

Joint Parallel Report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for its List of Issues on Israel’s Initial Report

Submitted by:

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Institutionalised oppression, domination, and erasure of the Palestinian people	1
3. Applicability of the CRPD in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the occupied Syrian Golan ...	3
4. Israel’s shoot-to-kill policy in violation of the right to life.....	5
5. Israel’s illegal closure of Gaza and the right to health of Palestinians	9
6. Palestinian political prisoners with disabilities detained in Israeli prisons.....	13
7. Annex I: About our organisations	17
8. Annex II: Members of the Palestinian Disability Coalition.....	18

1. Introduction

1. The Palestinian Disability Coalition, Al-Haq, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, and the Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights “Hurriyat” (hereinafter ‘our organisations’) are pleased to present our joint parallel report to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (‘the Committee’) for consideration in its list of issues on the initial report submitted by Israel,¹ regarding its compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD or ‘the Convention’).²
2. This joint parallel report is submitted as part of our organisations’ commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of the Palestinian people, including the pursuit of a dignified life for persons with disabilities in Palestine. This report was prepared by a qualified group of Palestinian disability and human rights experts, most of whom are persons with disabilities, working directly with Palestinian civil society as well as victims and their families to ensure the reliability, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of the information provided.
3. For the Committee’s list of themes on Israel’s report, our organisations highlight the Israeli occupying authorities’ widespread and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people as a whole, including persons with disabilities, within the legal framework of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. This submission examines Israel’s violation of its obligation to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all Palestinians, including Palestinian persons with disabilities subject to Israel’s effective control, as Occupying Power, focusing on violations of the right to life, health, and freedom from arbitrary detention as well as torture and other ill-treatment in Israeli prisons and detention centres.

2. Institutionalised oppression, domination, and erasure of the Palestinian people

4. Palestinian disability rights must be understood within the broader context of Israel’s institutionalised oppression and domination over the indigenous Palestinian people as a whole, on both sides of the Green Line, and as refugees and exiles denied their right of return since the Nakba of 1948. Seven decades on, the Nakba continues as a continual process of erasure, displacement, and dispossession of Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line. Today, nearly 8 million Palestinian refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory, across the region, and worldwide, as well as some 415,876 displaced Palestinians within the Green

¹ State of Israel, Initial report submitted by Israel under Article 35 of the Convention, due in 2014, 8 March 2019, UN Doc CRPD/C/ISR/1 (hereinafter ‘State report’).

² *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (adopted 13 December 2006, entry into force 3 May 2008) 2515 UNTS 3 (CRPD).

Line continue to suffer prolonged refugeehood and displacement,³ denied their inalienable right of return to their homes, lands, and property.⁴ In 1967, Israel occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, constituting the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as the occupied Syrian Golan. Israel, as Occupying Power, is bound by international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including the CRPD therein (*see Section 3*).

5. Immediately following the Nakba, Israel institutionalised laws, policies, and practices, which entrenched Israeli-Jewish racial supremacy in law, establishing an institutionalised regime of systematic racial oppression and domination over the indigenous Palestinian people as a whole,⁵ amounting to the crime of apartheid.⁶ These laws include the 1950 *Law of Return* and the 1952 *Law of Citizenship*, which grant every Jewish person the exclusive right to enter Israel as a Jewish immigrant, to receive preferential treatment, and to obtain citizenship, while Palestinian refugees are categorically denied their right of return, as mandated by international law since the Nakba.⁷ At the same time, the 1950 *Absentee Property Law* has stripped Palestinians of their rights through the confiscation of Palestinian property deemed “absentee property.” In 2018, Israel adopted the *Basic Law: Nation-State of the Jewish People*, which enshrines in Israel’s constitutional legal foundations its institutionalised racial oppression and domination over the Palestinian people, stating that “The exercise of the right to national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people” and determining “Jewish settlement as a national value,” thereby giving constitutional force to the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements⁸ in the occupied Palestinian territory.⁹
6. In 2017, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) published a foundational report, which found that Israel has strategically fragmented the Palestinian people into four separate legal, political, and geographic domains since 1967, comprising Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line and Palestinian refugees and exiles denied their

³ BADIL, *Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2016-2018*, Volume IX, p. xiv.

⁴ CESCR, Concluding Observations on Israel, 31 August 2001, UN Doc E/C.12/1/Add.69, para. 14. *See also* CERD, Concluding Observations on Israel, 14 June 2007, UN Doc CERD/C/ISR/CO/13, para. 18.

⁵ Al-Haq, Palestinian, Regional, and International Groups Submit Report on Israeli Apartheid to UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 12 November 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16183.html>.

⁶ *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* (adopted 17 July 1998, entry into force 1 July 2002) 2187 UNTS 3 (hereinafter ‘Rome Statute’), Article 7(1)(j).

⁷ *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), Article 5.

⁸ UN Security Council, Resolution 2334 (2016), 23 December 2016, UN Doc S/RES/2334, para. 1.

⁹ *See*, Al-Haq, Israel’s regime of institutionalised racial domination and oppression over the Palestinian people amounting to apartheid in violation of Article 3 of ICERD: Summary of joint parallel report to CERD, available at: http://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2019/12/02/191202-cerd-submission-fact-sheet-final-1575320516.pdf; Al-Haq, Joint Oral Intervention to the 100th Session of CERD for the Review of Israel, 2 December 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16266.html>.

right of return, as the main tool of its apartheid regime over all Palestinians. Similarly, in 2019, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) found Israeli policies and practices of racial segregation and apartheid disproportionately impacting Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line, urging Israel “to eradicate all forms of segregation between Jewish and non-Jewish communities and any such policies or practices which severely and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in Israel proper and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.”¹⁰

7. The Committee must consider Palestinian disability rights within the framework of Israel’s overarching system of oppression imposed over the Palestinian people as a whole, which denies them the ability to exercise their individual and collective rights, including to national self-determination¹¹ and return. Critically, the erasure of the Palestinian people, a staple of Zionist policy since the Nakba, is reflected in Israel’s initial report to the Committee, which does not once refer to Palestine, the Palestinian people, or Palestinians, nor does it address the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. Even in referring to Palestinian citizens within the Green Line, the State report erases Palestinian identity¹² by referring to them as “the Arab population.”¹³ The State report even acknowledges that the Israeli government lacks sufficient statistical data on the situation of Palestinians with disabilities within the Green Line,¹⁴ reflecting decades of institutionalised oppression and neglect of the Palestinian people.

