Palestinian National Council **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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Palestinian Media Watch

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**Headline: “The International Criminal Court officially decides to launch an ‎investigation of war crimes that the Israeli occupation has committed in Palestine”‎**

**‎“The [Palestinian] National Council (i.e., the legislative body of the PLO) said that ‎the announcement of International Criminal Court (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 [March 3, 2021,] that this decision ‎constitutes a significant stage on the path to demanding an accounting from Israel ‎on the legal and international level, and a magnificent victory of Palestinian ‎diplomacy. It expressed hope that this will deter the occupation from continuing its ‎crimes and terror…‎**

**The council concluded by saying that the time has come to demand an accounting, ‎to try, and to punish the perpetrators among the Israeli political leaders and military ‎commanders, and the Israeli settler terror organizations such as the ‘Price Tag,’ ‎‎‘Hilltop Youth,’ and ‘HaShomer HaChadash’ organizations, which are committing ‎murders and terror, stealing the occupied Palestinian lands, burning Palestinian ‎farms, and terrorizing the defenseless citizens…‎**

**The Fatah Movement welcomed the decision and congratulated our people for ‎reaching the day when Palestine is realizing its right by virtue of having joined the ‎ICC.‎**

**Fatah Spokesman Jamal Nazzal thanked all the states that have supported the ‎Palestinian right, and the role played by the judges and Chief Prosecutor Fatou ‎Bensouda.‎**

**He 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.’‎**

**Nazzal said: ‘This decision increases the effectiveness, benefit, and credibility of ‎the path paved by the leadership with the support of Fatah in order to realize the ‎Palestinian right, in a way that was not dependent on the occupation’s agreement ‎or on a green light from any state in the world, and in a way that proves that the ‎Palestinian decision making is independent, since this step was taken despite the ‎threats, the political and financial pressures, and the blockade.’”‎**

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