

Affiliate , International Commission of Jurists - Geneva فرع لجنة الحقوقيين الدولية ، جنيف
تتمتع الحق بصفة استشارية لدى المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي في الأمم المتحدة
NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



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Mr. President, Distinguished Members of the Council,

During the last 7 months of US-led negotiations, the Israeli government has advanced plans for more than 5,349 Israeli settlement-housing units in the West Bank, and has promoted 11,047 housing units through different construction stages.

Between the 29th of July and the 31st of December 2013, while the negotiations were on-going, there was a 43 percent increase in house demolitions and a 74 percent increase in people displaced by demolitions as compared to the same period in 2012.

Last year, this Council welcomed the report of the Fact Finding Mission on Israeli settlements, which reiterated the obligations of all Member States to address Israel's breaches of peremptory norms of international law, particularly the denial of the right to self-determination, and the prohibition on colonialism and apartheid.

In cases wherein breaches of peremptory norms are visible and ongoing, all States are under an obligation not to recognise the situation as lawful, not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the unlawful situation; and to cooperate to bring the illegal conduct to an end.

As of yet, concrete measures have not been taken to reverse Israel's policies, and certain members of the Council have refused to cooperate to bring the illegal conduct to an end.

Particularly, we would like to express our deep regret at the EU's position on non-participation in agenda Item 7.

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Item 7 provides a forum wherein States are meant to identify means to ensure that Israel is held accountable for its ongoing violations of international law, carried out within the context of a prolonged occupation. Nevertheless, Israel has been successful in maintaining a culture of impunity at the international stage.

We therefore call upon all member states to fully engage in item 7 in an effort to bring about urgent action required in order to protect the Palestinian population and ensure that their rights are afforded to them.