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From the massacre of Deir Yassin to the massacre of Beit Hanoun, is it acceptable for the international community to keep turning a blind eye to this racist and criminal ethnic cleansing?

The major element of crimes against humanity lies in leading a wide ranging attack against civilians through deliberate killings and inhumane acts that cause severe suffering. The vast majority of the victims of Israeli aggression are not only civilians but also mostly women and children!

Crimes against humanity were tried before courts from Nuremburg to Tokyo, Yugoslavia and Rwanda. But it is unfair, unreasonable and illogical for Israeli military leaders today to remain immune to any accountability or punishment.

The few democratic experiences in the Arab world are the ones under bombing by the planes and tanks of Israel's occupation and with the blessing and support of the United States under the watchful eyes of Europe and the rest of the world. That support has gone even as far as preventing the United Nations from carrying out its duty of protecting people and imposing respect for international law.

In Europe, resistance movements to German occupation had arisen and were fully supported and financed by the Allies, as freedom fighters, and rightly so. Freedom fighters were not called terrorists. They received the support and recognition of the United Nations and the peoples of the world. The former colonies are now active members of this world organization, which has been active in its support of the right of self-determination for all peoples, regardless of who the occupier happened to be.

At the present, the main problems facing the world are connected with Israeli occupation. Yet, Hamas and other Palestinian resistance movements to Israeli occupation and violations are called terrorist organizations. The same applies to Hizbollah, the Lebanese resistance movement. It seems that wherever Israel is involved, legality and illegality are twisted to accommodate Israeli aggression and occupation. The recent use of the United States of the veto in the Security Council to kill a resolution condemning Israel for the Beit Hanoun massacre, is the latest flagrant abuse of the veto power, and constitutes an utterly irresponsible infringement of the rule of law and an encouragement of its violation.

The signatories to this Statement declare that the terrorist is the occupier, and the freedom fighter is the one who resists the occupation. The first is to be condemned and forced to retreat, while the second should be supported for its defence of the rule of law in

international relations. The way to do it today is to dispatch a high level fact-finding mission urgently to Beit Hanoun.