



United Nations Human Rights Council: 43rd Session

Item 2 – Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on recommendations of the Commission on Inquiry on the protests in the OPT (Human Rights Council resolution 40/13)

Joint Oral Intervention

Date: 26 February 2020

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Madam President, Madam High Commissioner,

On 22 March 2019, the Council adopted resolution 40/13, calling on States to implement the recommendations of the 2018 commission of inquiry on protests in the occupied Palestinian territory. One year on, these recommendations for justice and accountability remain unfulfilled while the root causes of the demonstrations, including Israel's 12-year illegal closure, which has made Gaza uninhabitable, and the prolonged denial of Palestinian rights since the Nakba, remain unaddressed, including in the High Commissioner's report.

Since 30 March 2018, the Israeli occupying forces have intentionally resorted to lethal and other excessive force to suppress the Great Return March, killing 217 Palestinians, including 48 children, nine persons with disabilities, four paramedics, and two journalists. In 2019 alone, Israeli forces killed 135 Palestinians across the occupied Palestinian territory, reflecting this Council's continued failure to put an end to Israeli impunity. Just a few days ago, Israeli forces were filmed abusing the body of a Palestinian with a bulldozer near the Gaza fence, which may amount to an outrage upon personal dignity, a war crime under the Rome Statute.

Your Excellencies,

Our organizations urge the Council to address the root causes of the demonstrations, to lift the Gaza closure, and to adopt effective measures to implement the commission's recommendations without delay. We also urge States to activate universal jurisdiction mechanisms and to call for an investigation by the International Criminal Court into the situation in Palestine.

Thank you.