



AL-HAQ

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CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS OF DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN PALESTINE

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Editorial

Third State Action Needed to Address Root Causes



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Seven decades since the Nakba, the Palestinian people have continued to endure an overarching structure of violence and oppression linked to Israeli policies and practices of colonisation, displacement, and dispossession. At the root of Palestinians' protracted plight has been Israel's systematic effort to erase and replace the indigenous Palestinian people on both sides of the Green Line, using fragmentation as a main tool of domination and oppression, amounting to the crime of apartheid.

A staple of Israel's seventy-year settler-colonial endeavour has been the creation of coercive environments designed to suppress the will of the Palestinian people and to undermine the exercise of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and to return to their homes and property. Over the years, such policies and practices, reflected in Israel's prolonged 52-year occupation of the Palestinian territory, have ranged from systematic destruction and appropriation of Palestinian property and natural resources, including land, to extrajudicial executions, systematic torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary detention of the Palestinian civilian population, and widespread collective punishment, including severe denials of Palestinians' freedom of movement and residence, comprising the right to leave and to return to their country.

To this day, Israel continues to resort to excessive and lethal force to silence Palestinians, in an effort to erase their collective memory and to undermine their legitimate calls for justice and accountability under international law. These repressive policies are most starkly reflected in Israel's ongoing suppression of the Great Return March in Gaza, for over seventy weeks, with Israeli snipers

systematically shooting to kill or to maim unarmed Palestinian civilians calling for the realisation of their right of return to their homes and property and an end to Israel's illegal 12-year closure, which has made Gaza uninhabitable.

These repressive policies have underpinned Israel's *raison d'État* since the start of the Nakba, when Zionist forces expelled some 800,000 Palestinians from their homes and property, destroying 531 villages, and killing over 10,000 Palestinians in and around 1948. It is in the same vein that Israeli border police killed 49 Palestinians during the Kufr Qasim massacre in 1956, as part of a State-led ethnic cleansing campaign, and that Israeli police killed six Palestinian citizens on Land Day in 1976, as they protested the expropriation of thousands of dunums of their land in the Galilee.

Israel's crimes, including wilful killing, destruction of property, and population transfer, committed since the Nakba, have never been prosecuted let alone remedied, while Palestinian refugees continue to be denied their right of return to their homes and property. All the while, third States have systematically failed to deliver international justice and accountability for crimes committed in Palestine, thereby entrenching Israel's pervasive climate of impunity for widespread and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people.

Short of addressing the root causes, by bringing Israel's prolonged occupation and closure of Gaza to an end, and upholding the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and property as part of a collective right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, Israel's regime of apartheid over Palestinians will inevitably prevail under the watchful eye of the international community.■



AL-HAQ

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Al-Haq Meets with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

On Tuesday, 27 August 2019, Al-Haq General Director, Mr. Shawan Jabarin, met with the United Nations High



Shawan Jabarin, General
Director of Al-Haq and the United
Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights, Ms. Michelle
Bachelet Jeria

Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria, to brief her on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The meeting focused on Israel's rapid settlement expansion, killings of Palestinians, closure and blockade of the Gaza Strip, as well as the systematic displacement, dispossession and fragmentation of the Palestinian people. During the meeting, the UN High Commissioner expressed her respect for international law and human rights norms and commitment to the implementation of mandates entrusted to her by the Human Rights Council.

In particular, the role of business enterprises in prolonging and sustaining Israel's occupation of the OPT and permanent expansion of the settlement enterprise, while making profit, was discussed. In this regard, Mr. Jabarin presented the High Commissioner with a joint letter on behalf of more than 100 Palestinian, regional and international organizations, calling for the release of the United Nations database of businesses engaged in activities related to Israeli settlements, in line with Human Rights Council Resolution 31/36 of March 2016.■

Al-Haq Sends Follow-up Submission to CERD on the State of Palestine's First Review

Al-Haq submitted its shadow report to the ninety-ninth session of the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) with regard to its review of State of Palestine's initial and second periodic reports, in relation to Palestine's compliance with the

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), to which the State of Palestine has acceded without reservations and according to which it must adopt appropriate measures and means, without delay, to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. Al-Haq has

followed with interest the interactive dialogue between CERD Committee members and the official delegation of the State of Palestine during the Committee's ninety-ninth session, which took place on 13 and 14 August 2019 at the UN Office in Geneva. In light of the responses given by the delegation of the State of Palestine during the review by the Committee, Al-Haq considers it important to submit a follow-up report.■

First Review of the State of
Palestine by CERD, August
2019



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Al-Haq Submission to The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the First Periodic Review of the State of Palestine



1. In examining the State of Palestine's initial and second periodic reports (hereinafter 'State report' or 'the report'),[1] submitted to the ninety-ninth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (hereinafter CERD or 'the Committee'), Al-Haq affirms the importance of examining the broader context of Israel's prolonged occupation of the Palestinian territory since 1967. At the same time, Al-Haq stresses that this context does not absolve the State of Palestine of its obligation to give effect to the provisions and purposes of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD or 'the Convention'),[2] to which it has acceded without reservations. In assessing the obligations of the State of Palestine under the Convention, the Committee should consider the simultaneous applicability of international humanitarian law, in particular the law of belligerent occupation, to the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), in addition to applicable norms of public international law. Al-Haq urges the Committee to consider the conclusions of the 2017 report by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which concluded that Israel has established an apartheid regime over Palestinians, based on the strategic fragmentation of the Palestinian people.[3] In addition, Al-Haq calls on the Committee to examine the State of Palestine's report in light of Israel's widespread and systematic human rights violations committed against Palestinians, including policies and practices of racial discrimination and segregation, constituting the crime of apartheid.

