

# Public Talk

## ISRAEL'S WAR: GENOCIDE AS COLONIAL ERASURE?

with

Francesca Albanese,

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the  
Occupied Palestinian Territories

Chair: Helmut Krieger,  
University of Vienna\*

Friday,  
December 06,  
2024

18.30 – 20:00

**Francesca Albanese will be present in  
person on site** (there will be no live stream).

For registration, please send an email  
to [lectureseriesds@gmail.com](mailto:lectureseriesds@gmail.com)  
Please be on site in good time.

Lecture Hall C1  
Unicampus Hof 2  
Spitalgasse 2, 1090 Vienna

**ILLUSTRATION:**  
ABSENT PRESENCE II  
© SLIMAN MANSOUR /  
WIKIART.ORG

\* Embedded in my seminar on Palestine at the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna, this event is open to the public as well. Contact details: [helmut.krieger@univie.ac.at](mailto:helmut.krieger@univie.ac.at)



## Abstract

After we had a wonderful public event with the UN Special Rapporteur (UNSR) at the University of Vienna last April, this time Francesca Albanese will be live on site to discuss her latest report titled *Genocide as Colonial Erasure* published in October 2024.

By analysing the contemporary patterns of violence of Israel's policies in the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank, in this report to the UN General Assembly, Francesca Albanese argues that "[w]hile the scale and nature of the ongoing Israeli assault against the Palestinians vary by area, the totality of the Israeli acts of destruction directed against the totality of the Palestinian people, with the aim of conquering the totality of the land of Palestine, is clearly identifiable." She further states that "[o]bscured by false Israeli narratives of a war waged in 'self-defence', the genocidal conduct of Israel must be viewed within a broader context, as numerous actions (totality of conduct) jointly targeting the Palestinians as such (totality of a people) across the entire territory where they reside (totality of the land), in furtherance of the political ambitions of Israel for sovereignty over the whole of former Mandatory Palestine. Today, the genocide of the Palestinians appears to be the means to an end: the complete removal or eradication of Palestinians from the land so integral to their identity, and which is illegally and openly coveted by Israel."

In light of this report, we will discuss the following questions: How does the UN Special Rapporteur substantiate her argument of a genocide as colonial erasure made against the State of Israel? What are the legal obligations for UN-member states and their institutions that derive from international law?

## Francesca Albanese

Francesca Albanese is an international lawyer, scholar, and the author of various publications on the question of Palestinian refugees. On 1 May 2022, she was appointed *Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967*, for a three-year term. The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to follow and report on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Prior to becoming a full-time researcher, Francesca Albanese worked for ten years with the United Nations (2003-2013), including the *UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East* (UNRWA) Department of Legal Affairs (based in Jerusalem). She holds a law degree with honours from the *University of Pisa* and a Master of Laws in human rights from *SOAS University of London*. Furthermore, she is an Affiliate Scholar at the *Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University* and a Senior Advisor on Migration and Forced Displacement at the non-profit *Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development* (ARDD), where she co-founded the *Global Network on the Question of Palestine* (GNQP).

Please note that this lecture will be recorded by the organizers. By participating, you consent to the recording.