3. Applicability of the CRPD in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the occupied Syrian Golan

8. Israel’s State report under the CRPD fails to address its compliance with the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, despite having the status of Occupying Power, and international humanitarian law and international human rights law applying concurrently to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the occupied Syrian Golan.¹⁵ Besides entrenching the erasure of Palestinians in its State report, the Israel also seeks to absolve itself of its legal obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil the

¹⁰ CERD, Concluding observations on the combined seventeenth to nineteenth reports of Israel, 12 December 2019, UN Doc CERD/C/ISR/CO/17-19, para. 23.

¹¹ Article 1, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (adopted 16 December 1966, entered into force 23 March 1976) 1057 UNTS 171 (ICCPR) and *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (adopted 16 December 1966, entered into force 3 January 1976) 993 UNTS 3 (ICESCR).

¹² Al-Haq, Palestinian, Regional, and International Groups Submit Report on Israeli Apartheid to UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 12 November 2019, paras. 11 and 75, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16183.html>

¹³ State report, paras. 46, 50, 240, 241, and 353(e).

¹⁴ State report, para. 353(e).

¹⁵ See, notably, 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, UN Doc A/HRC/40/CRP.2, paras. 80-83; see also Human Rights Committee, The Nature of the General Legal Obligation Imposed on States Parties to the Covenant, 26 May 2004, UN Doc CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.13, para. 11.

human rights of the Palestinian and Syrian people under its effective control, by virtue of prolonged Israeli military occupation since 1967.

9. We recall the longstanding position of UN treaty bodies¹⁶ that international human rights treaties ratified by Israel, as Occupying Power, are applicable for the benefit of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, and the Syrian people in the occupied Syrian Golan,¹⁷ a position further emphasized by the International Court of Justice in its 2004 advisory opinion on the Annexation Wall.¹⁸ In November 2019, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) recalled that the applicability of Israel's human rights obligations in the occupied Palestinian territory constitutes:

“the view consistently adopted by various human rights treaty bodies... and expressed in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.”¹⁹

10. The CRPD recognises in its preamble “that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of persons with disabilities, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation.”²⁰ Similarly, Article 11 of the Convention requires Israel, as Occupying Power, to “take, in accordance with [its] obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of... armed conflict.”²¹
11. **Accordingly, we urge the Committee to recognise the applicability of the CRPD for the benefit of persons with disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to call on Israel, the Occupying Power, to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of all persons with disabilities under its effective control as well as to report to the Committee on its compliance with the Convention therein. We further**

¹⁶ CERD, Concluding observations on the combined seventeenth to nineteenth reports of Israel, 12 December 2019, UN Doc CERD/C/ISR/CO/17-19, paras. 9-10; CESCR, Concluding Observations on Israel, 12 November 2019, UN Doc E/C.12/ISR/CO/4, paras. 6-7; CEDAW, Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Israel, 17 November 2017, UN Doc CEDAW/C/ISR/CO/6, paras. 14-15; CAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Israel, 3 June 2016, UN Doc CAT/C/ISR/CO/5, paras. 8-9.

¹⁷ CESCR, Concluding Observations on Israel, 12 November 2019, UN Doc E/C.12/ISR/CO/4, para. 9.

¹⁸ *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, Advisory Opinion, ICJ Reports 2004, (hereinafter ‘ICJ Wall Opinion’), paras. 111-113.

¹⁹ CESCR, Concluding Observations on Israel, 12 November 2019, UN Doc E/C.12/ISR/CO/4, para. 9.

²⁰ Preamble, para. (u), CRPD.

²¹ Article 11, CRPD.

recommend that the Committee request information on measures taken by the Israeli occupying authorities to comply with Article 11 of the Convention.

4. Israel's shoot-to-kill policy in violation of the right to life

12. Enshrined in Articles 1 and 10 of the Convention, as well as Article 6(1) of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR), the right to life is considered “the supreme right from which no derogation is permitted even in situations of armed conflict and other public emergencies that threaten the life of the nation.”²² In paragraph 78, Israel's State report states that its “Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty provides basic guarantees of personal liberty of all persons, and stipulates, inter alia, that ‘There shall be no violation of the life, body or dignity of any person as such’ and that ‘All persons are entitled to protection of their life, body and dignity’,” adding that “The Basic Law applies equally to all persons, including [persons with disabilities].”²³ However, Israel has systematically resorted to a shoot-to-kill policy, as a tool of oppression and domination, targeting Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line, including Palestinians with disabilities.²⁴
13. Since the start of Israel's prolonged military occupation, Israel has systematically and deliberately resorted to lethal and other excessive force against the protected Palestinian people.²⁵ This widespread and systematic policy has targeted all Palestinians, including Palestinians with disabilities,²⁶ and may amount to war crimes of wilful killing, as grave breaches under Article 147 of the *Fourth Geneva Convention*, and contribute to the

²² UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 36 (2018) on Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the right to life, 30 October 2018, UN Doc CCPR/C/GC/36 (hereinafter ‘UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 36 (2018)’), para. 2.

²³ State report, para. 78.