2. The State of Palestine has not submitted its report on time, nor has it submitted its common core document to the UN treaty bodies. In addition, there is a rift in the Palestinian political system and amongst public authorities, which negatively affects the ability of the State of Palestine to enforce the Convention and its purposes without delay. ICERD, as well as the other core human rights treaties to which the State of Palestine has acceded without reservations, has not entered into force in the OPT in what concerns the decisions of the Palestinian Supreme Constitutional Court. No national institution has been established to facilitate

the implementation of the Convention and its purposes in Palestine, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendations. The State of Palestine must work without delay to enact a Palestinian law to combat racial discrimination, guided by the Model Law Against Racial Discrimination, which forms part of the UN's efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination. This Model Law is deemed important as a reference document, especially in providing definitions, general principles, and measures, which may be addressed by national legislation to combat racial discrimination, including in relation to crimes, penalties, and all issues related to the protection of victims of racial discrimination, and the provision of effective remedies to victims. Al-Haq stresses the need to work without delay to adopt a national Palestinian strategy to combat racial discrimination, racial segregation, and apartheid, in partnership with all segments of Palestinian civil society. There is also a need to establish effective mechanisms to ensure the Convention's proper implementation on the ground, with clear and complementary roles and responsibilities in the implementation process. The strategy must continuously be reviewed, developed, and integrated in school curricula and university courses. A media plan should also be developed to widely promote the strategy. In addition, training programmes are needed for capacity-building in both the public and private sectors, in order to effectively contribute to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, racial segregation, and apartheid, and to promote human rights education within Palestinian society.

[1] CERD, Initial and second periodic reports submitted by the State of Palestine under Article 9 of the Convention, due in 2017, 16 October 2018, UN Doc. CERD/C/PSE/1-2.

[2] International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (adopted 7 March 1966, entry into force 4 January 1969) 660 UNTS 195 (hereinafter ICERD).

[3] ESCWA, Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid, Palestine and the Israeli Occupation, Issue No. 1, 15 March 2017, UN Doc. E/ESCWA/ECRI/2017/1.■

**AL-HAQ STRESSES
THE NEED TO
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Al-Haq submits a joint urgent appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on the ongoing Israeli smear campaign against Al-Haq



On 8 August 2019 Al-Haq submitted a joint urgent appeal to the UN Special Procedures on the ongoing smear campaign and incitement to violence including death threats carried out by the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs against Al-Haq and its staff on Facebook and other public platforms. This joint urgent appeal comes in light of several

to an intensive smear campaign against Al-Haq and its staff members, including its esteemed General Director, Mr. Shawan Jabarin. This smear campaign must be viewed and understood in light of attacks against Palestinian civil society, including human rights organisations, as a whole. The smear campaign is a malignant targeting by Israel of Mr Jabarin, as well as other staff members of Al-Haq, who it has subjected to numerous attacks over the years in an attempt to derail their critical human rights monitoring and documentation of Israel's violations of international humanitarian and international human rights law, legal research and advocacy work.

As such, Al-Haq calls on the UN Special Procedures to take immediate and collective action to halt the ongoing online incitement by Israel, the Occupying Power, and to intervene directly with Facebook to remove content that violates international human rights law and Facebook's own community standards.

Al-Haq calls on the UN Special Procedures to urgently take steps in relation to the ongoing smear campaign and incitement to violence. Al-Haq calls on the international community to intervene to halt Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs, smearing of human rights defenders and activists, the restriction of their work and recalling the right to freedom of expression, among others, particularly online and on social media platforms.

UN Special Procedures should gather all relevant information, including by approaching Facebook directly, relating to the present alleged violation of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in addition to discrimination against, threats or use of violence, and acts of harassment, persecution, or intimidation directed at Mr Shawan Jabarin and any other staff members of Al-Haq or its affiliates.

UN Special Procedures should communicate with Facebook to remind the company of its responsibilities to respect human rights and international law, as well as its responsibility to not provide a public platform for incitement, hate speech, discrimination, and death threats, especially against human rights defenders.

The Special Procedures should seek information from Facebook as to why such posts and comments continue to be allowed and have not been removed or moderated in any way despite their violation of international human rights law standards, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression.■

مؤسسة الحق
أربعون عامًا في الدفاع
عن حقوق الإنسان
Al-Haq
40 years defending
human rights

1979-2019



Facebook posts made by or on behalf of the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs on its official Facebook page as part of Israel's wider effort to restrict civil society space in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The Facebook posts on the Ministry's page occurred in the context of ongoing, systematic, and organised attacks amounting

Statement on World Humanitarian Day



AL-HAQ

19 August 2019, marks the 16th anniversary of World Humanitarian Day, designated by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to commemorate the August 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. On this day, Al-Haq recognizes the selflessness of aid workers across the globe and calls attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

Between 30 March 2018 and 1 August 2019, and throughout the Great Return March in the Gaza Strip, Al-Haq documented the targeting and killing of 208 peaceful Palestinian protestors, including four paramedics, two journalists, seven persons with disabilities and 44 children by Israeli snipers. Palestinians have been protesting for their right of return to their places of origin, the lifting of the closure of the Gaza Strip and an end to mass collective punishment of the protected Palestinian



of closure of the Gaza Strip at land, sea, and air. Palestinians in Gaza continue to live under an increasingly worsening humanitarian crisis from Israel's relentless military siege: some 80 percent of Gaza's population are now dependent on humanitarian aid, while poverty and unemployment rates have soared to over 31 percent. Meanwhile, over one million Palestinians are currently food insecure, constituting over half of the total population. Gaza's closure limits Palestinian

accessibility to healthcare services, electricity, water, and sanitation, amongst numerous other basic needs. According to a UN agency, seawater has leaked into Gaza's sole water source, the coastal aquifer, with "96 percent of the groundwater... becoming unfit for human consumption".[4]

According to international law, Israel as Occupying Power is obliged to provide adequate health services in the territory it occupies. The healthcare needs

