

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

Joint Oral Intervention

Date: 19 March 2021

Speaker: Mr. Issam Younis, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights

Since 1948, Israel has instituted a series of discriminatory laws, policies, and practices that form the foundation of its institutionalized regime of systemic oppression, domination, segregation and fragmentation of the indigenous Palestinian people. This colonial project against the entirety of the Palestinian people amounts to the crime of apartheid under the ICC's Rome Statute.

Israel's illegal and discriminatory closure policy and use of military force in the Gaza Strip form part of this campaign and serve as a deliberate attempt to destroy life and divide the Palestinian people. Israel's systematic extrajudicial killing and arbitrary arrest and torture practices undermine the inherent dignity of the person and violate the right to life and liberty of person.

Israel's water domination, selective vaccine application, and movement restrictions that limit food supply, deny adequate healthcare and destroy family life are also manifestations of the discriminatory policies employed throughout its prolonged occupation.

We emphasize that apartheid is prohibited under international law as a peremptory norm and call on the Council and UN Member States to fulfil the duty to cooperate to bring these violations to an end, and to encourage the ICC Prosecutor to investigate Israel's apparent continuous perpetration of the crime against humanity of apartheid, amongst other apparent crimes committed against Palestinians.

**Joining organisations:**

1. Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association
2. Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights
3. Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man
4. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
5. Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling