**Another achievement for 'Palestine'**

December 17, 2017

By: Dalit Halevi

Arutz Sheva

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/239410>

The Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Saturday elected “the State of Palestine” as a member of its bureau, the Palestinian Authority (PA) mission to the United Nations said, according to the WAFA news agency.

It said that the election comes only two years after the PA’s accession to the Rome Statute, which enabled it to become a member state of the ICC in 2015.

“This decision reflects the confidence of the States Parties in the State of Palestine’s ability to assume this position and responsibilities, despite of its recent membership,” said the delegation.

It also stated that all the States Parties have activated the ICC jurisdiction over the crime of aggression and accepted a definition that considers “the occupation” as a crime of aggression.

Riyad Mansour, the PA’s envoy to the UN, said that “the election of the State of Palestine as a member of the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC was another step in consolidating the foundation of the State of Palestine in international forums.”

When the PA officially joined the ICC on April 1, 2015, it immediately filed a series of legal complaints with the court. In addition to claiming that Israel committed war crimes during the 2014 Gaza war, it also claimed that Israeli “settlements” are “an ongoing war crime”.

In September, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said it would submit an official request to the ICC to investigate what it called “illegal Israeli settlement activity”.

While the PA has complained to the ICC against Israel, it itself is not immune from lawsuits at the ICC. In fact, Shurat HaDin – Israel Law Center has already launched lawsuits against PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas leaders at the ICC.