

Statement by Switzerland on the investigation by the International Criminal Court into the situation in Palestine:

As State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Switzerland reconfirms its unwavering support for the Court as an independent and impartial judicial institution.

We remain committed to an international rules-based order. The ICC is an integral part of this order and a central institution in the fight against impunity and the pursuit of justice, which are essential components of sustainable peace, security and reconciliation.

The ICC has jurisdiction over the situation in Palestine and the Prosecutor has been conducting an investigation into this situation since March 2021. This investigation covers conducts that may amount to Rome Statute crimes committed since 13 June 2014 in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The Prosecutor made clear that this investigation is ongoing and extends to the escalation of hostilities and violence since and including the attacks that took place on 7 October 2023. He underlined that, in accordance with the Rome Statute, the ICC has jurisdiction over crimes committed on the territory of Palestine and by Palestinian nationals (including in Israel).

Switzerland will continue to fully support the ICC and its crucial work, in all situations falling within its jurisdiction.

We call on all States to ensure full cooperation with the Court for it to carry out its important mandate of ensuring justice for the victims of the most serious crimes of international concern.

20 November 2023