

MEDIA STATEMENT 06 OCTOBER 2025

Media Complicity and Regulatory Breaches

In Platforming Israeli Propaganda During the Genocide in Gaza

1. Introduction

This statement is issued by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) of South Africa. It addresses the grave ethical and regulatory failures by three major South African media platforms — the *Daily Maverick*, Radio 702, and the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). These outlets provided unchallenged platforms to Ariel Seidman, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Israeli Embassy, and Rolene Marks, spokesperson for the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), during Israel's interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla. Drawing on the South African Press Code and the Broadcasting Codes (Free-to-Air, Online, and Subscription), this statement demonstrates how these platforms breached journalistic and ethical obligations, enabling the spread of propaganda amid an UN-confirmed genocide.

2. South African Media's Betrayal

Leading South African media platforms have betrayed the nation's anti-Apartheid legacy by platforming unchallenged Israeli propaganda during a human rights catastrophe.

The decision by *Daily Maverick* and SABC on October 3, 2025, to provide unchallenged platforms for Ariel Seidman, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Israeli Embassy, and by Radio 702 (Mandy Weiner Midday Report) to air comments from Rolene Marks, spokesperson for the Zionist Federation, constitutes a serious breach of journalistic ethics as codified in the South African Press Code. This occurred just one day after Israeli forces violently intercepted the Global Sumud Flotilla in international waters, abducting South African crew members—including Zwelivelile Mandela, grandson of Nelson Mandela—who were engaged in a humanitarian mission to deliver aid to Gaza.

This aid is desperately needed to break the illegal blockade that has been identified by the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry as a central component of Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

3. Context: The Genocide in Gaza

On September 16, 2025, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry issued an unequivocal finding: Israel has committed genocide in the Gaza Strip. This is not an allegation under investigation—it is an official determination by a UN body established to investigate violations of international humanitarian law.

The scale of destruction is staggering and precisely documented:

- 67,074 Palestinians killed as of October 4, 2025, including 20,000 children—an average of one Palestinian child killed every hour for 23 months
- More than 500,000 people trapped in famine, with the World Health Organisation confirming famine for the first time in Gaza on August 22, 2025
- 12,000 children identified as acutely malnourished in July 2025 alone—the highest monthly figure ever recorded, a six-fold increase since the start of the year
- 43,400 children projected to be at severe risk of death from malnutrition by June 2026, tripled from 14,100 in May 2025
- 94% of all hospitals damaged or destroyed, with 1,500 healthcare workers killed in systematic attacks
- 42,000 people living with life-changing injuries, including more than 10,000 children
- Over 90% of homes damaged or destroyed, leaving 1.9 million Palestinians without shelter.

The World Health Organisation, UN agencies, and Gaza's Health Ministry have documented every one of these figures.

The UN Commission found that Israel has committed genocidal acts including:

- Killing and seriously harming unprecedented numbers of Palestinians
- Imposing a total siege, including blocking humanitarian aid leading to starvation
- Systematically destroying healthcare and education systems
- Committing systematic acts of sexual and gender-based violence
- Directly targeting children
- Carrying out systematic and widespread attacks on religious and cultural sites
- Disregarding orders of the International Court of Justice

The Commission established genocidal intent using the “only reasonable inference” standard set by the International Court of Justice, analyzing statements by Israeli authorities as direct evidence of this intent. The Commission concluded that the State of Israel bears responsibility for the failure to prevent genocide, the commission of genocide, and the failure to punish perpetrators.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant have been identified as having incited the commission of genocide, with Israeli authorities failing to take action against them.

This is the context in which South African media chose to platform Israeli propaganda without challenge.

4. The Flotilla Interception: Facts vs Disinformation

What Actually Happened

The Global Sumud Flotilla consisted of 44 civilian boats carrying 500 activists from 37 countries, including human rights defenders, doctors, parliamentarians, activists, and journalists. Among them were 24 Americans including military veterans, prominent figures such as climate activist Greta Thunberg, former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau, European Parliament member Rima Hassan, and Zwelivelile Mandela, grandson of Nelson Mandela. The flotilla carried humanitarian supplies including food, medical supplies, baby formula, and other essential goods desperately needed by Gaza's population—500,000 of whom are trapped in famine according to WHO's August 22, 2025 confirmation.

On October 2, 2025, Israeli forces intercepted the flotilla approximately 70 nautical miles (130 km) off Gaza's coast—in international waters, a clear violation of maritime law. Israeli naval vessels cut communications, jammed signals, and deliberately damaged ship communications to block distress signals and disrupt livestreams documenting the assault. Approximately 450 activists were detained and taken to Israel. Lawyers visiting detained flotilla members documented systematic human rights abuses including denial of food, water, medication, and legal access. Detainees initiated hunger strikes in protest of their unlawful detention and mistreatment.

This was not an isolated incident. In June 2025, Israeli forces intercepted the Madleen using chemical irritant spray against activists. In 2010, Israeli commandos killed 10 activists aboard the Mavi Marmara in international waters—an act for which Israeli soldiers and officials are being tried in absentia in Turkey for war crimes.

Amnesty International's Assessment

Amnesty International's Secretary General, Agnès Callamard, issued a statement on October 2, 2025, characterising Israel's actions as follows:

"Israel's forceful interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla vessels and detention of its crew off the coast of Gaza is a brazen assault against solidarity activists carrying out an entirely peaceful humanitarian mission... By continuing to actively block vital aid to a population against whom Israel is committing genocide, including by inflicting famine, Israel is once again demonstrating its utter contempt for the legally binding orders of the International Court of Justice and its own obligations as the occupying power."

Callamard explicitly stated: “This interception is not just about blocking aid; it is a calculated act of intimidation intended to punish and silence critics of Israel’s genocide and its unlawful blockade on Gaza.”

Amnesty documented that the interception came “after weeks of threats and incitement by Israeli officials against the flotilla and its participants and after several attempts to sabotage some of its ships.”

The Illegality of the Blockade

The blockade of Gaza, which Israel has enforced since 2007 and significantly tightened since October 2023, has been declared illegal by multiple authoritative international bodies:

- The International Committee of the Red Cross has characterised the blockade as collective punishment
- The UN Fact-Finding Mission (2010) found that the blockade amounts to collective punishment
- The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (2025) identified the blockade as a central component of genocidal acts
- Amnesty International has consistently characterised the blockade as illegal collective punishment

Under international humanitarian law, collective punishment is explicitly prohibited by Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The interception of humanitarian aid in international waters violates the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and customary international law governing maritime humanitarian corridors.

5. The Disinformation Amplified by South African Media

Ariel Seidman’s False Claims and Misrepresentations

In interviews on SABC and *Daily Maverick*, Ariel Seidman made the following demonstrably false claims that were broadcast without challenge:

5.1 Claim: The flotilla’s mission was a “publicity stunt” intended as provocation.

Reality: This is a grotesque mischaracterisation of a humanitarian mission attempting to deliver aid to 500,000 people trapped in famine. The flotilla carried essential humanitarian supplies to a population where 12,000 children were identified as acutely malnourished in July 2025 alone—the highest monthly figure ever recorded. The mission’s goal was to establish a maritime humanitarian corridor—a recognized principle under international law—to reach a population where one child is killed every hour and 43,400 children are projected to die from malnutrition by June 2026. Participants included 500 activists from 37 countries: doctors, human rights defenders,

parliamentarians, and the grandson of Nelson Mandela. Characterising a humanitarian mission as a “publicity stunt” during an UN-confirmed genocide that has killed 67,074 Palestinians including 20,000 children is not merely false—it is an obscene attempt to delegitimize solidarity with victims of genocide and justify the continued starvation of an entire population.

5.2 **Claim: The blockade is legal under international law.**

Reality: This is an outright lie that contradicts the unanimous position of international legal authorities. The blockade has been declared illegal collective punishment by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN Fact-Finding Missions, and every major human rights organisation. Most damningly, the UN Commission of Inquiry explicitly identified the blockade as a central component of genocide in its September 16, 2025 determination. The blockade, in place since 2007 and significantly tightened since October 2023, has directly caused the famine that is killing Palestinians en masse. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly prohibits collective punishment. When a media outlet allows an Israeli official to claim that a blockade identified as genocidal by the UN is “legal” without immediate correction, that outlet becomes complicit in justifying genocide.

