

## Feb - March 2021 Palestinian JustPeace



*Father and son farmers recently attacked by settlers. (photo: Mondoweiss)*

### **JUSTICE FOR PALESTINIANS BLOG** **Ed Crouch, Seattle WA**

After 54 years, The International Criminal Court (ICC) finally decided in December 2020, to investigate Israel's treatment of Palestinians. The finding was made public in February. The Palestinian Authority (PA) Foreign Minister immediately visited the ICC in The Hague promising cooperation. In response Israel [revoked](#) Palestine's Foreign Minister's special travel permit. Furthermore, Israeli authorities are preparing a law that would prohibit any cooperation with the International Criminal Court and imprison anyone violating this law.

"The [Biden administration](#) condemned the (ICC's) move." The U.S. and Israel refused to sign the [Rome Statute](#). The U.S. sanctions 24 countries, but never Israel. However, Palestine signed the Rome Statute, and both the ICC and UN recognize Palestine as a country. The Hague defines war crimes as "grave breaches" of the Geneva Conventions, among [which are](#): willful killing, torture, destruction and appropriation of land. West Bank settlements!

Inexorably there is growing worldwide support for the people of Palestine. In early February, all 55 members of the [African Union](#) issued a statement of solidarity condemning Israel's illegal settlement activities. The "leaders condemned Israel's use of lethal, unlawful and...excessive force against Palestinian civilians." Africa had their own anti-colonial struggles.

"Palestinian authorities are seeking [doses](#) of vaccine from Russia, Britain, WHO", and others, but get little if any from Israel and the U.S. Meanwhile, Israel was shipping vaccines to countries "in exchange for favors."!

In early March a fisherman was [killed](#). "The Israeli army said it had nothing to do with the incident, but a full investigation of the incident by the PA in Gaza found that the explosion was caused by an Israeli-placed floating bomb ...dropped by a drone on February 22<sup>nd</sup>."

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