²⁴ See, Al-Haq, Palestinian, Regional, and International Groups Submit Report on Israeli Apartheid to UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 12 November 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16183.html>; Al-Haq, Urgent Appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on the Extrajudicial Execution and Wilful Killing of Palestinian Person with Disability Iyad Al-Hallaq by the Israeli Occupying Forces on 30 May 2020 in East Jerusalem, 8 June 2020, available at:

<http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16963.html>; Al-Haq, 83 Organisations Send Urgent Appeal to UN Special Procedures on the Wilful Killing of Ahmad Erekat, Urging International Justice and Accountability for Israel's Shoot-to-Kill Policy, 14 June 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/17112.html>.

²⁵ Article 4(1) of the *Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War* (adopted 12 August 1949, entry into force 21 October 1950) 75 UNTS 287 (hereinafter ‘Fourth Geneva Convention’), defines protected persons as, “those who, at a given moment and in any manner whatsoever, find themselves, in case of a conflict or occupation, in the hands of a Party to the conflict or Occupying Power of which they are not nationals.”

²⁶ Al-Haq, Al-Haq Sends Submission to UN Special Rapporteur with regards to Israel's Excessive Use of Force and Killing of Palestinian Persons with Psychosocial, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 11 February 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6108.html>.

commission of the crimes against humanity of murder,²⁷ persecution,²⁸ and apartheid,²⁹ within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

14. Over the years, and in particular since 2015, the Israeli occupying forces have escalated their use of lethal and other excessive force against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory. Between October 2015 and early July 2020, Al-Haq documented the killing of 754 Palestinians by the Israeli occupying forces throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.³⁰ Since the start of 2018, Al-Haq documented the killing of 465 Palestinians, including 14 persons with disabilities, a vast majority of whom were shot with live ammunition,³¹ and the killing of 217 Palestinians, including 48 children, eight persons with disabilities, four health workers, and two journalists by the Israeli occupying forces during the Great Return March demonstrations in Gaza.³²
15. In January 2017, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the Israeli occupying forces “often use firearms against Palestinians on mere suspicion or as a precautionary measure, in violation of international standards.”³³ The Israeli occupying authorities have also redefined and expanded their understanding of “life threatening” events to include, for example, stone-throwing and tire-burning during protests.³⁴ With the start of the Great Return March, members of the Israeli security cabinet made public statements to the effect that they would “gradually implement a zero tolerance policy” and a “more aggressive response” to suppress Palestinian protests.³⁵ As such the Israeli occupying forces are determined to act not so as to refrain from deadly violence against Palestinians but rather in a manner which, under their internal law and policy, affords the greatest scope of action in contravention of the right to life of Palestinians.
16. Over the years, Palestinian persons with disabilities have been systematically targeted and killed by the Israeli occupying forces. For example, on 15 December 2017, prominent Palestinian human rights defender, Ibrahim Abu Thuraya, 29, from Deir Al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper from a 15-metre range. Ibrahim, a double

²⁷ Rome Statute, Article 7(1)(a).

²⁸ Rome Statute, Article 7(1)(h).

²⁹ Rome Statute, Article 7(1)(j).

³⁰ Figures provided by Al-Haq’s Monitoring and Documentation Department covering the period from 1 October 2015 until 1 July 2020.

³¹ Figures provided by Al-Haq’s Monitoring and Documentation Department covering the period from 1 January 2018 until 20 July 2020.

³² Figures provided by Al-Haq’s Monitoring and Documentation Department covering the period from 30 March 2018 until 20 July 2020.

³³ UN General Assembly, Implementation of Human Rights Council Resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 25 January 2017, UN Doc A/HRC/34/36, para. 11.

³⁴ B’Tselem, Open-fire Regulations and Rules of International Humanitarian Law, January 2011, available at: <http://www.btselem.org/firearms>.

³⁵ Breaking Israel News, Security Cabinet Green Lights IDF Stepping Up Reprisal Attacks for Gaza Terrorism, 19 October 2018, available at: <https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/115427/green-lights-idfreprisal-gaza-terrorism/>.

amputee who had lost both his legs in an Israeli airstrike on the Gaza Strip in 2008, was demonstrating peacefully in his wheelchair and holding nothing but a Palestinian flag at the time he was killed.³⁶ Ten Palestinian persons with disabilities were killed by Israeli forces in the occupied Palestinian territory in 2018, five of whom had psychosocial, intellectual, or developmental disabilities.³⁷ On 4 December 2018, the Israeli occupying forces killed Muhammad Habali, 22, during a military raid on Toulkarem in the West Bank. Muhammad, a resident of Toulkarem Refugee Camp, was born with a mental disability, which may have left him with difficulties recognizing his surroundings and identifying threats.³⁸ He was shot from an 80-metre distance near his place of work, while not posing any threat to life or serious injury, as confirmed by surveillance camera footage.³⁹

17. On 1 April 2018, Tahrir Wahba, an 18-year-old Palestinian student and person with disability who was deaf was shot by the Israeli occupying forces in the back of the head while participating in the Great Return March. He was pronounced dead after succumbing to injuries on 23 April 2018 at the Gaza European Hospital in Khan Younis. Al-Haq's documentation showed that Tahrir posed no imminent threat to the Israeli occupying forces at the time he was shot.⁴⁰ The UN Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the occupied Palestinian territory stated that it had authenticated a video that showed Tahrir, approximately 150 or 200 metres from the Gaza fence, "adding a tyre to a burning pile, turn his back to the fence, and wave his arms in the air. A second later he is shot in the back of the head." The Commission found that "Tahrir did not pose an imminent threat of death or serious injury... when he was shot."⁴¹
18. The Commission concluded that there were "reasonable grounds to believe that Israeli snipers shot [Palestinian] demonstrators intentionally, despite seeing that they had visible disabilities," adding "The Israeli forces also unlawfully shot other demonstrators with disabilities, whose disability may not have been apparent."⁴² In February 2019, the Commission found reasonable grounds to believe that Israeli snipers shot at journalists,

³⁶ Al-Haq, Five Palestinians killed during Protests across the OPT since 7 December 2017, 19 December 2017, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6297.html>.