5.3 **Claim: Reports of detainee mistreatment are unfounded.**

Reality: This denial of documented abuse is consistent with Israel’s pattern of violence against humanitarian workers. Lawyers visiting the 450 detained flotilla members have documented systematic human rights abuses including denial of food, water, medication, and legal access—treatment that violates the Geneva Conventions. Detainees initiated hunger strikes in response to their unlawful detention and mistreatment. Amnesty International’s Secretary General explicitly stated that the detention is unlawful and expressed grave concern for detainees’ safety, particularly for Arab delegates targeted by an “inflammatory smear campaign.” This is the same Israeli military that has killed 1,500 healthcare workers in Gaza—at a rate of five per day at peak—and destroyed 94% of hospitals. The claim that reports of mistreatment are “unfounded” when made by a representative of a state the UN has determined is committing genocide is not merely false—it is an insult to the victims and an attempt to sanitize systematic brutality.

6. **Seidman’s Ahistorical Narrative**

Seidman’s broader narrative in the *Daily Maverick*, framing Israel as a consistent seeker of peace while portraying Palestinians as rejectionist, is contradicted by extensive historical and contemporary evidence:

6.1 **The 1947 UN Partition Plan:** Seidman’s framing ignores the colonial context of Zionism’s implementation, including the 1917 Balfour Declaration that disregarded indigenous Palestinian rights and set in motion systematic dispossession.

- 6.2 The Partition Plan proposed giving 56% of historic Palestine to a Jewish minority that owned less than 7% of the land—a proposal that violated the principle of self-determination.
- 6.3 **The Nakba:** Seidman’s narrative omits the 1948 ethnic cleansing of over 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and the destruction of over 500 Palestinian villages—what Palestinians commemorate as the Nakba (catastrophe). This dispossession created the refugee crisis that continues today.
- 6.4 **Palestinian Nationhood:** The failure of Jordan and Egypt to establish a Palestinian state during their control of Gaza and the West Bank does not negate Palestinian nationhood aspirations, which are grounded in Palestinians’ longstanding presence and internationally recognized right to self-determination.
- 6.5 **The Right of Return:** The Palestinian refugee issue and UNRWA’s mandate address a unique and ongoing human tragedy. The denial of the “right of return”—enshrined in UN General Assembly Resolution 194—attempts to erase generations of displaced Palestinians whose return is protected under international law.
- 6.6 **Hamas’s Legitimacy:** Seidman’s glossing over of Hamas’s democratic election in 2006 and its provision of social services conceals the complexity and legitimacy of Palestinian governance structures. Hamas is a political party that won internationally monitored elections—elections whose results Israel, the United States, and European powers refused to accept, leading to the imposition of the blockade.
- 6.7 **The Hannibal Directive:** Independent investigations have revealed the “Hannibal Directive” and other Israeli military policies that caused grave civilian casualties on October 7, 2023, including Israeli forces killing Israeli civilians. This reality contradicts Seidman’s narrative of Israeli restraint.
- 6.8 **“Humanitarian Gestures”:** Claims of Israeli “humanitarian gestures” are belied by the UN’s determination that Israel is committing genocide through starvation, the systematic destruction of Gaza’s healthcare and education systems, and the persistent siege that has made Gaza unlivable.

7. Rolene Marks’s Propaganda on Radio 702

- 7.1 Speaking on behalf of the Israeli government while claiming to represent the Zionist Federation: Throughout the Radio 702 interview, Marks repeatedly used the pronoun “we” when referring to Israeli government actions, stating “we stopped the war,” “we cease fire this week,” “we are in a peace process.” This reveals that despite being introduced as a spokesperson for the Zionist Federation of South Africa, she was effectively speaking as a representative of the Israeli government. This conflation was not challenged by interviewer Mandy Weiner, misleading listeners about whose interests Marks was representing.

- 7.2 Repeating refuted rape allegations: Marks repeated allegations about October 7 without acknowledging their refutation by multiple investigations. Notably, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, issued a video statement explicitly refuting these claims, stating she was present during the investigation and that the allegations are false. Many women's organisations and human rights groups have documented that these claims constitute atrocity propaganda designed to justify genocidal violence. Marks's repetition of this debunked propaganda without challenge from the interviewer demonstrates a failure of basic journalistic fact-checking.
- 7.3 Categorically labeling Hamas as terrorists: Marks presented Hamas solely as a terrorist organisation while ignoring that it is a political party that won democratic elections in 2006 and has provided vital social services including healthcare, education, and social welfare to Gaza's population. This reductive framing erases the political context of Palestinian resistance to occupation.
- 7.4 Omitting the Hannibal Directive: Marks failed to acknowledge now-documented incidents in which the Israeli Defense Forces killed Israeli civilians on October 7 under the Hannibal Directive—a military protocol authorizing the killing of Israeli soldiers (and civilians in proximity) to prevent their capture.
- 7.5 Ignoring Israeli hostage-taking: Marks failed to recognize that while demanding the release of Israeli captives, Israel holds thousands of Palestinians—including children—as hostages in administrative detention without charge or trial. According to Palestinian prisoner rights organisations, Israel holds over 10,000 Palestinian political prisoners, many subjected to torture and denied due process.
- 7.6 Misrepresenting ceasefire negotiations: Marks presented Israeli participation in ceasefire talks as genuine despite Israel's repeated breaches of prior ceasefires and ongoing actions to derail meaningful peace efforts, including the assassination of negotiators and the expansion of military operations during negotiations.

