
February 24, 2025

To:

Adv. Gali Baharav-Miara,
Attorney General of Israel

Adv. Amit Aisman,
State Attorney

By email

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Urgent Request Regarding Suspicions of Violations of Domestic and International Law
in the Statements of Deputy Knesset Speaker MK Nissim Vaturi on February 23, 2025**

We are writing to you in accordance with our professional duty to warn of the following:

1. On February 23, 2025, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, MK Nissim Vaturi, gave an interview to the radio station "Kol Barama." During the interview, he stated the following:

"Who is innocent in Gaza? Civilians went out and slaughtered people in cold blood. We need to separate the children and women and kill the adults in Gaza; we are being too considerate."
(Screenshot attached as an appendix at the end of this letter.)

2. Needless to say, killing adults in Gaza solely because they are Palestinian adults constitutes a war crime. Therefore, MK Vaturi's statements may amount to "inducing" others to commit a war crime (Article 25(3)(b) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court). Moreover, these statements may also constitute the offense of incitement to violence or terrorism under Israeli law, particularly given that during wartime in general—and in the current war in particular—there exists a real possibility that someone may act upon MK Vaturi's words. In this context, one must take into account his official position as Deputy Speaker of the Knesset and a member of the ruling party.
3. Furthermore, the call for the deliberate killing of a significant portion of the Palestinian people (men in the Gaza Strip) may also constitute incitement to genocide (Article 25(3)(e) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as Section 3(a)(2) of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Law, 1950).
4. It should be noted that on January 9, 2024, the Attorney General and the State Attorney announced that "statements that include, among other things, calls for deliberate harm to uninvolved civilians contradict prevailing policy and may constitute criminal offenses, including incitement offenses." MK Vaturi's statements clearly fall into this category.
5. In addition, on January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a provisional measure ordering Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent and punish incitement to genocide. This order binds Israel under international law, and

administrative discretion must be exercised in light of it—particularly in matters concerning criminal proceedings.

6. We wish to recall that on May 1, 2024, some of the undersigned sent an urgent letter regarding similarly severe statements made by Minister Smotrich. We have received no response to that letter, except for a reply dated November 5, 2024, from the Deputy State Attorney (Special Duties) stating that the matter had been referred to the relevant authorities for examination. In the meantime, it has been reported in the media that a decision was made not to initiate criminal proceedings on those matters, though we received no official update on the subject.
7. Needless to say, had similarly severe statements been made by an Arab public leader regarding Jews as such, the authorities would have responded swiftly and decisively. This is another reason why strong action must be taken in such cases. We therefore call on you to act without fear and to immediately and effectively investigate the above-mentioned suspicions.

Respectfully,

Dr. Sivan Shlomo Agon
Prof. Orna Ben-Naftali
Dr. Ziv Bohrer
Prof. Tomer Broude
Prof. Iris Canor
Dr. Natalie Davidson
Prof. Aeyal Gross
Prof. Guy Harpaz
Prof. Moshe Hirsch
Dr. Limor Yehuda
Prof. David Kretzmer
Prof. Eliav Lieblich
Prof. Itamar Mann
Dr. Tamar Megiddo
Dr. Hilly Moodrik-Even Hen
Dr. Michal Saliternik
Prof. Yuval Shany
Dr. Yahli Shershevsky
Dr. Ariel Zemach
Prof. Yael Ronen