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

population therein.[1] Critically, in March 2019, the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) recommended that Israel "Refrain from using lethal force against civilians, including children, journalists, health workers and persons with disabilities, who pose no imminent threat to life".[2] Since then, Al-Haq documented the killing of paramedic, Muhammad Judeily by Israeli snipers at the Great Return March in Gaza.[3] Meanwhile, last June marked the 12th year

of Gaza's residents are not met by the current healthcare infrastructure and as a result of the imposed closure. By June 2018, the Palestinian Ministry of Health reported that almost 8,000 of Gaza's Great Return March protestors had been admitted to hospital, with more than 3,900 wounded by live ammunition. Many have sustained permanent injuries, including limb amputations.[5] Israel's intentional closure restrictions and permit regime makes healthcare for Gaza's residents difficult, and in

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many cases, impossible to access. Applications for permits to access treatment outside of Gaza are rarely approved, with one report indicating that out of the 93 applications submitted by Gazans to the Israeli authorities to access healthcare in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, only 24 were approved. Forty-nine were denied and 20 are still pending. Gaza's hospitals are overwhelmed by the number of patients in need of treatment and Israel's denial of permits places a greater burden on Gaza's weakened health infrastructure. Gaza's limited electrical supply, poor water aquifer, lack of sewage treatment facilities, and the world's highest unemployment rates worsens the social-health crisis.[6]

Additionally, Gaza's key agricultural and maritime employment sectors are hindered by Israel's continued enforcement of the 'buffer zone,' which it maintains by leveling farmland, damaging property and infrastructure, and destroying crops. Israel sprays unidentified chemical agents in the buffer zone, burning and damaging crops of Palestinian farmers in the area. At sea, Gaza's maritime zone (Zone L), has been unlawfully reduced from 20 nm to six nm to secure Israeli gas fields in the nearby Mari-B field, greatly restricting fishing, recreational, and economic activities for Gaza's residents. Palestinian fishermen from Gaza are increasingly threatened by diminishing access to income-generating opportunities.[7] Palestinian fishermen from Gaza are continually targeted by the Israeli military, facing detention, harassment and in some instances, death as seen in the 2017 case of Muhammad Majid Baker.

Palestinians in the OPT live under constant threat of Israel's persistent international human rights and humanitarian law violations, leaving them vulnerable to coercive environments to force displacement. This includes Israel preventing access to essential services such as electricity networks which provide energy for home appliances, such as water heaters and refrigerators, necessary to preserve food and vital medications. Palestinians are routinely denied permits to build in areas of East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank, leaving them with no other option than build illegally, whereupon their homes are threatened with demolition orders and demolition. Under Israel's E1 plan, Bedouin communities located to the east of Jerusalem in an area planned for the expansion of the Ma'ale Adumim settlement, including Khan al-Ahmar are at high risk of forcible transfer. There, demolition orders are pending on the entire village. Meanwhile, the Israeli High Court of Justice found that structures built within 250 meters

of the annexation wall in Area A, must be demolished.[8] On 22 July 2019, Al-Haq sent a joint urgent appeal to four UN Special Procedures mandates on the demolitions of Wadi Al-Hummus in the town of Sur Bahir. Regardless, the IOF demolished 10 Palestinian buildings, containing over 70 apartments.[9] Israel's ongoing demolitions of Palestinian homes recalls memories of the Nakba during which Israel systematically uprooted, displaced, and dispossessed Palestinians on both side of the Green Line. Accordingly, Al-Haq calls on the international community to take immediate and collective action to halt the ongoing and imminent demolitions and to ensure that Palestinians whose homes have been demolished by Israel, the Occupying Power, are ensured effective remedies.[10] Furthermore, when detained, Palestinians are subjected to mistreatment and denied adequate mental health and healthcare services. In a recent letter addressed to the Head of Mission at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), David Quesne, Al-Haq called on the ICRC to immediately intervene against the attacks of Palestinian prisoners. Al-Haq's call comes at the heels of a January 2019 declaration by Israel's Public Security Minister, Gilad Erdan, to "worsen" the conditions for Palestinian prisoners, including by rationing their water supply and cutting off associated funds.

The ongoing humanitarian crises in the OPT warrants the attention of the international community as Palestinians continue to live with the threat of an uncertain future at the hands the Occupying Power. The international community must call upon Israel to take responsibility for the wellbeing of the occupied population in the OPT, notably Palestinians in Gaza, and ensure the right to life, dignity and an adequate standard of living, healthcare services,[11] among other necessary basic needs, are made available. Al-Haq reminds Israel of the UN COI recommendation to "lift the blockade on Gaza with immediate effect".[12] Al-Haq calls on the international community to comply with Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, i.e., to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law. More specifically, Al-Haq recalls the recommendation of the COI to UN Member States to "consider imposing individual sanctions, such as a travel ban or an assets freeze, on those identified by the Commission as responsible for violations".[13]

[1] "Six Months On: Gaza's Great March of Return (August 8 2019), available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/10/gaza-great-march-of-return/>

[2] A/HRC/40/CRP.2, Human Rights Council, "Report of the detailed findings of the independent international Commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (18 March 2019) 226.
 [3] "SixMonthsOn: Gaza's Great March of Return (8 August 2019) available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/10/gaza-great-march-of-return/>
 [4] "Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine Weekly" (8 August 2019),

2019), available at: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-closes-gaza-fishing-zone-after-rash-of-balloon-attacks/>
 [8] "International Agencies Call Israeli Destruction of Palestinian Homes Illegal" (9 August 2019), available at: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/demolitions-in-wadi-al-hummus-catastrophe-for-community>
 [9] "E.U. Blasts Israel over Wadi Al-Hummus Home Demolitions" (9 August 2019), available at: <https://www.jns.org/eu-blasts-israel-over-wadi-hummus->

