



**Panel discussion on the human rights of internally displaced persons in commemoration
of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
38th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

Joint Oral Intervention

Al-Haq – Law in the Service of Man
and BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

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Thank you, Mr. President.

The forced displacement of Palestinians has been a constant since 1948 and a driver of Israel's prolonged occupation of the Palestinian territory since 1967.

As we mark the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 2018 also marks 70 years since the Nakba in Palestine and 51 years of Israeli occupation. Following 1948, Israel dispossessed Palestinians by denying the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, while adopting legislation to confiscate the property they were forced to leave behind.

Since 1967, Israel has continued to drive the displacement of Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line, demolishing property, revoking residencies, expropriating land, and legislating the eviction of entire communities for the expansion of illegal settlements, most recently in relation to the Bedouin community in Khan Al-Ahmar.

Mr. President,

Twenty years since their adoption, the Guiding Principles require Israel to prohibit displacement on the basis of "policies of apartheid, "ethnic cleansing" or similar practices aimed at/or resulting in altering the ethnic, religious or racial composition of the affected population", and when used as collective punishment.

Al-Haq and BADIL recall that the displacement of Palestinians from and within the occupied territory, including as a result of coercive environments, amounts to the crime of forcible transfer, for which there is individual criminal responsibility. Seven decades of impunity is enough. Our organisations thus urge the Council and experts in this field to support calls to the International Criminal Court to open an investigation into the situation in Palestine and to ensure perpetrators are finally held to account.

Thank you.