



**Al-Haq Joint Statement to the Human Rights Committee
NGO Formal Briefing on Israel's Review
28 February 2022, Geneva**

Distinguished Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure for Al-Haq to deliver this statement on behalf of seven Palestinian, regional and international human rights organisations, with whom we submitted a report detailing Israel's violations and failed implementation of the ICCPR.

Our decades of monitoring and documenting Israel's violations reveal that they are neither accidental nor occasional. Israel's violations are systematic and carried out as part and parcel of its institutionalised regime of racial discrimination against the Palestinians.

Israel's discriminatory laws, policies and practices that form the foundation of its apartheid regime result in its gross violations, which are precisely aimed at inflicting a climate of fear on the Palestinians to further intimidate, oppress and subjugate them.

Israel's excessive and disproportionate use of lethal force and its shoot-to-kill policy continue to violate Palestinians' rights to life and to health. The inhuman policy of withholding bodies and remains of Palestinians killed by Israel's occupying forces (as well as bodies of deceased prisoners) emerged as a particularly disturbing element of Israel's wider campaign of collective punishment, which aims to further entrench and maintain its apartheid regime.

Distinguished Committee Members,

Whether in the occupied Palestinian territory, inside Israel itself, or Palestinian refugees in exile (who are consistently denied their right to return), Israel has always ensured that the status and rights of Palestinians are inferior to those of its Israeli Jewish citizens.

To maintain its apartheid regime, Israel uses strategic fragmentation of the Palestinian people to ensure that they cannot meet, group, or exercise their collective rights, denying them freedom of movement, freedom of expression and their rights to peaceful assembly and association, and above all their right to self-determination.

Israel also pursues a campaign of intimidation, harassment, and delegitimization of human rights defenders advocating for Palestinian rights and calling to hold Israel's Apartheid regime accountable. Methods used, include but not limited to, death threats, targeting with notorious Pegasus spyware, travel bans, deportation and punitive residency revocation (such as the case of HRD Salah Hammouri).

Israel's shameless and baseless designation of six leading Palestinian civil society organizations (including Al-Haq and Addameer) as "terrorist" is the latest example of Israel's ever-lasting policy of smearing and silencing any opposition to its apartheid regime.

Distinguished Committee Members,

To conclude, the indisputable reality on the ground is that Israel has been imposing a regime of racial discrimination against the Palestinians, who are rendered fragmented, vulnerable and unable to effectively challenge this regime. It is therefore crucial that your committee recognises Israel's apartheid regime imposed on the Palestinian people as a whole, in violation of the ICCPR.

Thank you.