

July 20, 2024

Toronto Police Services Board

40 College Street

Toronto, ON M5G 2J3

Dear Members of the Toronto Police Services Board,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen to express my support for the continuation of rallies supporting Palestine, and to urge the Board to act in alignment with the recent findings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

On July 19, 2024, the ICJ issued a significant verdict with the following key findings (https://x.com/UN_News_Centre/status/1814317593064292822 and <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-sum-01-00-en.pdf>)

1. The State of Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful.
2. The State of Israel is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible.
3. The State of Israel is under an obligation to cease immediately all new settlement activities and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
4. The State of Israel has the obligation to make reparation for the damage caused to all natural or legal persons concerned in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
5. All States are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

6. All States are under an obligation not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the continued presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

7. International organizations, including the United Nations, are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

8. The United Nations and especially the General Assembly, which requested this opinion, and the Security Council should consider the precise modalities and further action required to bring to an end as rapidly as possible the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

These findings are clear and unequivocal, highlighting the international community's stance on the issue. The rallies supporting Palestine are a reflection of these global legal and moral imperatives. They represent the voices of concerned citizens who stand for justice, human rights, and the rule of international law.

Given this context, it is crucial that the Toronto Police Services Board supports the fundamental rights of individuals to peaceful assembly and free expression. The rallies supporting Palestine are not merely protests; they are a legitimate and necessary expression of solidarity with the ICJ's findings and the broader international consensus on the need for a just resolution to the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

I urge the Board to recognize the significance of these rallies and to ensure that they are facilitated in a manner that respects the rights of the participants while maintaining public order. By doing so, the Toronto Police Services Board will not only uphold the principles of free speech and assembly but also align with the ICJ's call for global action to end the unlawful situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the Board will make a decision that reflects our shared commitment to justice and human rights.

Sincerely,

James Smith