

Joint Oral Intervention

Item 9 – Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Date: 16 June 2020

International Community Must Recognize and Counter Israel's Apartheid Regime

Speaker: Ms Nada Awad, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Madam President,

Since 1948, Palestinians have faced an ongoing Nakba of continued displacement and dispossession, as part of Israel's endeavour to uproot the indigenous Palestinian people from their homes, lands, and property. For 72 years, Israel has strategically fragmented, segregated, and isolated the Palestinian people, denying the right of return of Palestinian refugees, revoking residency rights and banning family unification – thus imposing an apartheid regime over the Palestinian people, as defined under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Embedded in a system of impunity, civic space continues to deteriorate as Israel systematically silences opposition to its apartheid regime through mass arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, and widespread collective punishment, including through the illegal Gaza closure, as well as Government-led smear campaigns to delegitimise human rights defenders and organisations, a process fuelled by racist hate speech and incitement to racial hatred and violence.

In the coming weeks, the Israeli government seeks to illegally annex large parts of the occupied West Bank. The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Palestine has warned that Israel's plans "would crystalize a 21st century apartheid, leaving in its wake the demise of the Palestinians' right to self-determination."ⁱ

Your Excellency,

Third States have systematically failed to put an end to Israeli impunity and to uphold the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It is time to recognise that Israel has established and continues to maintain an apartheid regime of institutionalised racial oppression and domination over all Palestinians, on both sides of the Green Line, and refugees and exiles that are denied their right of return.

Accordingly, we urge all UN Member States to:

- i. Recognise and address Israeli apartheid over the Palestinian people;
- ii. Endorse UN CERD's 2019 concluding observations on Israel, which recognised policies of racial segregation and apartheid over Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line; and
- iii. Recommend the reconstitution of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid and the UN Centre against Apartheid to put an end to this injustice.

Thank you.

Signatories:

Algeria

1. Agir pour le changement et la Démocratie en Algérie
2. Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights

Argentina

3. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)

Austria

4. Women in Black Vienna

Belgium

5. Association Belgo-Palestinienne WB
6. Broederlijk Delen
7. Palestina Solidariteit vzw

Canada

8. Just Peace Advocates

Egypt

9. Belady Center for Rights and Freedoms
10. Committee for Justice
11. Egyptian Front for Human Rights
12. The Freedom Initiative

Finland

13. Finnish-Arab Friendship Society
14. The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions - Finland

France

15. Association France Palestine Solidarité
16. Association Démocratique des Tunisiens en France –ADTF
17. Association des Travailleurs Maghrébins Maghrébins de France
18. Association des universitaires pour le respect du droit international en Palestine (AURDIP)
19. Collectif des Familles de Disparu(e)s en Algérie
20. Collectif Judéo Arabe et Citoyen pour la Palestine
21. Immigration- Développement- Démocratie
22. Le Comité de Vigilance pour la Démocratie en Tunisie - Belgique
23. Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les peuples (MRAP)
24. Réseau Euromaghrébin Citoyenneté et Culture
25. Union Juive Française pour la Paix (UJFP)

Ireland

26. Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign
27. Sadaka – The Ireland Palestine Alliance

Israel

28. The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD)

Italy

29. Associazione Cultura è Libertà

Lebanon

- 30. Center for Arab Unity Studies
- 31. Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO)

Libya

- 32. Belaady Organization for Human Rights
- 33. Libyan Judges Organization
- 34. Libyan Organization for Independent Media
- 35. Independent Organisation for Human Rights
- 36. International Arabic Organization for Women's Rights
- 37. Jurists Without Chains
- 38. Youth Gathering for Tawargha

Luxembourg

- 39. Comité pour une Paix Juste au Proche-Orient

Morocco

- 40. Association de Défense des Droits de l'Homme au Maroc

Netherlands

- 41. Netherlands Palestine Committee (NPK)

Norway

- 42. Coordination Committee for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of the State of Israel

Occupied Syrian Golan

- 43. Al Marsad - Arab Human Rights Center in Golan Heights

Palestine

- 44. Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association
- 45. Al Dameer Association for Human Rights
- 46. Al-Haq
- 47. Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights
- 48. Applied Research Institute Jerusalem
- 49. Bait AlMostuqbul Association
- 50. Baitona For Community And Development
- 51. Balsam Rehabilitation Society
- 52. Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights (Hurriyat)
- 53. Community Action Center, Al-Quds University
- 54. Fares Al Arab for Development and Charity Works
- 55. Filastiniyat
- 56. Forsan Al-Ghad Youth Association
- 57. Human Rights and Democracy Media Center (SHAMS)
- 58. Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC)
- 59. MA'AN Development Center
- 60. Nuseirat Rehabilitation and Social Training Association (NRSTA)
- 61. Palestinian Agricultural Development Association
- 62. Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)
- 63. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network

64. Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies (RCHRS)
65. The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem
66. The National Society for Rehabilitation
67. The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (MUSAWA)
68. The Palestinian Counselling Centre (PCC)
69. The Palestinian Developmental Women Studies Association "PDWSA"
70. The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH
71. The Palestine Institute for Public Policy
72. Union of Health Care Committees
73. Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC)
74. Women's Studies Centre
75. Youth Political Forum
76. Zakher Association

Pakistan

77. Bytes for All

South Africa

78. Lawyers for Human Rights
79. South African Jews for a Free Palestine

Switzerland

80. Association Switzerland-Palestine
81. Human Rights Solidarity

Syria

82. Baytna Syria
83. Dawlaty
84. Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS)
85. Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)

Togo

86. Coalition Togolaise des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (CTDDH)

Tunisia

87. Fédération Tunisienne pour une Citoyenneté des deux Rives
88. L'Union des Tunisiens pour l'Action Citoyenne
89. National Observatory for the Defense of the Civil State
90. Syndicat National des Journalistes Tunisiens
91. The Committee for the Respect of Freedoms and Human Rights in Tunisia
92. Tunisian Association Defending Individual Liberties
93. Tunisian Association for the Defense of Universal Values
94. Tunisian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel
95. Vigilance for Democracy and the Civic State

United Kingdom

96. Manchester Palestine Action
97. Scottish Palestinian Forum
98. The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions - United Kingdom

United States of America

99. Albuquerque Peace and Justice Center
100. American Muslims for Palestine
101. Center for Constitutional Rights
102. Jewish Voice for Peace
103. Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine
104. US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR)

Yemen

105. Mwatana for Human Rights
106. Watch for Human Rights

Regional Organizations

Europe

107. European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine (ECCP)
108. The European Legal Support Center

Middle East and North Africa

109. Arab Network for Tolerance
110. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

East and Horn of Africa

111. DefendDefenders

West Africa

112. West African Human Rights Defenders' Network

International Organizations

113. CIVICUS
114. Housing and Land Rights Network – Habitat International Coalition

¹ OHCHR, “Israeli annexation plans would lead to ‘cascade of bad human rights consequences’ says UN expert,” 1 May 2020, available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25857&LangID=E>.