30th Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Joint Oral Intervention

Date: 27 May 2021

Speaker: Ms. Shahd Qaddoura, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man

Madam President,

Yet again, we address this Council at a Special Session on grave violations committed against the Palestinian people. We are here because of another wave of escalated attacks by Israel.

The announced-ceasefire does not end Israel’s institutionalised regime of racial oppression, domination and dispossession, embedded in Israel’s settler-colonial and apartheid system imposed over the Palestinian people as a whole. Israel’s violence and oppression against the Palestinian people continues on a daily basis.

As Palestinians, on both sides of the Green Line, and refugees denied their right to return to their lands and properties, are demonstrating against Israel’s racial domination and oppression, it is high time that the international community recognises the root causes of the prolonged denial of Palestinian rights. The Palestinian people have been denied their rights for too long. The status-quo cannot continue.

The international community has failed for decades to address the root causes and hold Israel accountable for its violations. Israel’s impunity must be brought to an end, and international justice and accountability must be achieved.

We urge Human Rights Council members to vote in favour of this resolution to establish a commission of inquiry which will address the root causes, enabling this Council to begin to effectively address the violations against the Palestinian people as a whole. Only then will Third States be able to take meaningful and effective steps to prevent the further commission of violations and international crimes against the Palestinian people. We also urge you to support justice and accountability, including the ICC investigation and the annual updating of the UN Database.

Thank you.

**Endorsing organisations:**

* The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, compromising of:
* Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man
* Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
* Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association
* Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
* DCI - Defense for Children International – Palestine
* Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center
* Aldameer Association for Human Rights
* Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies
* Hurryyat - Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights
* The Independent Commission for Human Rights (Ombudsman Office) - Observer Member
* Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights - Observer Member
* Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counselling
* Community Action Center (Al-Quds University)
* MIFTAH
* Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS”
* Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
* International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
* Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)