³⁷ Al-Haq, Al-Haq Sends Submission to UN Special Rapporteur with regards to Israel's Excessive Use of Force and Killing of Palestinian Persons with Psychosocial, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 11 February 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6108.html>.

³⁸ Al-Haq, Israeli Occupying Forces Wilfully Kill 22-year-old Palestinian with Mental Disability in Toulkarem, 15 December 2018, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/6122.html>.

³⁹ *Ibid.* See also Al-Haq, Urgent Appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on the Extrajudicial Execution and Wilful Killing of Palestinian Person with Disability Iyad Al-Hallaq by the Israeli Occupying Forces on 30 May 2020 in East Jerusalem, 8 June 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16963.html>.

⁴⁰ Al-Haq, Great Return March Continues: Person with Disability and Journalist Killed in the Line of IOF Fire, 5 May 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/6232.html>.

⁴¹ 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, UN Doc A/HRC/40/CRP.2, para. 537.

⁴² *Ibid.*

health workers, children and persons with disabilities, knowing they were clearly recognizable as such.⁴³ The Commission also found that Israel's rules of engagement for the use of live fire are in violation of international human rights law and recommended that these rules of engagement permit lethal force "only as a last resort, where the person targeted poses an imminent threat to life or directly participates in hostilities."⁴⁴

19. In a recent incident, emblematic of Israel's shoot-to-kill policy, the Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Iyad Al-Hallaq, a 31-year-old Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem, on 30 May 2020, while he was on his way to Elwyn Centre, a day centre for youth and adults with disabilities in the Old City of Jerusalem. Iyad had an intellectual disability with autistic traits that limited his interaction with the outside world as well as physical disabilities that affected his hearing and movement, which caused shaking in his hands. Iyad was extrajudicially executed by Israeli border police, while he posed no threat to anyone in the area. At the scene, Iyad's caregiver, Warda Abu Hadid, 46, repeatedly informed the Israeli occupying forces, in Hebrew and Arabic, that Iyad was a person with disability, but they ignored her calls, and intentionally shot Iyad with live ammunition from a close five-metre range. Despite being critically injured, Iyad did not receive medical assistance until about 20 minutes later when an ambulance was allowed access to the scene.⁴⁵
20. According to Al-Haq's field monitoring and documentation, more than five surveillance cameras are installed between Bab Al-Asbat, where Iyad started running, and the waste collection site, where he was killed. While Israeli officials have made statements that the circumstances of Iyad's killing will be investigated,⁴⁶ human rights organisations have long criticised Israel's sham investigations into extrajudicial executions and excessive use of force as a fig leaf and whitewash mechanism to rubber stamp Israel's shoot-to-kill policy.⁴⁷ Now, nearly two months since Iyad's killing, the Israeli occupying authorities claim that none of surveillance cameras were working in the area at the time.⁴⁸ This follows the

⁴³ *Ibid.*, paras. 519, 526, 536, and 357.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 793.

⁴⁵ Al-Haq, Urgent Appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on the Extrajudicial Execution and Wilful Killing of Palestinian Person with Disability Iyad Al-Hallaq by the Israeli Occupying Forces on 30 May 2020 in East Jerusalem, 8 June 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16963.html>.

⁴⁶ See, for example, Associated Press, Israeli defense minister apologizes for Palestinian's death, The Washington Post, 1 June 2020, available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/israeli-defense-ministerapologizes-for-palestinians-death/2020/05/31/ef717168-a3b2-11ea-898e-b21b9a83f792_story.html.

⁴⁷ See, for example, Al-Haq, Sham Investigation by Israel's Military Advocate General into IOF Killing of Razan Al-Najjar, 13 June 2018, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6187.html>. See also B'Tselem, *The Occupation's Fig Leaf: Israel's Military Law Enforcement System as a Whitewash Mechanism* (May 2016), available at: https://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/201605_occupations_fig_leaf.

⁴⁸ Nir Hasson and Josh Breiner, Israel Claims Security Cameras Where Police Shot Autistic Palestinian Were Not Working, 13 July 2020, Haaretz, available at: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israel-police-say-no-security-camera-footage-in-shooting-of-autistic-palestinian-1.8991540>.

imposition of a gag order on Iyad's lawyer to conceal the truth surrounding the killing and to prevent Iyad's lawyer from sharing information about court proceedings with the public.⁴⁹

21. Israel's shoot-to-kill policy is embedded in a system of institutionalised impunity, which systematically shields Israeli perpetrators from accountability for widespread and systematic human rights violations, including international crimes, committed against the Palestinian people.⁵⁰ Israeli judicial mechanisms are genuinely unwilling⁵¹ to conduct independent, effective, and impartial investigations into extrajudicial executions, in violation of the right to life and the right of access to justice, under Articles 10, 11, and 13 of the Convention, for Palestinian persons with disabilities under their effective control.
22. **Accordingly, our organisations urge the Committee to request information on measures taken by the Israeli occupying authorities to bring Israel's rules of engagement for the use of live fire in line with international human rights law and to put an end to the Israeli occupying forces' systematic shoot-to-kill policy, including against Palestinians with disabilities. We also urge the Committee to recognise Israeli judicial mechanisms as unwilling to genuinely prosecute international crimes committed against the Palestinian people and to call for international justice and accountability for Palestinian victims at the ICC to bring an end to Israeli impunity.**

5. Israel's illegal closure of Gaza and the right to health of Palestinians

23. For the past 13 years, Israel, the Occupying Power, has maintained a land, sea and air blockade and comprehensive closure on the occupied Gaza Strip,⁵² imposing illegal collective punishment over two million Palestinians.⁵³ The Gaza closure, which entrenches the fragmentation of the Palestinian people as part of Israel's apartheid regime,⁵⁴ has

⁴⁹ Al-Haq, Urgent Appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on the Extrajudicial Execution and Wilful Killing of Palestinian Person with Disability Iyad Al-Hallaq by the Israeli Occupying Forces on 30 May 2020 in East Jerusalem, 8 June 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16963.html>.

