



DIVISION FOR  
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

# Bulletin

on action by the United Nations system and  
intergovernmental organizations  
relevant to the question of Palestine

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## **I. CLOSED CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS CONVENED BY THE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

*On 1 March, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People held closed consultations with civil society organizations. The [chair's summary](#) is reproduced below.*

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) held closed consultations with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on 1 March 2022, as a virtual meeting under the Chatham House Rule. Participants included CSO representatives from Palestine, Israel and the United States, as well as from members and observers of the Committee.

The session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal and Chair of the Committee. In their presentations and during the discussion, the participating organizations raised the following issues: (1) impact of the #Savesheikhjarrah campaign as well as local committees' activism for international pressure and solidarity with East Jerusalemites; (2) settler-violence; (3) displacement in unrecognized villages; and (4) bringing accountability through international independent CSO monitoring.

In his introductory remarks, the Chair welcomed the participants and reiterated that the Committee mandate was to promote an end to the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (OPT). The Committee also sought a just and peaceful settlement to the question of Palestine and supported the realization of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders as well as the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including self-determination, sovereignty and the right to return. He underlined that the objective of the Committee's engagement with civil society was to harness their potential in the OPT, Israel and elsewhere to promote its mandate through strengthened cooperation, including joint activities and exchange of information.

Addressing the impact of the #Savesheikhjarrah campaign and local committees' activism, participants underlined the two layers of the Sheikh Jarrah issue. The first pertained to the neighbourhood itself, whereas another layer concerned the Old City of Jerusalem. Israel's occupation here was characterized as "a story of resistance" that brought about new leaders and creative approaches to confront oppression. Furthermore, it was stressed that East Jerusalem belonged to everyone, and that Palestinians had always been very keen to protect its religious and cultural diversity. However, through marginalization, division, and annexation the City was slowly losing its cultural institutions and tourism infrastructure, while a process of depopulation of Palestinians was ongoing. Participants called for solidarity against Israel's ongoing annexation policies, especially in East Jerusalem, which some participants argued was becoming a "suburb of West Jerusalem".

Concerning the impact of COVID-19 on the economic situation in East Jerusalem, participants mentioned the adverse effects on the tourism sector. Not only the drop in international tourists but the Israeli separation wall and checkpoints created obstacles for domestic tourism. As a result, many restaurants, hotels and souvenir shops have been forced to close, affecting directly merchants and others along the supply chain, including cultural and commercial centres. It was recommended

to diversify and improve tourist destinations in East Jerusalem, develop additional attractive cultural, historical and traditional venues and not concentrate only on religious sites.

It was highlighted that over the last three years, Palestinians had experienced a rise in settler violence with Israeli security forces increasingly supporting it. Israeli human rights activists noted that little progress could be achieved within the framework of the Israeli judiciary, claiming that only the international community's intervention could stop this trend. Other participants underlined the importance of stressing Israel's obligations as the occupying Power and international humanitarian law.

The CSOs further suggested that recent discussions about settler violence within the Israeli Knesset should be cautiously seen as a reason for optimism. Moreover, the government's approach in this regard, especially in some Ministries, seemed different compared to previous ones. Participants noted that it was yet to be seen whether any new positive stance in Parliament or the Government would translate into actual changes on the ground and limits to settler violence.

Panelists also addressed the issue of unrecognized villages and emphasized the plight of the Bedouins who were being forced to move to urban areas and drop their traditional economy and lifestyle. According to speakers, this example pointed to the logic behind Israel's policy of displacement, segregation, Judaization and territorial control. This trend was characterized as a system of domination translated into racially motivated land confiscation and segregation. Participants considered chances of winning legal proceedings regarding displacement cases, especially in Area C, as almost impossible.

Speakers lauded the decision by the UN Human Rights Council to establish a permanent, independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law - leading up to and since 13 April 2021 - in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel. It was stressed that Israel had never been held accountable for its war crimes. Israel's lack of accountability vis-à-vis violations of international law and human rights of Palestinians was considered as prolonging the ongoing occupation, while impunity helped trigger further oppression.

Participants thus emphasized the importance of promoting accountability through monitoring and reporting. During the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent diminished international attention, Israel had intensified violations of Palestinian peoples' rights. CSOs also stressed the importance of first-hand monitoring, including visits by US delegations to Palestine and Israel to meet with different communities, which allowed them to collect evidence and knowledge about the situation on the ground, empowering them to report back and lobby members of US Congress. It was argued that this approach was the most effective way to "make a change" and advocate for Palestinian rights. Similarly, social media campaigns around Sheikh Jarrah and other critical situations were underlined as a crucial element of advocacy at the international level.

Speakers also discussed the feasibility of sanctions that could change Israel's policies, underlining that this was extremely unlikely to happen. The alternative was to focus on informing the public about Israel's "illegal and morally wrong" oppressive policies and practices. As evidence, Amnesty International's new report exposing abuses by Israel's government showed how Israel was affected by such criticism. While Israel's domestic audience might be less open to agree or use the concept of "apartheid", the most effective approach would be to focus on the well-

documented facts of the report. Similarly, CSOs proposed that the question of Palestine be framed within the “racial justice paradigm”. Using the term “apartheid” would allow connecting with the experiences of injustice as lived by other people who are oppressed by their own States.