8. Breaches of the South African Press Code

By uncritically airing this disinformation, these media outlets violated the South African Press Code, which mandates that journalists must comply with the following regulations:

Truthfulness and Accuracy (Section 1)

Requirement:

"Journalists and media must report news truthfully, accurately and fairly" and "present only what may reasonably be true as fact" while clearly distinguishing "fact, conjecture and opinion."

Violation:

Publishing Ariel Seidman's claim that the blockade is "legal" without presenting the overwhelming international legal consensus that it constitutes illegal collective punishment and is a component of genocide violates the requirement to report truthfully and accurately.

Balanced and Contextual Reporting (Section 1.8)

Requirement:

News must be "presented in context and ensure balanced reporting without distortion, exaggeration or misrepresentation."

Violation 1:

Interviewing Israeli and Zionist representatives without adequately challenging their demonstrably false assertions, without presenting the detainees' legal advocates' reports, and without providing the context of the UN's genocide determination fails to ensure balanced reporting.

Violation 2:

Failing to inform audiences that the UN has determined Israel is committing genocide, that the blockade is illegal, and that the interception occurred in international waters constitutes reporting without essential context.

Avoiding Harm and Misleading the Public (Section 2)

Requirement:

The Code forbids journalism that amounts to "propaganda for war," "incitement of imminent violence," or "advocacy of hatred based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion."

Violation:

Providing unchallenged platforms for propaganda that justifies the blockade of humanitarian aid during a genocide risks inciting further violence against Palestinians and misleading the South African public about the nature of the crisis.

Requirement:

Media must verify information before publication, avoid distortion or one-sidedness and must not "mislead the public" whether through repetition of falsehoods or omission of key context.

Violation:

Repeating Israeli claims without verification or challenge during a UN-confirmed genocide misleads the public and serves propagandist aims rather than truth or justice.

Seeking Fair Response (Section 1.9)

Requirement:

The media should “seek, if practicable, the views of the subject of critical reportage in advance of publication” and afford a “reasonable time to respond.”

Violation:

The media outlets did not seek or present the views of the detained flotilla activists, their legal representatives, or South African government officials before airing Israeli propaganda characterising the mission as a “publicity stunt” and the activists as provocateurs.

9. Historical Context and South Africa’s Responsibility

The 2025 Global Sumud Flotilla interception is part of a pattern of Israeli violence against humanitarian missions:

- 2010 – Mavi Marmara: Israeli commandos boarded the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara, killing 10 activists in international waters. The incident drew global condemnation and strained Israel-Turkey relations. Israel apologized for “operational mistakes” in 2013, and Israeli soldiers and officials are being tried in absentia in Turkey for war crimes.
- 2018 – Previous flotillas: Activists were arrested, with some reporting they were tasered and beaten by Israeli forces.
- June 2025 – Madleen: Israeli navy intercepted the ship Madleen in international waters, using chemical irritant spray against activists including Greta Thunberg. The vessel was seized and 12 people detained.

Each time, Israeli officials have characterised these humanitarian missions as provocations, and each time, media outlets have faced the choice of whether to critically examine these claims or amplify them unchallenged.

10. South African Solidarity and Demands

South Africans are rightfully outraged. The flotilla crew, including South African citizens, are being held in degrading conditions without access to basic needs or legal representation. Meanwhile, South Africans have mobilized in increasing numbers to protest the illegal abductions by Israeli forces.

President Cyril Ramaphosa issued a statement on October 2, 2025, calling for the immediate release of flotilla activists and stating: “South Africa calls on Israel to ensure that the life-saving cargo transported by this flotilla reaches the people of Gaza, as the flotilla represents a lifeline for the besieged population.”