⁵⁰ See Al-Haq, Palestinian, Regional, and International Human Rights Organisations Submit Joint Report on Accountability to UN Special Rapporteur, 3 June 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16931.html>.

⁵¹ See, recently, Al-Haq, 83 Organisations Send Urgent Appeal to UN Special Procedures on the Wilful Killing of Ahmad Erekat, Urging International Justice and Accountability for Israel's Shoot-to-Kill Policy, 14 July 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/17112.html>.

⁵² Recent materials on the Gaza closure were compiled by Al-Haq, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Medical Aid for Palestinians, and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) in a blog that marks 13 years of Israel's illegal closure. The blog, part of the organisations' Gaza2020 campaign, calls for the immediate lifting of the Gaza closure: <https://medium.com/@lifttheclosure/its-2020-lift-the-gaza-closure-c3f586611c11>. The blog also contains information on health and healthcare in Gaza at: <https://medium.com/@lifttheclosure/health-and-healthcare-in-gaza-ba6e28405b76>.

⁵³ See, for example, Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, 15 July 2020, UN Doc A/HRC/44/60, para. 60.

⁵⁴ Al-Haq, Joint Parallel Report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Israel's Seventeenth to Nineteenth Periodic Reports, 10 November 2019, para. 78, available at: http://www.alhaq.org/attached_uploads/download/2019/11/12/joint-parallel-report-to-cerd-on-israel-s-17th-19th-periodic-reports-10-november-2019-final-1573563352.pdf.

undermined all aspects of Palestinian life in Gaza, resulting in profound levels of poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, aid-dependency, and a collapse of essential services, including healthcare. Since 2012, the UN has repeatedly warned that Gaza would become uninhabitable by 2020, should Israel fail to lift the illegal closure.⁵⁵ This month, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, called on the Israel, the Occupying Power, to “End all measures amounting to collective punishment, including... the closure of Gaza.”⁵⁶

24. The closure violates Palestinians’ collective rights, comprising the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including permanent sovereignty over natural wealth and resources, and undermines the rights of all Palestinians, including Palestinian persons with disabilities, to equality and non-discrimination (Article 5),⁵⁷ life (Article 10), access to justice (Article 13), freedom from torture and other ill-treatment (Article 15), liberty of movement (Article 18), education (Article 24), health (Article 25), work and employment (Article 27), and the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 28), amongst other rights enshrined under the Convention. Within this context, the Palestinian people in Gaza, including Palestinians with disabilities, repeatedly called for an end to Israel’s illegal closure and the realisation of their inalienable rights to self-determination and return during the Great Return March demonstrations, as the rights-based root causes of Palestinian oppression.⁵⁸
25. As highlighted in **Section 4**, the Israeli forces, including snipers, systematically suppressed the Great Return March demonstrations in Gaza, deliberately killing Palestinians, including persons with disabilities, during over 80 weeks of protests.⁵⁹ Israel’s excessive use of force

⁵⁵ See, for example, UN Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory, “Gaza in 2020: A Liveable Place?,” August 2012, p. 16, available at: <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/gaza-2020-liveable-place>; UNCTAD, Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people, 6 July 2015, UN Doc TD/B/62/3, para. 40; and UN Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory, “Gaza: Ten Years Later,” July 2017, p. 28, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNCT%20Report%20-%20Gaza%2010%20Years%20Later%20-%202011%20July%202017.pdf>. See also Al-Haq, Rights Groups Call on UN Human Rights Council to Lift Illegal Closure of Gaza as Collective Punishment, 7 June 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16951.html>.

⁵⁶ Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, 15 July 2020, UN Doc A/HRC/44/60, para. 83.

⁵⁷ See, e.g., Al-Haq, Al-Haq and Partners Send Joint Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Ahead of Israel’s Review, 6 September 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/15010.html>.

⁵⁸ See, for example, Al-Haq, Q&A: the Great Return March: One Year On, 25 May 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6044.html>; Al-Haq, Al-Haq Reaffirms Rights-Based Root Causes of Great Return March at its One-Year Commemoration in the Gaza Strip, 30 March 2019, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6078.html>; Al-Haq, Joint Statement: On Land Day Civil Society Urge Accountability and End to Israel’s Illegal Closure of Gaza, 30 March 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16657.html>.

⁵⁹ See, for example, Al-Haq, ‘Bloody Monday’ – Documentation of the Shoot-to-kill, Egregious Killings Committed by the Israel Occupying Force (IOF) on 14 May 2018, 26 May 2018, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6196.html>.

has led to numerous cases of permanent disabilities for Palestinians throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, including as a result of injuries sustained during the Great Return March. The Commission of Inquiry held that it was widely known that the Israeli occupying forces were “injuring demonstrators with high-velocity ammunition fired at relatively close range, resulting in life-changing, permanent disabilities including amputations.”⁶⁰ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 149 amputations have taken place as a result of protest-related injuries, including 30 children, as of 31 August 2019. Of those, 122 were lower limb amputations and 27 were upper limb amputations. Another 24 Palestinians were paralyzed due to spinal cord injuries, while a further 15 Palestinians suffered permanent loss of vision as a result of injuries sustained during the demonstrations.⁶¹

26. As documented by Al-Haq, the Israeli occupying forces deliberately injured and maimed Palestinian protesters during the Great Return March,⁶² a policy used throughout the occupied Palestinian territory to weaken the ability of Palestinians to effectively challenge Israel's apartheid regime.⁶³ In 2017, BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights highlighted Israel's systematic targeting of Palestinians' lower limbs as a “kneecapping” policy,⁶⁴ and found that “Israeli forces were shooting with the aim of causing severe injury to Palestinian youth.”⁶⁵ BADIL concluded that the Israeli occupying forces' “threats and actions [targeting Palestinians] are not accidental or isolated incidents, but rather result from a systematic Israeli military policy aimed at suppressing resistance by fostering an atmosphere of fear, punishing anyone who opposes the Israeli regime, terrorizing Palestinian youth, and causing permanent injuries and damage to their physical and mental well-being.”⁶⁶
27. On 30 March 2018, at approximately 11:30 am, Muhammad Al-Ajouri, 17, was shot by the Israeli occupying forces while participating in the Great Return March east of Jabaliya. An explosive bullet hit his right leg, detaching the leg from its socket and causing major bleeding. Doctors, who immediately cut the artery and replaced it with an artery from his left leg to stop the bleeding, wanted to transfer Muhammad outside of Gaza. Yet, the Israeli

⁶⁰ 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, UN Doc A/HRC/40/CRP.2, para. 546.

