



United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict

Justice Richard J. Goldstone (South Africa), head of the Mission

Justice Richard J. Goldstone is a director of the International Center for Transitional Justice, the Center for Economic and Social Rights, the Institute for Transitional Justice and Reconciliation and Physicians for Human Rights, and he is on the advisory board of the Project on Justice in Times of Transition. For many years he has served as a governor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has been a visiting professor at NYU Law School, Fordham Law School, Georgetown Law School and Harvard Law School.

After graduating from the University of the Witwatersrand with a BA LLB cum laude, Justice Goldstone practiced as an advocate at the Johannesburg Bar. In 1976 he was appointed senior counsel and in 1980 was made a judge of the Transvaal Supreme Court. In 1989 he was appointed to the Appellate Division. From 1991 to 1994 he served as the chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry Regarding Public Violence and Intimidation, which came to be known as the Goldstone Commission.

He served as a judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa from July 1994 to October 2003. From 15 August 1994 to September 1996 he served as the chief prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. From August 1999 until December 2001 he was the chairperson of the International Independent Inquiry on Kosovo. In December 2001 he was appointed the co-chairperson of the International Task Force on Terrorism, which was established by the International Bar Association. In April 2004 the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Goldstone to the independent committee to investigate the Iraqi oil-for-food programme (the Volcker Committee). In October 2007 he was appointed by the Registrars of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda to chair an Advisory Committee on the Archiving of the Documents and Records of the two tribunals.

Justice Goldstone is the recipient of several international human rights awards and most recently the MacArthur Foundation Award for International Justice presented at The Hague on 25 May 2009.

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The mandate of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict is "To investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that might have been committed at any time in the context of the military operations that were conducted in Gaza during the period from 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009, whether before, during or after."

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/specialsession/9/FactFindingMission.htm>