Gated entrance to Bayt Surik, north-west of Jerusalem



available at: <http://waterjusticeinpalestine.org/s/Alliance-for-Water-Justice-in-Palestine-Weekly-Facts-1133-rzm.docx>
 [5] "UN Experts Say Gaza Healthcare at Breaking Point" (8 August 2019), available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23236&LangID=E>
 [6] "UN Experts Say Gaza Healthcare at Breaking Point" (8 August 2019), available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23236&LangID=E>
 [7] "Israel closes Gaza fishing zone after rash of balloon attacks" Times of Israel (12 June

home-demolitions/
 [10] "Al-Haq Sends Urgent Appeal to UN Special Procedures and Calls for Immediate Halt to Demolitions in Wadi Al-Hummus" (9 August 2019), available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/targets/united-nations/1438--qq->
 [11] Ibid at 227.
 [12] A/HRC/40/CRP.2, Human Rights Council, "Report of the detailed findings of the independent international Commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (18 March 2019) 226.
 [13] Ibid.■

Israeli Occupation Army blocks Azzoun main entrance



Great Return March Protests Continue for 68th and 69th Weeks in the Gaza Strip



One Palestinian was killed in Khan Younis and 69 protesters were injured on Friday, 26 July 2019, during the 68th Great Return March demonstrations in the occupied Gaza Strip. Amongst the injured, 44 demonstrators were wounded with live bullets and bullet shrapnel, 18 were hit by rubber bullets, and seven were injured by direct gas canister hits. Of the total number of injuries, 29 were children. On Friday, 2 August 2019, during the 69th Great Return March demonstrations, 67 Palestinians were injured by the Israeli occupying forces throughout the Gaza Strip. Of the injured, 27 were wounded with live bullets and shrapnel, 20 were wounded with rubber bullets, and 20 were injured by direct gas canister hits. Amongst the injured were 29 children, two journalists, and a paramedic.

68th Great Return March Demonstrations on 26 July 2019

On Friday, 26 July 2019, the Israeli occupying forces targeted peaceful Palestinian protesters participating in the 68th Great Return March demonstrations across the Gaza Strip. According to Al-Haq's field research and documentation, thousands of Palestinians, including youth, children, the elderly and entire families, gathered between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the vicinity of the five return camps set up near the fence to the east of the Gaza Strip. During the peaceful demonstrations, participants organized, as usual, popular and folkloric activities inside and around the camp areas. They chanted national slogans and raised Palestinian flags. Dozens of demonstrators, including children, gathered at distances of 50 to 300 metres from the Gaza fence, and were visible to Israeli snipers positioned behind sand hills and earth mounds behind the fence. Some of the Palestinian youths threw stones at the Israeli soldiers on the other side of the fence. Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition, rubber bullets, and tear gas canisters at the protesters, killing a young Palestinian man, east of Khan Younis, and injuring 69 others, including 44 who were wounded with live bullets and bullet shrapnel, 18 who were injured by rubber bullets, and seven who were injured by direct gas canister hits. Of the total number of injuries, 29 were children and one paramedic.

The Killing of Ahmad Al-Qara, 23, East of Khan Younis

At approximately 11:40 pm on Friday, 26 July

2019, doctors at the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Younis pronounced the death of Ahmad Muhammad Al-Qara, 23. A resident of Bani Suhaila in Khan Younis, Ahmad was injured by live ammunition fired by the Israeli occupying forces at approximately 5:50 pm on Friday, 26 July 2019, while participating in the Great Return March demonstrations, east of Khuza'a, east of Khan Younis. Ahmad was standing about 80 metres from the fence when he was shot in the abdomen. He was taken to the Gaza European Hospital in critical condition and admitted into surgery, where his death was pronounced at around 11:40 pm that same evening.[1]

The Injury of 69 Protesters across the Gaza Strip

In the Rafah Governorate, the Israeli occupying forces injured 21 protesters, including eight children, during Great Return March demonstrations east of Al-Shawka, east of Rafah. One of the injuries was described as critical. Of the wounded, ten were injured by live bullets and bullet shrapnel, seven were injured by rubber-coated metal bullets, and four were injured by direct gas canister hits.

In the Central Governorate, during the demonstrations east of Al-Breij refugee camp, the Israeli occupying forces injured 16 demonstrators, including eight children. Of the injured, 12 were wounded by live bullets and bullet shrapnel, three were injured by rubber bullets, and one was injured by a direct gas canister hit.

In the Gaza Governorate, during the Great Return March protests in Al-Malaka area, east of Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, east of Gaza City, eight demonstrators were injured by the Israeli occupying forces, including two children and a paramedic. Of the injured, three were shot with live bullets and five were injured by rubber-coated metal bullets. The paramedic injured is Ibrahim Jamil Jamous, 31, who works for the military medical services and was injured by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the right hand.

In the North Gaza Governorate, during demonstrations in Abu Safiya hill, east of Jabaliya, 11 demonstrators, including five children, were injured by the Israeli occupying forces. Of the injured, eight were shot with live ammunition, including five children, and three were injured by rubber bullets.

In the Khan Younis Governorate, during the demonstrations east of Khuza'a, east of Khan

Younis, 13 Palestinian protesters were injured by the Israeli occupying forces, including six children. Of the injured, 11 were wounded by bullet shrapnel, and two were sustained direct gas canister hits.

In addition, tens of demonstrators suffered injuries as a result of tear gas inhalation and were treated in the field by health workers.

69th Great Return March Demonstrations on 2 August 2019

On Friday, 2 August 2019, during the 69th Great Return March protests, the Israeli occupying forces injured 67 Palestinians throughout the Gaza Strip. Of the injured, 27 were wounded with live bullets and shrapnel, 20 were wounded with rubber bullets, and 20 were injured by direct gas canister hits. Amongst the injured were 29 children, two journalists, and a paramedic.

During the 69th week of protests, Palestinian demonstrators again chanted national slogans and raised Palestinian flags. Dozens of demonstrators gathered at a distance of 50 to 300 metres from the Gaza fence, exposed and visible to Israeli snipers positioned behind sand hills and earth mounds and inside military towers on the other side of the fence. During the protests, Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition, rubber bullets, and tear gas canisters at unarmed Palestinian demonstrators. A total of 67 Palestinians were injured, including 27 by live bullets and shrapnel.

The Injury of 67 Protesters across the Gaza Strip

In the North Gaza Governorate, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, including women and children, took part in the Great Return March at Abu Safiya hill, east of Jabaliya in the northern Gaza Strip. Twenty-one protesters, including 11 children and a paramedic, were injured. Amongst the injured, 12 were wounded by live bullets, five by rubber bullets, and four by direct gas canister hits. The injured paramedic is Wafa Omar Jaber, 24, a volunteer paramedic with the Ministry of Health in Gaza, who was injured with a rubber bullet to the left ankle.

In the Gaza Governorate, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, including children, participated in the Great Return March in Al-Malaka area, east of Gaza City, where no injuries were reported during the demonstrations.

In the Central Governorate, hundreds of

peaceful demonstrators participated in the Great Return March, east of Al-Breij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. The Israeli occupying forces injured 16 Palestinian protesters, including four children and a journalist. Of the wounded, eight were injured with live bullets and bullet shrapnel, three were injured by rubber bullets, and five were injured by direct gas canister hits. The injured journalist is Osama Sharif Al-Kahlout, 33, a freelance journalist, who was shot with a live bullet in his left leg.

In the Khan Younis Governorate, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators took part in the events of the Great Return March east of Khuza'a, east of Khan Younis where the Israeli occupying forces injured 17 demonstrators, including ten children and a journalist. Amongst the injured, four were shot with live bullets and bullet shrapnel, nine were injured by rubber bullets, and four were injured by direct gas canister hits. The injured journalist is Hatem Saadi Omar, 39, who was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the legs. He is a photojournalist with the Chinese Xinhua News Agency.

In the Rafah Governorate, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators participated in the Great Return March east of Al-Shawka, east of Rafah. The Israeli occupying forces injured 12 protesters, including four children. Of the injured, three were wounded with live bullets and bullet shrapnel, while three were shot with rubber bullets and seven were injured by direct gas canister hits.

Urgent Need to Implement the Recommendations of the UN Commission of Inquiry

70 weeks since the start of the Great Return March on 30 March 2018, Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip have continued to call for the realisation of their inalienable rights, including the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and property, and an end to Israel's 12-year closure of the Gaza Strip, which amounts to unlawful collective punishment, in violation of international humanitarian law, and has made Gaza uninhabitable.

As the Great Return March protests enter their 70th week, Al-Haq calls on third States and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to exert genuine efforts to follow-up on and to ensure the implementation of the recommendations



of the United Nations (UN) Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including for Israel, the Occupying Power, to lift its closure of the Gaza Strip with immediate effect and to bring its rules of engagement for the use of live fire in line with international human rights law. Al-Haq stresses that since the adoption of the Commission of Inquiry's recommendations by the UN Human Rights Council on 22 March 2019, the Israeli occupying forces have continued to resort to excessive and lethal force, including live ammunition, against unarmed civilian protesters, in violation of international human rights law and the recommendations of the UN Commission of Inquiry.

Third States have an obligation to ensure the realisation of Palestinians' inalienable rights, to address the root causes of the Great Return March, and to cooperate to bring to an end Israel's widespread and systematic human rights violations committed in the OPT. OHCHR has an obligation, in line with draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.25 adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 22 March 2019, to strengthen its field presence, monitoring, and documentation during the demonstrations and to "follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the commission of inquiry"[2]. Al-Haq stresses that further efforts are needed to ensure the implementation of the Commission

of Inquiry's recommendations.

Finally, Al-Haq recalls the urgent need for accountability, in line with the recommendations of the UN Commission of Inquiry, including for suspected international crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces during the Great Return March since 30 March 2018. In particular, Al-Haq reiterates its calls on the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to immediately open an investigation into the situation in Palestine, without any further delays. In addition, Al-Haq recalls the obligation of third States to activate universal jurisdiction mechanisms and to hold to account perpetrators of suspected crimes committed in the OPT, including in the occupied Gaza Strip since 30 March 2018, as reaffirmed by the UN Commission of Inquiry. Ultimately, Al-Haq underlines the centrality of accountability and international justice to bring to an end Israel's pervasive impunity and to achieve Palestinian protesters' rights-based demands.

[1] For more details, see: Al-Haq, 'Israeli Occupying Forces Kill Palestinian University Student Posing No Threat During Great Return March Protests', 5 August 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/documentation/weekly-focuses/1446--qq->

[2] UN Doc. A/HRC/40/L.25, para. 11.■

Great Return March

Great March of Return, Gaza, 2018



Great Return March Protests Continue for 70th and 71st Weeks in the Gaza Strip

On Friday, 16 August 2019, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) continued to target peaceful protesters participating in the 70th Great Return March demonstrations across the Gaza Strip, called for by the National Authority for the Return March to mark World Youth Day. The organisers aimed at drawing attention to the suffering of the Palestinian people, especially the plight of young people in Gaza. The Great Return March has gathered weekly since 30 March 2018, at five camps across the Gaza Strip to protest Israel's 12-year closure of the Gaza Strip, denial of the Palestinian right of self-determination and Israel's denial of the right of return to Palestinian refugees. Large crowds of all ages assembled at the Great Return March camps.

Between 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, thousands of Palestinians, including youth, children, elderly and entire families, gathered, in the vicinity of the five Great Return March camps, east of the Gaza Strip. During the peaceful demonstrations, participants organized, the usual popular folkloric activities, inside and around the camp. They chanted national slogans and raised Palestinian flags. Dozens of demonstrators, including children gathered at distances, between 50 and 300 meters from the fence, which Israel has constructed alongside a surveillance system of watchtowers, cameras and balloons to around-the-clock monitor the occupied Palestinian population and prevent their movement.