⁶¹ WHO, Situation Report: occupied Palestinian territory, Gaza, 01 – 31 August 2019, available at: http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/sitrep_aug_2019_v0_sh_rev_gro.pdf?ua=1.

⁶² See Al-Haq, *Israel Deliberately Injures and Maims Palestinian Civilians, Prevents Evacuation of Wounded, and Denies Access to Vital Healthcare Facilities Outside the Gaza Strip*, 18 April 2018, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/6243.html>.

⁶³ Al-Haq, *Joint Parallel Report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Israel's Seventeenth to Nineteenth Periodic Reports*, 10 November 2019, para. 115, available at: http://www.alhaq.org/merged_uploads/download/2019/11/12/joint-parallel-report-to-cerd-on-israel-s-17th-19th-periodic-reports-10-november-2019-final-1573563352.pdf.

⁶⁴ See BADIL, *Excessive Use of Force by the Israeli Army*, April 2017, p. 6.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 53.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 55.

occupying authorities refused to let him travel. As his health continued to deteriorate, doctors were forced to amputate his leg. The Commission of Inquiry stated that it “heard from many amputees who expressed frustration, anger and deep-seated despair at being injured in such a fundamental way.”⁶⁷

28. Through the de-development of Palestinian healthcare and an arbitrary permit regime, the Israeli occupying authorities systematically violate the right to health of Palestinians in Gaza, a situation which has continued to deteriorate in recent months.⁶⁸ Israel’s permit regime, which was described as “neither transparent nor timely” by WHO,⁶⁹ allows the Israeli occupying authorities to control Palestinian access to healthcare outside of Gaza, thereby unlawfully preconditioning treatment for thousands of Palestinians, in what amounts to torture and ill-treatment and, in the most extreme cases, arbitrary deprivation of life.⁷⁰ In addition, over the years, the Israeli occupying authorities have exploited Palestinians’ very need for treatment as a method of subjugation and control, by pressuring Palestinian patients in Gaza and their companions to collaborate with the occupying authorities in exchange for treatment, in order to maintain Israeli racial oppression and domination over Palestinians.⁷¹
29. In February 2019, the Commission of Inquiry called on Israel to “lift the blockade on Gaza with immediate effect”⁷² and recommended that “States Members of the United Nations and civil society support the health-care system in Gaza, particularly with the resources necessary to treat injuries incurred at the protests.”⁷³ On 22 March 2019, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the Commission’s recommendations and committed to pursuing their implementation in resolution 40/13.⁷⁴ Yet, over a year since, no effective measures have been adopted to address the root causes of Palestinian oppression, while Israeli impunity for widespread and systematic human rights violations against Palestinians has continued to prevail.⁷⁵
30. **Accordingly, we urge the Committee to request information on steps taken by the Israeli occupying authorities to fulfil the right to health of Palestinians, including access**

⁶⁷ 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, UN Doc A/HRC/40/CRP.2, para. 556.

⁶⁸ See Al-Haq, Civil Society Submit Appeal to UN Special Procedures Urging Access for Gaza Patients, 27 June 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/17031.html>.

⁶⁹ WHO, Referral patients vulnerable to delay, denial and conditions in accessing right to health, 2011, available at: <http://www.emro.who.int/palestine-press-releases/2011/referral-patients-vulnerability.html>.

⁷⁰ See, for example, Human Rights Watch, Israel: Record-Low in Gaza Medical Permits, 13 February 2018, available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/02/13/israel-record-low-gaza-medical-permits>.

⁷¹ See Al-Haq, Civil Society Submit Appeal to UN Special Procedures Urging Access for Gaza Patients, 27 June 2020, p. 12, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/17031.html>.

⁷² Human Rights Council, Report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 25 February 2019, UN Doc A/HRC/40/74, para. 122(a).

⁷³ *Ibid.*, para. 124.

⁷⁴ Human Rights Council, Resolution 40/13, 22 March 2019, UN Doc A/HRC/RES/40/13, para. 2.

⁷⁵ See, e.g., Al-Haq, Palestinian, Regional, and International Human Rights Organisations Submit Joint Report on Accountability to UN Special Rapporteur, 3 June 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16931.html>.

to healthcare for Palestinian patients from Gaza and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, and to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, amongst other international bodies and experts, to lift the Gaza closure, and realise the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and return. We further urge the Committee to examine the Israeli occupying forces' deliberate policy to permanently disable Palestinians, including through its "kneecapping" policy, in violation of Palestinians' right to physical and mental health and to freedom from torture and other ill-treatment.