The participating CSOs formulated several recommendations to the Committee, such as continuing with their advocacy and exposing the abuses committed against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, within a framework that highlights facts on the ground rather than the “label” attached to Israeli policies, while stressing that there had to be a “price to pay” for such actions.

Committee members stressed the crucial role of the ongoing partnership with CSOs, and how their inputs and recommendations added value to the work of the Committee.

Ambassador Cheikh Niang closed the event.

## **II. UN SPECIAL COORDINATOR TOR WENNESLAND ON DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN WEST BANK**

*On 8 March, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, issued a [statement](#) replicated below.*

I am deeply concerned by the deteriorating security situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This past week, daily violence has claimed the lives of six Palestinians, including one child, and 26 Palestinians and seven Israelis have been injured.

Every death is tragic, and every injury is lamentable, but the loss or injury of a child is particularly devastating. I reiterate that children must never be the target of violence or put in harm’s way.

In this volatile situation, all concerned must refrain from actions and provocations that fuel tensions and exercise maximum restraint. There can be no justification for violence or terror, which must be condemned by all. Israeli security forces must use lethal force only when strictly unavoidable to protect life.

This uptick in violence is taking place at a particularly sensitive time. I call on political, religious and community leaders to reject violence and speak up against those who try to inflame the situation.

We must all work toward restoring hope and the prospect of a political resolution to this conflict.

### **III. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL LAZZARINI CALLS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL**

*Speaking in the 157<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Council of the Arab League at the level of Foreign Ministers in Cairo on 9 March, the UNRWA Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, made a [statement](#) reproduced below.*

Since I last joined this forum, six months ago, the situation of Palestine refugees has continued to deteriorate across the region.

The impact of last May conflict in Gaza remains acute on the daily life of the population, the economy and the infrastructure.

The deteriorating security and socio-economic situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is a source of major concern.

The unprecedented financial and economic collapse of Lebanon pushed over 70 per cent of Palestine refugees under the poverty line.

In Syria, the vast majority of Palestine refugees now live on less than US\$ 2 a day.

The economic situation in Jordan is dire, and Palestine refugees report increased hardship.

Year after year, UNRWA has managed to provide critical services despite its chronic underfunding through austerity measures.

But today we have exhausted our ability to continue to deliver education, health and social protection services to Palestine Refugees at the same level and quality we used to do.

Why?

Because the needs of the refugees have increased, and so have the costs of the services that Palestinian communities and Member states expect us to deliver. Meanwhile, our resources have remained stable for more than a decade.

The almost unanimous political support expressed by the UN General Assembly to the Agency is not translated into matching financial resources.

UNRWA is expected to provide government-like services, and it does.

It is expected to abide by UN values and principles, and it does.

And UNRWA is expected to raise voluntary funds to run its services.

But without sufficient and predictable funding from all those supporting our mandate, we cannot maintain our services in a sustainable way anymore.

Last year, we welcomed the return of the US among our largest donors. European and other donors have remained steadfast in their support.

Governments in the Arab region continue to express a strong political support to the rights of Palestine refugees.

Four years ago, the contribution from the region to UNRWA operations amounted to close to 25 percent of our budget. Last year, however, it reached a record low with an overall contribution of less than 3 percent.

This does not really echo the strong political support to Palestine Refugees.

Political support and funding from the region are the most compelling way to tell Palestine refugees that they have not been abandoned by their fellow Arabs. It is the best investment in the human development of Palestine refugees towards self-reliance.

I wish here to thank the Members of the Arab League that have continued to fund UNRWA. Last year we concluded multiyear funding agreements with Kuwait and Qatar.

Let me also thank the League of Arab States and its Secretary General for strongly supporting and advocating for Palestine refugees.

Nobody wants to be a refugee.

Every young Palestine refugee I meet during my visits to refugee camps strikes me as a potential success story.

Like their peers everywhere, a Palestine refugee child or young person wants to hope that the future can be bright.

Of the two million girls and boys who have gone through UNRWA schools in the last seven decades, success seems to be a common denominator to many teachers, engineers, artists, doctors and more.

Today, there is still a lot to celebrate and be proud of.

In the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan, a total of 35 schools won the International School Award organized by the British Council.

In Gaza, Ghada Krayem, is among the first female students graduating from our award - winning course on solar photovoltaic systems at the Gaza vocational Training Center.

In Syria, Majd, Abdallah, Mahmoud, and Wisam, four students from the UNRWA Informatics Club, won the country-wide “Kids and Adolescents Programming Marathon”.

At a time when UNRWA continues to be under politically motivated attacks, at a time support for the Agency has become a by-product of domestic political consideration, I urge the members of the Arab League:

First to help the Agency push back against allegations that seek to undermine the rights of Palestine refugees and

Second, to shield the Agency from collateral impact of Member States political decision.