Meanwhile, Israeli snipers, positioned behind the hills and the separation fence, across from the Great Return March protest sites, shot into the gathering protesters, employing live fire ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas canisters. Some Palestinian youths threw stones at IOF snipers located behind the fence. As a result, 65 protesters were injured, 29 of whom were shot by live bullets and bullet shrapnel, while 20 protesters were shot by rubber bullets. Amongst the injured, were 21 children, two women and one volunteer first responder paramedic.

Injuries

In the Rafah Governorate, east of Al-Shouka, east of Rafah, 17 protesters, including six children and a volunteer first responder paramedic, were wounded. Of the 17, six were injured by live bullets and shrapnel, four by rubber bullets, and seven others with tear gas canisters. The volunteer first responder paramedic, Nour 'Atta Salim, 16, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet.

In the Central Governorate, east of Al-Breij refugee camp, 10 protestors, including two children were injured. Of the injured, five were wounded from IOF live bullets and bullet shrapnel, and five from rubber bullets.

In the Gaza Governorate, Al-Malaka area, east of Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, east of Gaza City five protesters, including a child, were injured during Great Return March protests. Of the injured, four were injured from rubber-coated metal bullets and one protestor was wounded by a tear gas canister.

In the North Gaza Governorate, at Abu Safiya hill, east of Jabaliya, 24 demonstrators, including 10 children and a woman, were injured by the IOF. Of the 15 wounded, six children sustained injuries from live bullets, and five (including three children and one woman) were injured by rubber bullets, while four protestors including a child, were injured by directly tear gas canisters.

In the Khan Younis Governorate, east of Khuza'a, east of Khan Younis, nine demonstrators, including two children and a woman, were injured by bullet shrapnel, two from rubber bullets, and four sustained injuries from tear gas canisters.

Tens of protesters suffered injuries as a result of tear gas inhalation and were treated in the field by health workers.

On Friday, 23 August 2019, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators gathered in the five official Great Return March camps located across the Gaza Strip, whereupon strategically placed snipers from the IOF opened fire,



injuring 159 Palestinian civilians with unnecessary, disproportionate and excessive use of force. Of these, 86 were wounded with live bullets and shrapnel, 47 by rubber bullets, and 26 directly by tear gas canisters. The injured included 56 children and six first responder paramedics.

Injuries

In the North Gaza Governorate, at Abu Safiya hill, east of Jabaliya, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, including women and children, participated at the peaceful protests. IOF snipers positioned behind the border fence, opened fire on the crowds, injuring 37 demonstrators, including 17 children and a paramedic. Amongst the injured, 27 were wounded with live ammunition, six by rubber bullets, and four by tear gas canisters. Injured paramedic, Na'im Bashir Khader, 32, a member of the Palestinian Civil Defense was shot in his right arm with a rubber-coated metal bullet.

In the Gaza Governorate, during the Great Return March protests in Al-Malaka area, east of Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, east of Gaza City, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, including women and children, were targeted and attacked by IOF snipers. This resulted in the injury of 18 demonstrators, including three children and a medic. Amongst those injured, eight sustained injuries from live bullets, another eight were injured from rubber bullets, and two injured directly from tear gas canisters. Of those injured, Muhammad Ismail Abu Qadous, 32, a paramedic, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in his right foot.

In the Central Governorate, east of

Al-Breij refugee camp, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, including women and children, participated in the Great Return March, whereupon they were targeted and attacked by Israeli soldiers positioned behind the fence. Amongst the 28 demonstrators who were injured, were 11 children, and a medic. Fourteen protestors were wounded with live bullets and shrapnel, and six sustained injuries from rubber bullets, while eight protestors were injured directly by tear gas canisters. Medic Muhammad Abdelqader Abu Ayda, 23, was injured with a direct tear gas canister in the right hand.

In the Khan Younis Governorate, east of Khuza'a, east of Khan Younis, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, including women and children, gathered at the Great Return March. Snipers from the IOF fired at the protestors, resulting in the injury of 45 demonstrators, including 20 children and two paramedics. Amongst the wounded, medic Sami Mousa Abu Mustafa, 27, sustained injuries from a rubber-coated metal bullet in the lower limbs. In addition, Emad Yousef Al-Sinwar, 22, a volunteer first responder paramedic was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the neck.

In the Rafah Governorate, east of Al-Shouka, east of Rafah, hundreds more peaceful demonstrators, including women and children, participated in the Great Return March. IOF snipers injured 31 protestors, including five children and a paramedic. Among the injured, 27 were wounded with live bullets and shrapnel, two with rubber bullets, and two directly from tear gas canisters. Paramedic, Islam Subhi Abu Shawish, 29, was wounded by a rubber-coated metal bullet in the head.■

Great Return March



Continued Threats against Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound and Attacks against Palestinian Worshippers

Al-Haq calls upon the international community to take immediate action to protect Palestinian freedom of worship and protect the *status quo* of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound under Jordanian custody. Critically, the continuance of the status quo was reaffirmed under Article 9(2) of the 1994 Treaty of Peace Agreement between Jordan and Israel. In 2013, the Palestinian Authority entered a bilateral agreement with Jordan for Jordan's continued protection and custodianship of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and other Jerusalem holy sites. However as widely reported, the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) and Israeli settlers have increasingly and violently stormed the compound.