6. Palestinian political prisoners with disabilities detained in Israeli prisons

31. Israel's State report states, in paragraph 133, that under "the *Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty*, there shall be no deprivation or restriction of the liberty of a person by imprisonment, arrest or in any other way, unless pursuant to the limitation clause: by a law befitting the values of the State of Israel, enacted for a proper purpose, and to an extent no greater than is required. No distinction is made on the basis of disability." Yet, mass arbitrary detention and imprisonment, including administrative detention without charge or trial,⁷⁶ have been a staple of Israel's prolonged military occupation since 1967,⁷⁷ in stark violation of the rights of Palestinians, including persons with disabilities, to access justice and to liberty and security of person under Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention.
32. Palestinian prisoners and detainees endure harsh detention conditions in Israeli prisons and interrogation centres, including systematic torture and ill-treatment sanctioned by Israeli courts,⁷⁸ and pervasive medical negligence.⁷⁹ Due to Israel's systematic policy of excessive use of force, Palestinians are often injured during Israeli arrest operations and are in turn subjected to dire conditions in Israeli detention, which may result in long-term health implications. On 10 October 2015, Jalal Sharawneh, 17, was shot and arrested by the Israeli occupying forces. As a result of medical negligence in Israeli prisons, Jalal's foot had to be amputated. While Article 76 of the *Fourth Geneva Convention* obligates the Occupying Power to fully provide for the health of those deprived of their liberty, the Israeli occupying

⁷⁶ Addameer, *Administrative Detention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, Fourth Edition, 2016, available at: https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/administrative_detention_analysis_report_2016.pdf.

⁷⁷ There are currently around 5,000 Palestinian prisoners, including 41 women prisoners, 180 children in detention, 541 prisoners serving life imprisonment, 430 administrative detainees, and around 700 sick and injured prisoners. In addition, 222 Palestinians have died during detention, including 68 prisoners who died due to Israel's long-standing medical negligence policy.

⁷⁸ Al-Haq, Joint Parallel Report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Israel's Seventeenth to Nineteenth Periodic Reports, 10 November 2019, paras. 127-132, available at: http://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2019/11/12/joint-parallel-report-to-cerd-on-israel-s-17th-19th-periodic-reports-10-november-2019-final-1573563352.pdf.

⁷⁹ Al-Haq, On Palestinian Prisoners' Day, Civil Society Calls for Urgent Release of Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in Israeli Prisons, 17 April 2020, available at: <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/16736.html>.

authorities failed to provide for Jalal's care and Palestinian civil society organisations helped cover the cost of his artificial limb, estimated at NIS 63,000 (approximately USD 18,000).⁸⁰

33. While Palestinian civil society organisations do not document disability as an independent variable, Hurryyat states that at least 26 Palestinian detainees live with one or two types of disabilities, noting that most are sentenced to life imprisonment. This data does not include prisoners with disabilities who do not necessarily require medical interventions, nor does it include Palestinians detainees with psychosocial disabilities, and as such, is not definitive. According to Mr. Issa Qaraq, the former head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Committee for Detainees and Ex-Detainees, there are 150 Palestinian detainees and prisoners with disabilities in Israeli prisons and detention centres, including detainees with sensory, physical, psychological, and intellectual disabilities. According to Addameer, there are currently at least eight injured female prisoners and twelve sick female prisoners who suffer medical negligence by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS), many of whom, including Israa Ja'abes, were injured during arrest.⁸¹ In one case, a Palestinian woman acquired her disability as a result of injury by the Israeli occupying forces; she also has a 14-year-old daughter with a learning disability. Based on the database of the East Jerusalem Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Rehabilitation Program, 2,941 children ex-detainees have been targeted by the Israeli occupying forces since 2012, of whom 150 were wounded by the occupying forces. Among those children, four had a disability before arrest and at least 26 developed a disability as a result of injuries.
34. With regard to the causes of disability, the available data on prisoners with disabilities shows that some acquired a disability as a result of Israeli medical negligence in detention, particularly those who have chronic diseases. According to Hurryyat, as of April 2020, there were 700 Palestinian prisoners who faced different types of diseases, including 301 who had either chronic or critical and serious diseases, including 18 who had eye diseases, nine with paralysis, 21 with psychiatric and neurological diseases, 69 with gunshot injuries, and three with hearing and speech diseases. Other Palestinian prisoners suffered a disability as a result of being harshly beaten by the Israeli forces during interrogation or other incidents during detention. Palestinian prisoners are denied medical check-ups and face long waiting list procedures for medical surgeries and other medical interventions, which can last up to months or even years. Inhuman detention conditions are accentuated by the absence of available specialized physicians, indicating a deliberate policy of medical negligence, which leads to an increase in the numbers of Palestinian political prisoners with disabilities, including children, of whom 90 per cent have developed post-traumatic stress disorder caused by inhuman interrogation and detention conditions.

⁸⁰ BADIL, Letter to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, 30 January 2018.

⁸¹ Addameer, International Women's Day: 43 Palestinian Women in Detention, 5 March 2020, available at: <http://www.addameer.org/publications/international-women%E2%80%99s-day-%E2%80%A643-palestinian-women-detention>.

35. Israel's policy of neglecting necessary, urgent medical supervision for Palestinian prisoners and detainees has caused permanent disability in some cases. Muhammad Brash was wounded by a missile during his arrest by the Israeli occupying forces, resulting in injuries in his eye and leg, which had to be amputated. Due to medical negligence in Israeli prisons, Muhammad might become completely blind as he currently needs a corneal transplant in his left eye. Sentenced to three life imprisonments and 30 years, Muhammad, who has already been imprisoned for 17 years, is yet to receive the necessary medical assistance. Israel's long-standing medical negligence has further resulted in the blinding of Hassan Al-Tamimi, due to a refusal to provide necessary medication. Hassan, an ex-detainee arrested as a minor, had a specific medical condition. Despite having Hassan's medical reports, IPS refused to provide him with medication. As a result, Hassan went into a coma and completely lost his sight.
36. Medical negligence has also resulted in death. Saadi Al-Gharabli, 74, from Al-Shuja'iyyah in Gaza City, died in Israeli prison from prostate cancer after serving 26 years of his life sentence. Arrested in 1994, Saadi was detained in solitary confinement until 2006, during which time he had developed various health problems. Suffering from diabetes, poor sight and hearing, and prostate cancer, the Palestinian Commission for Detainees' Affairs said that IPS refused several appeals to move Saadi to Al-Ramleh Prison Clinic for treatment. This detrimentally impacted his health; he fell into a coma before his death.⁸² Israel's policy results in developing and aggravating psychological and mental disabilities amongst prisoners.
37. Israeli detention facilities are inappropriate for Palestinian detainees and prisoners with disabilities. Sick Palestinian prisoners and those with a disability either live in the same detention conditions as other detainees or are moved to Al-Ramleh Prison Clinic. Palestinian detainees and prisoners with disabilities are unable to meet their visitors, including lawyers, due to the absence of reasonable accommodations and accessible arrangements. Khaled Al-Shawish, 49, sentenced to ten life sentences lives on painkillers as he has paraplegia. His wife, Iman Mustafa, has said that he "does not want to meet the lawyer who visits him, he lives on pain-killers, and has no tolerance health-wise to move to the lawyers."
38. Palestinian prisoners and detainees are subjected to systematic torture and ill-treatment sanctioned by Israeli courts.⁸³ While Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including prisoners with disabilities, have the option to see psychosocial counsellors and attend psychosocial

