



CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

38th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Item 7 – Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Joint Oral Intervention by

Al-Haq – Law in the Service of Man and
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

2 July 2018

Speaker: Mr. Jeremie Smith

Thank you, Mr. President.

I deliver this statement on behalf of Al-Haq and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies.

Israel has perpetuated the plight of Palestinians for seventy years, denying refugee return, colonising the Palestinian territory, and fragmenting its people in a regime of institutionalised racial discrimination that may amount to the crime of apartheid.

Today, efforts to hold Israel accountable continue to be undermined by States in this Council, through pressure to remove item 7 from the Council's agenda and to prevent the release of the UN database on businesses operating in and with Israeli settlements.

Mr. President,

For the past 51 years, third States have largely contributed to Israel's colonisation of Palestinian land and exploitation of natural resources, by continuing to trade with Israeli settlements, despite their illegality.

In this regard, we strongly urge States to establish a full ban on settlement products, noting that the mere labelling of such products is not enough to comply with their obligations as third States.

Recalling that corporate entities involved in the occupied Palestinian territory may also be complicit in grave breaches of international law, we further urge the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to release the database of businesses compiled in accordance with the report of the UN fact finding mission on settlements to ensure corporate entities are finally held accountable for complicity in Israel's 51-year occupation of the Palestinian territory.

Thank you.