On 11 August 2019, minutes after the end of prayer and the sermon for Eid Al-Adha was concluded, dozens of IOF stormed the Al-Aqsa compound through Bab Al-Magharbeh and stationed themselves at the gate. Palestinians who were marking the holiday in the Al-Aqsa compound, including men, women, children, and religious authorities, immediately gathered together in an attempt to thwart a further incursion by the IOF and settlers. The IOF proceeded to attack and disperse the Palestinians present employing sound bombs and rubber bullets, while also beating civilian worshippers with batons. The IOF also chased and beat young men in order to force them to leave the compound, while also besieging dozens of worshippers in the Al-Qebli Mosque (part of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound), for hours. Dozens of Palestinians were injured and 8 young men were arrested. The IOF then reportedly permitted some 1,700 settlers permission to enter the Al-Aqsa compound,[1] in breach of the status quo.

On August 7, a few days prior to the Eid Al-Adha attack, the IOF also attacked and injured a Palestinian guard of the mosque while dozens of settlers stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. These incursions were followed by a statement from the Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs, Gilad Erdan, which called for a change to the status quo to allow for Jews to pray in the compound leading to "spatial and temporal division" of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Haram al-Sharif.[2] Worryingly, Israel set a dangerous precedent in 1994 by partitioning Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, following the massacre of Palestinians by an Israeli settler. If international action is not taken, Israel will

impose its plans to divide the Al-Aqsa Mosque similar to its practice in Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

Al-Haq notes with concern that suggestions to divide and share Al-Aqsa Mosque violates international law. Al-Haq recalls United Nations Security Council Resolution 271 on the protection of Al-Aqsa which "recognizes that any act of destruction or profanation of the Holy Places, religious buildings and sites in Jerusalem or any encouragement of, or connivance at, any such act may seriously endanger international peace and security." Al-Haq further underlines the specific UNESCO call on Israel as Occupying Power to ensure the protection of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, "as a Muslim holy site of worship and as an integral part of a world cultural heritage site."

Accordingly, Al-Haq again calls on the international community to view Israel's actions in light of its previous attacks against the Al-Aqsa compound, as well as its broader increased aggressive targeting of Palestinians in Jerusalem, and to take immediate action to protect the Palestinian population and the status quo of holy sites in the OPT.[3] Attacks against Al-Aqsa have occurred throughout Israel's occupation, and include:

- Israeli facilitated arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque, which occurred 50 years ago, on 21 August 1969. At the time, the IOF wilfully prevented the access of fire-trucks to the scene. The incident led to widespread demonstrations and the adoption of a UN resolution to protect Al-Aqsa Mosque;
- the killings of three Palestinians by the IOF at Al-Aqsa during the Tunnel Events;
- the inflammatory and provocative visit to the Al-Aqsa compound by former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, which sparked the second intifada;
- and a number of other incidents, including recent attempts to install electronic gates around the compound.

Israel's continued attacks against holy sites threatens to spark a religious conflict. Accordingly, Al-Haq implores the international community to protect the Al-Aqsa compound to maintain regional and international peace and security.

The recent Eid Al-Adha attack is a direct result of Israeli impunity and the international community's failure to move beyond mere condemnation of Israel's violations of the



most basic human rights of the occupied Palestinian population. In addition to the illegal relocation of the United States and other embassies to Jerusalem, entrenching Israel's annexation in violation of international law. The international community must implement sanctions against Israel and Israeli authorities must fully cooperate with the Office of the Prosecutor's preliminary examination; and take other meaningful actions in line with their duties under international law.

[1] Temple Mount Clashes: Jordan Condemns 'Blunt' Israeli Violations as Jews Allowed in Holy Site, Haaretz, 11 August 2019, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-clashes-erupt-in-temple-mount-between-israeli-forces-and-muslim-worshippers-1.7657709>

[2] Top Israeli Minister Calls for *Status Quo* Change at Jerusalem's Temple Mount, Sparking Jordan's Ire, Haaretz, 14 August

2019, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israeli-minister-calls-for-status-quo-change-at-temple-mount-sparking-jordan-s-ire-1.7683713>

[3] See for example: Al-Haq Action Alert: International community must take concrete action to end Israel's aggression against Al-Aqsa, Al-Haq, 30 October 2014, <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/topics/wall-and-jerusalem/864-al-haq-action-alert-international-community-must-take-concrete-action-to-end-israels-aggression-against-al-aqsa>; International Community must Intervene to End Israel's Targeting of Jerusalem, Al-Haq, 20 July 2017, <http://www.alhaq.org/publications/papers/Israel%E2%80%99s.Targeting.of.Jerusalem.pdf>. ■

A view of the Dome of the Rock from the roof of the Austrian Hospice



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More than 100 Organisations Call for the Release of the UN Database of Businesses Engaged in Activities with Israeli Settlements

THE MESSAGE FROM GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY IS CLEAR: THE DATABASE MUST BE RELEASED IN FULL

On 27 August 2019, 103 local, regional and international organizations called on the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, Madam Michelle Bachelet, to release the UN database of businesses engaged in activities related to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory (hereinafter the Database).

In the letter, the undersigned organizations expressed their deep concern that the release of the Database, including the names of companies facilitating Israel's settlement enterprise, has been repeatedly delayed potentially due to political pressure. The delay comes over three years after the Human Rights Council (HRC) established the mandate to create the Database and more than two years after its initial scheduled release in March 2017.

The organizations urged the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to fully implement the mandate provided in HRC resolution 31/36 of March 2016 by releasing and transmitting the data, including the names of companies involved in the specified activities, to the Human Rights Council, so that the Database may be considered at the upcoming Council session in September 2019 and be updated annually.

The organisations expressed that there has been no other mandate given to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) by the HRC that has been subject to such a prolonged and open-ended delay. The undersigned also stressed the importance of protecting the independence and impartiality of the Office of the High Commissioner, including by fully implementing the mandates by the UN Human Rights Council.

