian leadership, for the PLO, and for the PA.”

[Official PA TV, May 21, 2024]

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[Official PA TV, May 21, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35296>

“The [Palestinian] National Council (i.e., the legislative body of the PLO) said that the announcement of ICC Chief Prosecutor [Fatou Bensouda on launching an investigation against Israel] is the beginning of justice being done for our people and its Martyrs, prisoners, and detainees.... The council added in a statement yesterday that this decision constitutes...a magnificent victory of Palestinian diplomacy.”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 4, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/18644>

The PLO and its terror factions, and Hamas were all part of the PA’s committee to plan the ICC contacts:

PLO Executive Committee Secretary Saeb Erekat:

“After our acceptance as members of the ICC, His Honor [PA] President [Mahmoud Abbas] established a supreme national committee responsible for following up with the court. I have the honor of chairing it. [PA Minister of Foreign Affairs] brother Riyadh Al-Malki is the official link connecting to the ICC, and he is the rapporteur to the committee... This committee included [factions] from all ends of the Palestinian political spectrum, without any exceptions... The number of committee members was 45 and we all worked as a team. Dr. Ghazi Hamad of [Hamas] was even elected the committee’s spokesman.”

Official PA TV interviewer:

“He is a senior Hamas official.”

Erekat:

“There were six from the Hamas Movement. And sister Khalida Jarrar who represented the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], Allah willing may she be released; and there was [Deputy Secretary-General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] brother Qais [Abd Al-Karim] ‘Abu Laila.’”

[Official PA TV, Dec. 21, 2019]

<https://palwatch.org/page/17848>

3. The Palestinian Authority Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Head of the PA Attorney’s Office for International Legal Cooperation Jamil Sajadiyeh:

“There are efforts that have been made with or planned through joint meetings with the ICC. Around 80 meetings have been held between Palestine and the ICC, of course with the office of ICC General Prosecutor [Fatou Bensouda]. There are nearly 60 cases and letters that have been submitted, all of them telling about the Israeli violations. **Monthly reports are being submitted to the ICC via the general prosecutor through the PA Ministry of Foreign Affairs... Palestine has submitted all it can in order to carry out these investigations... according to the instructions of His Honor President [Abbas] and all the relevant parties.”**

[Official PA TV, May 25, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/23849>

Fatah Central Committee Secretary Jibril Rajoub:

“The ICC’s decision to investigate is the climax of the efforts that the Palestinian National Authority, **the [PA] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the mechanisms of the state, and the [PA] presidential institutions have invested over the years that have passed, and now we are picking the fruits of this effort that has meanings and messages.”**

[Official PA TV, *Topic of the Day*, March 3, 2021]

<https://palwatch.org/page/32714>

“The State of Palestine welcomes the announcement of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on proceeding with the investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine, said a statement by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates... It concluded: ‘The State of Palestine stands ready to cooperate with and extend all assistance to the Office of the Prosecutor and the Court during this investigation.’”**

[Wafa, official PA news agency, English edition, March 3, 2021]

<https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/123512>

4. PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs

- Managed documentation for submission to ICC
- Worked with PA attorney general to submit files to ICC

Director of PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs Qadura Fares:

“We in the [PLO] Commission of Prisoners' [Affairs] and the [PA-funded] Prisoners' Club, are documenting all the crimes. We are cooperating with the committee that was established by decision of [PA] President [Abbas], a professional committee led by [PA] Attorney General Akram Al-Khatib. It is documenting the appropriate testimonies according to the required criteria **so that these testimonies will be accepted before the ICC** or the state courts in some of the states that allow suing war criminals.”

[Official PA TV, Nov. 14, 2024]

<https://palwatch.org/page/35693>

5. The PA-funded Prisoners' Club

- Involved in submission of cases against Israel to the ICC

“The Palestinian [PA-funded] Prisoners' Club said in a statement that the international team **submitted a complete legal case [to the ICC]** on violations against the prisoners in the occupation's (i.e., Israel's) prisons, **and another case** concerning crimes of genocide and starvation against civilians in the Gaza Strip.

At a press conference in front of the ICC's headquarters in The Hague, the legal team announced that it had submitted a list including 21 names of Israeli officials whom it demands to prosecute for crimes in the Palestinian territories.

The Prisoners' Club believes this is an ‘unprecedented step in terms of the scope and level of coordination’ and emphasized that it is **the result of cooperation between Palestinian and international legal institutions**, relying on documented evidence and testimonies collected over the past few months.”

[TRT Global Arabic (Turkey) website, July 10, 2025]

Posted text: “The prisoners' institutions [PA-funded] Prisoners' Club, the [PLO] Commission of Prisoners' [Affairs], and the Supreme Council for Monitoring Prisoners' Affairs) [parentheses in source]... organized a protest vigil in El-Bireh in support of the prisoners in the Israeli occupation's prisons, as well as **in support of the international legal efforts – as it was decided today, Wednesday, [July 8, 2025,] that the international legal team would contact the office of International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor [Karim Khan] in order to submit two legal memoranda – one regarding the situation of the Palestinian prisoners (i.e., terrorists) in the occupation's (i.e., Israel's) prisons, ...and the other on the crime of starvation and the violations connected to this, which constitute a blatant violation of international law.”**

[PA-funded Prisoners' Club, Telegram channel, July 8, 2025]

6. Palestinian Bar Association

- Works with and/or prepares documentation for the ICC

Supervisor of Palestinian Bar Association elections in Bethlehem and Fatah member Yazan Salahat:

“The importance of the [Palestinian] Bar Association lies fundamentally in the protection of the rights of our people and their defense, both in the International Criminal Court (ICC) and in the local institutions.”

[Official PA TV, *Reporters on the Ground*, July 5, 2025]

<https://palwatch.org/page/37206>

Conclusions

Given the explicit public admissions by these senior Palestinian Authority officials regarding their direct and continued involvement in supporting ICC prosecutions against the US ally Israel, these individuals and entities meet the criteria for sanctions under Executive Order 14203.

Therefore, I urge the US Department of State to conduct an official investigation into the engagement of the PA, the Palestinian officials, and Palestinian institutions with the ICC, and apply the terms of Executive Order 14203 calling for immediate consequences.