Among the demands being made by South African civil society are:

- Immediate cessation of all trade with Israel, especially coal exports that make South Africa a major supplier sustaining the occupation. South Africa's continued trade relationship with a state the UN has determined is committing genocide is unconscionable.
- Prosecution of South African citizens serving in the Israeli military who are complicit in war crimes and genocide. Under international law, South Africa has an obligation to prosecute or extradite individuals suspected of grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.
- Urgent closure of the Israeli Embassy, a decision already made by the National Assembly a year ago but not yet executed. The continued presence of an embassy representing a state committing genocide on South African soil is an affront to South Africa's constitutional values and its history of resistance to Apartheid.
- Leadership of global efforts invoking UN General Assembly Resolution 377A (V) ("Uniting for Peace") to authorize an international peacekeeping force to open humanitarian corridors, end the siege, and protect Palestinians in Gaza.

11. The Media's Responsibility During Genocide

The media outlets that provided unchallenged platforms for Israeli propaganda amid this crisis have failed catastrophically in their duty to the people of South Africa, Gaza, and the world. This is not a matter of editorial judgment or "balance"—it is complicity in genocide.

Real journalism demands that truth, justice, and human dignity be placed above all else—especially during genocide. When 67,074 Palestinians have been killed including 20,000 children, when 500,000 people are trapped in famine, when one child is killed every hour, when 94% of hospitals have been destroyed, when 1,500 healthcare workers have been systematically murdered, the media's responsibility is crystal clear: expose the perpetrators, amplify the victims, and refuse to become instruments of genocidal propaganda.

The South African Press Code exists precisely to prevent media from becoming instruments of propaganda during times of crisis. When the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry has determined that genocide is being committed, when international legal authorities have unanimously declared a blockade illegal collective punishment, when humanitarian workers carrying aid to starving children are intercepted in international waters and detained without due process, the media's responsibility is not to provide "balance" by platforming the perpetrator's justifications unchallenged.

There is no "balance" to be found between genocide and its victims. There is no "both sides" when one side is starving children to death and the other is trying to feed them.

The media's responsibility is to:

- **Report the facts:** The UN has determined Israel is committing genocide. The blockade is illegal. The interception occurred in international waters. Detainees report mistreatment.
- **Provide context:** This is not an isolated incident but part of a systematic campaign to prevent humanitarian aid from reaching a starving population.
- **Challenge disinformation:** When an Israeli official claims the blockade is legal, journalists must immediately present the international legal consensus that it is illegal collective punishment and a component of genocide.
- **Centre the victims:** The voices of detained activists, their families, and the Palestinian people subjected to genocide must be prioritized over the propaganda of those committing these acts.

History will judge those who choose propaganda over truth during genocide. The judgment will be harsh and unforgiving. When future generations ask how genocide was allowed to continue while 67,074 Palestinians were killed, while 20,000 children were slaughtered, while 500,000 people were deliberately starved, while one child was killed every hour for 23 months—the answer will include the names of media outlets that provided platforms for the perpetrators' lies without challenge.

The choice facing South African media is stark and unambiguous: Will they uphold their ethical obligations and their country's proud history of resistance to Apartheid and genocide, or will they be recorded in history as accomplices to genocide—complicit through their amplification of propaganda, their failure to challenge demonstrable lies, and their betrayal of the victims?

South Africa knows what it means to resist oppression. South Africa knows what it means to stand against Apartheid. South Africa knows what it means to demand accountability from those who commit crimes against humanity. The media outlets that have failed in this moment have betrayed not only the people of Gaza, but the legacy of South Africa's own liberation struggle.

12. Breaches of the Broadcasting Codes (SABC and Radio 702)

Section 13(1) of the Free-to-Air Code and Section 9.2 of the Online Broadcasting Code require broadcasters to make reasonable efforts to present opposing points of view fairly when covering controversial issues of public importance. The SABC and Radio 702 interviews breached these obligations by providing uncritical platforms to Seidman and Marks without giving equal weight to verified facts from humanitarian organisations, flotilla participants, or South African officials. Such conduct amounts to editorial bias and negligence in contextual reporting.

Both Marks and Seidman cited claims—such as reports about Hamas's actions on October 7, 2023 and the legality of Israel's blockade—that have been addressed by UN officials and independent investigations. Under Section 1.7 of the Press Code and Section 11(5) of the Free-

to-Air Code, journalists are obliged to verify doubtful information. Not fulfilling this requirement may be considered as disseminating information classified as ‘propaganda for war’ and ‘advocacy of hatred’ under Section 16(2)(a)-(c) of the South African Constitution, a standard referenced by all three broadcasting codes.