⁸² Palestine Post 24, *After 26 Years in Prison, Palestinian Prisoner Dies of Medical Negligence*, 6 July 2020, available at: <https://ppost24.com/post/780/after-26-years-in-prison-palestinian-prisoner-dies-of-medical-neg>.

⁸³ Al-Haq, *Joint Parallel Report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Israel's Seventeenth to Nineteenth Periodic Reports*, 10 November 2019, paras. 127-132, available at: http://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2019/11/12/joint-parallel-report-to-cerd-on-israel-s-17th-19th-periodic-reports-10-november-2019-final-1573563352.pdf.

support programmes, Israeli jailors harass those who go, including by turning the lights on and off during the night.

39. The Israeli occupying authorities and IPS deliberately delay the delivery or provision of assistive devices to prisoners with disabilities to an extent that jeopardizes their safety, health, and independence. Not providing prisoners with disabilities with assistive devices, including wheelchairs, hearing aids, medical mattresses, artificial limbs, and eye glasses, or forcing them to buy those devices themselves, is a clear violation of Articles 20 and 26 of the Convention.
40. Israeli military laws imposed on the protected Palestinian people completely disregard Palestinians with disabilities' rights, regardless of the type of disability. No administrative or judicial measures are taken in courts or in sentences which safeguard the provision of age and disability-appropriate accommodations, nor any guarantees as to accessibility, effective communication, or sentencing considerations, in violation of Article 13.
41. **Our organisations urge the Committee, to request information on steps taken to address the Israeli occupying authorities' systematic medical negligence impacting Palestinians with disabilities in detention and to uphold the rights to life, health, liberty of person, access to justice, freedom from torture and other ill-treatment, and personal mobility, amongst other fundamental rights enshrined under the Convention.**

7. Annex I: About our organisations

42. *The Palestinian Disability Coalition* is a national coalition of 28 renowned organisations of persons with disabilities and non-governmental organisations based in the occupied Palestinian territory and working together since December 2017 to promote and support the institutionalisation and regulation of the disability sector and enlist energies for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in line with national legislation and international conventions: through awareness raising, advocacy and lobbying, institutional and capacity development as well as networking, data collection, and monitoring. A full list of the Coalition's members can be consulted in **Annex II**.
43. *Al-Haq* is an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in the occupied Palestinian territory. Established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the occupied Palestinian territory, Al-Haq holds special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. Al-Haq documents violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, irrespective of the perpetrator, and seeks to end such breaches by way of advocacy before national and international mechanisms and by holding the violators accountable. Al-Haq conducts research; prepares reports, studies, and interventions on breaches of international law in the occupied Palestinian territory; and undertakes advocacy before local, regional, and international bodies for the promotion of the rights of the Palestinian people.
44. *Addameer (Arabic for conscience) Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association* is a Palestinian non-governmental civil institution that works to support Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons. Established in 1992 by a group of human rights activists, Addameer offers free legal aid to political prisoners, advocates for their rights at the national and international levels, and works to end torture and other violations of prisoners' rights through monitoring, legal procedures, and solidarity campaigns. Addameer believes in the importance of building a free and democratic Palestinian society based on justice, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights within the larger framework of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.
45. *The Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights "Hurriyat"* is an independent Palestinian non-governmental organisation that contributes to the protection of Palestinian liberties and civil and political rights. Hurriyat was established in Jerusalem in 1992 and registered with the Palestinian Ministry of Interior. The organisation aspires to contribute towards a democratic and modern Palestinian society, where civil and political rights are guaranteed, and law and social justice are respected. Hurriyat emphasizes the importance of enhancing Palestinians' human rights, aspires to enhance the rule of law in Palestinian society, and to provide legal follow-up to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli and Palestinian jails as well as Palestinians banned from travel.

8. Annex II: Members of the Palestinian Disability Coalition

West Bank

1. ASWAT Society for Supporting the Rights of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
2. Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation
3. Community-Based Rehabilitation Society – Central Area
4. Dahriya Youth Association
5. Health Work Committees
6. High Coordination Committee for Local Committees
7. Nahda Women Association
8. Palestinian General Union of People with Disability – Bethlehem Branch
9. Palestinian General Union of People with Disability – Ramallah Branch
10. Palestinian Medical Relief Society
11. Palestinian Union for the Deaf
12. QADER for Community Development
13. Society for the Deaf Ramallah
14. Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center
15. Stars of Hope for the Empowerment of Women with Disabilities
16. Teacher Creativity Center
17. The East Jerusalem YMCA – Rehabilitation Program

Gaza Strip

Disabilities Representative Persons Network (DRBN) – Gaza:

18. Advocacy Association for Development and Rehabilitation
19. Ahd wa Mithaq Group
20. Al-Amal Association for People with Cochlear Implants
21. Al-Dameer Society for Persons with Hearing Disability
22. Association of Visually Impaired Graduates League
23. Basma Amal Group
24. Palestine Eyes Group
25. Peace Sport Club for Persons with Disability
26. Raneen Al-Samt Society
27. Society of Physically Handicapped People
28. Women with Disabilities Group