Fatah Central Committee Secretary Jibril Rajoub **on Opening of ICC Investigation of Israel**

Translation available in “ICC prosecutor gave PA advance notice but asked to “keep secret” her ‎decision to open an investigation ‎

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**Fatah Central Committee Secretary Jibril Rajoub:** “First, [the International Criminal ‎Court’s (ICC) decision to investigate Israel] 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 [former US ‎President Donald] Trump or someone else. I think that this matter has ended. For ‎our part, we will cooperate with the court that will work on three levels: the level of ‎the crimes that were committed against the civilians, and particularly in 2014 in the ‎Gaza Strip (i.e., the 2014 Gaza war); the second level is the level of the prisoners ‎and detainees; and the third level is the level of the settlements. And this [ICC ‎decision to investigate] is itself recognition that this official terror that the occupation ‎institutions are committing – today it obligated [them] to be accountable, and we ‎hope that the international community, part of which has rewarded Israel both with ‎silence and encouragement, will reexamine [its position] and allow the criminals to ‎receive their punishment. We view this step as an opening towards giving us rights ‎and doing justice with us. Of course for our part, we will be subjected to pressures ‎and threats, but we are adhering to our right to put on trial those who committed war ‎crimes against us, against our people, against our land, against our sacred things ‎during the years of occupation. The world needs to know and understand that its ‎silence or support are what have created the racist and fascist regime of the 21st ‎century.”‎

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