By contravening Sections 3 and 4 of the Free-to-Air Code and equivalent clauses in the Online and Subscription Codes, both SABC and Radio 702 have effectively broadcast content that amounts to ‘propaganda for war’ and ‘incitement to cause harm’. This warrants formal complaint proceedings under the BCCSA and ICASA frameworks. The *Daily Maverick*’s online article similarly fails to meet the Press Code standards of accuracy, fairness, and avoidance of misleading the public.

Free-to-Air Code (applies to SABC and Radio 702):

- **Clause 11(1)–(5):** News must be truthful, accurate and fair; in correct context; fact vs opinion distinguished; and, where practicable, doubtful information must be verified. SABC’s interview with Ariel Seidman and Radio 702’s interview with Rolene Marks failed these duties by broadcasting demonstrably false claims without on-air challenge or verification.
- **Clause 4(2):** Broadcasters may not air content which amounts to (a) propaganda for war; (b) incitement of imminent violence; or (c) advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to cause harm. Providing uncritical platforms for narratives justifying the starvation of a civilian population amid a UN-confirmed genocide crosses this threshold.
- **Clause 5 (Exclusions):** The bona fide discussion/public-interest exclusion does not apply where material omissions and failures of verification render the segment misleading rather than genuinely informative.

Online Broadcasting Code (applies to the same content when carried on official online platforms such as YouTube/streaming):

- **Clause 9.1–9.2:** News online must be truthful, accurate and fair; presented in the correct context, without distortion, exaggeration, misrepresentation, material omissions, or misleading summarisation.
- **Clause 2.2:** Online content may not amount to propaganda for war, incitement of imminent violence, or advocacy of hatred constituting incitement to cause harm.

Note on Subscription Code (for completeness):

While SABC and Radio 702 are not subscription broadcasters, equivalent obligations exist under the Subscription Broadcasting Code (e.g., §28.1.1–28.1.4 on truthful, contextual news; §10 on prohibitions against propaganda for war and incitement). Thus, even where content is carried or rebroadcast on subscription platforms, the same ethical standards attach.

These broadcasting-code breaches compound the Press Code violations already set out above. They also underscore our central moral point: as with progressive South African media during

Apartheid, taking a principled stance against Zionist Apartheid and genocide today is not a departure from fairness — it is the ethical application of it.

13. Demands and Next Steps

We call on the South African Press Council to:

- Treat complaints of these violations of the Press Code with urgency and to hold the media outlets found in breach accountable.
- Prioritise complaints relating to the failure of members of the PCSA to adhere clear guidance on media responsibilities when covering conflicts involving allegations or determinations of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

We call on *Daily Maverick*, SABC, and Radio 702 to:

- Issue immediate corrections and apologies for airing demonstrably false claims without challenge or verification, acknowledging the violation of the Press Code.
- Provide prominent platforms for the detained flotilla activists, their legal representatives, and Palestinian voices to present the reality of the situation without Israeli propaganda framing.
- Commit to editorial policies that prevent the uncritical platforming of propaganda from states determined by UN bodies to be committing genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity.
- Provide comprehensive coverage of the UN Commission of Inquiry's genocide determination and its implications for South Africa's relationship with Israel.

We call on South African civil society, journalists, and media workers to:

- Hold their institutions accountable for ethical journalism that serves truth and justice rather than propaganda.
- Demand that South African media reflect the country's constitutional values and its history of solidarity with oppressed peoples.
- Support alternative media that prioritize Palestinian voices and accurate reporting on Israel's violations of international law.

Every day that passes, approximately 30 more children are killed. Every month, thousands more children slip toward starvation-induced death. Every hour that media outlets fail to correct their complicity in genocide, they become more deeply implicated in one of the gravest crimes known to humanity.

14. Conclusion

Neutrality in the face of genocide is complicity. South African media must not serve as conduits for Israeli disinformation. Just as progressive journalists in the Apartheid-era refused to sanitise oppression, so too must today's journalists reject the normalisation of Zionist Apartheid and settler colonialism. Upholding truth and justice are the essence of ethical journalism — and the foundation of South Africa's moral standing.

The time for complicity is over. The time for truth and accountability is now. The time to end genocide is now.

In Solidarity,

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