Meanwhile, the letter reiterated that over the past few years, the Israeli government has escalated the construction of new settlements in the West Bank, while the Israeli Prime Minister has indicated his intention to formally annex parts of the West Bank, in violation of international law, which constitute grave breaches that

amount to internationally recognized crimes. According to Al-Haq General Director, Mr. Shawan Jabarin: "The prevailing culture of impunity for Israel's persistent violations of international law and infringements on the rights of the Palestinian people has also allowed business enterprises to contribute to and benefit from the prolonged occupation and gross human rights violations in the OPT, particularly Israel's expanding settlement enterprise, which deprives Palestinians fundamental rights, notably the right to self-determination and sovereignty over natural resources."

The mobilization of organizations behind the release of the Database demonstrates the importance of fulfilling the mandate entrusted to the High Commissioner in order to ensure the protection of human rights and respect for international law by state and non-state actors and bolster the development of the business and human rights framework in situations of armed conflict and occupation.

"The message from global civil society is clear: the database must be released in full. The credibility of Human Rights Council and Office of the High Commissioner is at stake", said the director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies in Geneva, Mr. Jeremie Smith. ■



Psagot settlement is built on the lands of Al-Bireh

Joint Submission to UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ahead of Israel’s Fourth Periodic Review



AL-HAQ

On Friday, 6 September 2019, Al-Marsad – Arab Human Rights Centre in Golan Heights, Cornell Law School’s International Human Rights Clinic and Al-Haq sent a joint submission to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the “Committee”) ahead of the State of Israel’s periodic review under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the “Covenant”). The submission, focusing on the systemic and manifestly unlawful exploitation of renewable and non-renewable energy resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the occupied Syrian Golan, sheds light on Israel’s extensive failures, as Occupying Power, under the Covenant and international humanitarian law to protect and refrain from infringing on the economic, social and cultural rights of the occupied Palestinian and Syrian people in the OPT and Golan, primarily the right to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

For more than 50 years, Israel, as Occupying Power, has devised a myriad of methods to deepen and expand its territorial control. Israel has systematically implemented these measures to hamper the economic, social, and cultural rights of the Palestinians and Golani Syrians, while favouring the interests of Israel, its citizens, its economy, and corporate entities, notably in occupied territories. The submission specifically highlights the role of business enterprises in the unlawful exploitation of natural resources in both occupied territories,

thus infringing on the social, economic and cultural rights of the occupied populations therein. For example, the submission highlights the ongoing involvement of Afek Oil and Gas, Noble Energy and Delek Drilling in the unlawful exploitation of natural oil and gas reserves, violating their responsibilities under international law.

In addition, the submission notes the prevalence of violations in the renewable sector throughout the occupied territories, particularly the proposed erection of 31 wind turbines by Energix Renewable Energies in the occupied Syrian Golan. These

Windmills in the Golan Heights



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AL-HAQ

turbines, which are estimated to occupy a quarter of the remaining agricultural land available to Golani Syrians, are expected to cause serious health risks, in breach of Article 12 of the Covenant, as well infringing upon the local Golani Syrian peoples’ cultural relationship with the land, as protected under Article 15. Further, the submission notes the activities of Clal Sun, First Solar, PADCON, SMA Solar Technology, and ABB Group in the construction of solar fields in illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The construction of these solar fields accompanies a de facto prohibition on the development of renewable energy projects by Palestinians, as well as the demolition and confiscation of pre-existing solar fields by the Israeli authorities, resulting in various infringements on the rights guaranteed in the Covenant, thwarting attempts to utilise renewable resources, thus stunting their respective economies, in violation of the Article 11 right to an adequate standard of living, and amounting to discrimination, prohibited under Article 2.

The cases presented in the joint submission are emblematic of the wider situation depicting Israel’s extensive and unlawful exploitation of natural resources in occupied territories and serve to provide an account of corporate involvement and complicity in the prolonged Israeli occupation and systemic violations of the economic, social and cultural rights of Palestinians and Golani Syrians.

In light of the above, the following recommendations were made to the Committee:

Call on Israel to fulfil its obligations under international human rights law, notably its obligations under the Covenant, and international humanitarian law in the Golan and OPT;
Condemn Israel’s failure to safeguard Palestinians’ and Syrians’ rights as guaranteed by the Covenant, notably the right to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over natural resources, among others;
Condemn Israel’s discriminatory application

of laws and regulations in the areas under its control, especially laws and regulations that prohibit Syrians and Palestinians from controlling, accessing, and developing their natural resources;

Call on Israel to ensure the genuine consent of the occupied populations in the OPT and Golan before engaging in any projects that extract their resources, including by holding extensive and effective consultations;

Call on Israel to establish policies, while it insists on maintaining its unlawful occupations, that allow Syrians and Palestinians within their respective homelands, in line with international law, to freely develop their natural resources and foster natural resource-based industries;

Call on Israel to stop providing incentives that allow for and facilitate the expansion of illegal settlements in occupied territories;

Call on Israel to cease its encouragement and authorization of Israeli and multinational commercial enterprises’ activities in occupied territories under circumstances that violate Israel’s obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. Further, Israel must regulate, in line with international law, the operations and activities of Israeli and multinational corporations in the occupied territories;

Call on Israel, as a U.N. Member State, to respect the work, independence, and impartiality of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, including U.N. Human Rights Council resolution 31/36 (2016);

Call on Israel, as an Occupying Power, to comply with the U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in relation to business activities in the OPT and Golan;

Condemn Israel’s attempts to silence opposition to its policies and practices that violate rights under the Covenant through such mechanisms as “anti-BDS” laws;

Call on Israel to guarantee the right of human rights defenders in occupied territories to exercise free speech, including their right to criticize the policies and practices of the Israeli government and other private entities that violate the rights enshrined in the Covenant.■

AL-HAQ ORGANIZATION

40 YEARS DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS



AL-HAQ

Al-Haq is an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in Ramallah. Established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT). Al-Haq documents violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians in the OPT, irrespective of identity of the perpetrator, and seeks to end such breaches by way of advocacy before national and international mechanisms and by holding the violators accountable.



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