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**Human Rights Council 22<sup>nd</sup> Session**  
**Item 7**

Mr. President, Distinguished Members of the Council,

Al-Haq would like to express its outrage at the death of Arafat Jaradat, which, according to the autopsy [report](#) of Dr Saber al-'Aloul, was caused by torture inflicted while in Israeli custody.

The absolute prohibition against torture is one of the most fundamental standards of the international community. However, structures have been put in place in Israel by the Attorney General and the Israeli High Court that protect those who commit such a war crime. These include allowing for the use of “physical pressure” in arbitrarily-defined situations of “necessity”.

Jaradat’s death is symptomatic of the utter disregard with which Israel holds the lives of Palestinians. Unless the culture of impunity that currently exists in Israel is challenged, Palestinians in Israeli prisons will continue to be victims of torture and ill-treatment with regularity.

Since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, 71 Palestinians have died as a direct result of torture in Israeli detention centres. Since 2001, according to the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, of 750 complaints of torture and ill-treatment against the Israel Security Agency, none has resulted in criminal investigation.

One hundred and seventy eight Palestinians are currently being held by Israel without charge or trial, eight of whom are engaged in hunger strikes to protest their detention. Today, several of these are shackled to their hospital beds.

Article 12 of UN Convention Against Torture, to which Israel is a State Party, obliges States to perform prompt and impartial investigations in all alleged incidents of torture. However, given the lack of accountability that pervades the Israeli judicial system, we reiterate the demands made by UN [representatives](#) for an immediate international investigation into Jaradat’s death with a view to holding those responsible to account.

We call upon this Council to address Israel’s ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners by outlining a course of action that aims to ensure Israel is no longer permitted to ignore its legal obligations with regard to Palestinian political prisoners.