



Al-Haq: Law in the Service of Man
HRC 34

Mr President, Distinguished Members of the Council,

This June marks the 50th year of Israel's illegal and prolonged occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). For fifty years, we have called upon Israel to end its colonial settlement enterprise, to stop depriving the Palestinian population of its land and resources, and to end its violations of their fundamental human rights.

For fifty years, we have called upon the international community to condemn Israel's unlawful policies and to take substantive measures so that the situation changes. Because of the international community's failure to do so, Israel unabashedly continues to pursue its long-standing policy of colonization.

This policy was flaunted with Israel's recent passage of its "regularization" law, which aims at confiscating privately held and registered Palestinian property in the OPT. The passage of this new law is not only a testament to the transparency of Israel's aims and how it views the rights of Palestinians, but it is also a testament to the brazen impunity Israel enjoys.

Last year, the HRC called for the establishment of a database of business enterprises that "enabled, facilitated, and profited from" Israel's settlement activity. This database can and should be a first step in ending impunity and ensuring accountability.

We call on Member States to ensure that this database is fully developed, publicly available, and annually updated. Member States should also take action to ensure that businesses that are domiciled within their territory and listed in the database are aware of their legal obligations.

We must, however, recognize that while business interests have had a role in the unlawful occupation, it is Israel's policies that perpetuate and deepen the occupation. Accordingly, Member States must also take robust, immediate action, including through the implementation of sanctions, to ensure that Israel ends its occupation of Palestine.

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