With the war in Ukraine today, food experts and economists are expecting a significant increase in wheat and fuel prices that will make access to food more costly.

Needs in the region and among Palestine Refugees will increase even more at a time the World's attention will be on Ukraine.

More than ever, regional solidarity is needed.

The mandate of UNRWA is a common responsibility and the stability of the region is in our common interest.

I hereby appeal to you, members of this council, to scale up your support to Palestine refugees.

I appeal to you to match the generosity of the countries that host Palestine refugees.

Your support and funding are a seal of confidence that Palestine refugees will wear with a lot of pride.

#### **IV. SPECIAL COORDINATION BRIEFS SECURITY COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2334**

*On 22 March, the Security Council held a [meeting](#) on “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The [briefing](#) by United Nations Special Coordinator Tor Wennesland is reproduced below.*

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I will devote this briefing to presenting his twenty-first report on the implementation of resolution [2334](#) (2016), covering the period from 10 December to 18 March.

Resolution 2334 (2016) calls on Israel to immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and to fully respect all its legal obligations in that regard. No such steps were taken.

On 5 January, Israeli authorities published tenders for some 300 settlement housing units in East Talpiot neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.

On 10 and 24 January, the Jerusalem District Planning Committee advanced plans to build some 800 and 400 housing units, respectively, in the East Jerusalem settlement of Gilo.

On 17 January, the same committee advanced a plan for some 1,200 housing units next to Ramat Rachel, in the southern Jerusalem area, a significant number of which are intended to be constructed in East Jerusalem.

On 1 February, following an official land survey, Israel's Attorney-General published a legal opinion allowing authorities to declare land in the outpost of Evyatar as State land and authorizing accelerated planning procedures for the establishment of a settlement there.



On 28 February, the Jerusalem District Planning Committee advanced a plan for some 700 housing units in the East Jerusalem settlement of Pisgat Ze'ev.

Demolitions and seizure of Palestinian structures continued across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Citing the absence of Israeli-issued building permits, which are almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain, 216 structures were demolished or seized by Israeli authorities, or demolished by their owners to avoid costly Israeli demolition fees. Those actions displaced 299 people, including 138 children and 76 women. Of the structures that were demolished or seized, 37 were donor-funded.

In an effort to reduce tension, Israeli authorities reportedly decided to freeze most demolitions in East Jerusalem before and during the month of Ramadan. Tensions were high in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah in the run-up to 19 January, when Israeli forces evicted a Palestinian family and demolished their home. Twelve Palestinians were displaced, including two children and three women, with several arrests reported.

The Israeli authorities stated that the demolition was undertaken to build a special-needs school to serve Palestinian children. Tensions mounted further in February over the potential eviction by Israeli authorities of a Palestinian family scheduled for March. Following weeks of numerous violent altercations, protest and property damage in the neighbourhood, the atmosphere calmed somehow after the 22 January decision by the Israeli Magistrate Court to suspend the eviction pending consideration of an appeal submitted by the family.

In developments that further reduced tension, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled on 1 March that four of the families in the neighbourhood would not be evicted and would be recognized as protected tenants, paying their rent, until a determination were made on their claims to ownership. On 3 March the families held a press conference noting the importance of the Supreme Court decision and vowing to continue pressing their claims of ownership of their homes.

Resolution 2334 (2016) calls for immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including all acts of terror, as well as acts of provocation and destruction. Unfortunately, daily violence continued. Overall, 244 Palestinians, including four children, were killed by Israeli security forces during demonstrations, clashes, security operations, attacks, alleged attacks against Israelis and other incidents; 2,966 Palestinians, including five women and 537 children, were injured.

Of those, 2,283 injuries were due to tear-gas, inhalation, while 50 persons were injured by live ammunition. In addition, Israeli settlers or other civilians perpetrated 144 attacks against Palestinians, resulting in 47 injuries and/or damage to Palestinian property.

One Israeli civilian was killed by Palestinians, and 100 Israelis, including five women and one child, were injured by Palestinians in clashes, the throwing of Molotov cocktails, attacks and other incidents. In total, Palestinians perpetrated 277 attacks against Israeli civilians, resulting in injuries and/or damage to Israeli property.

On 5 January, a vehicle under the supervision of the Israeli police hit and severely injured a 70-year-old Palestinian man in Um Al-Khair, south of Hebron. The man later died. Israeli police officers present at the location did not intervene to provide medical assistance to the victim. Police

reported that the driver had sustained head injuries from stones thrown at him by other Palestinians present in the area.

On 12 January, an 80-year-old Palestinian-American man died in the context of Israeli security forces operations near Ramallah, where the victim was reportedly handcuffed, blindfolded and assaulted by Israeli security forces. Following an internal investigation on 31 January, the Israel Defence Forces removed two officers from their positions and reprimanded a third. A criminal investigation is ongoing.

On 8 February, Israeli security forces shot and killed three Palestinians in their car in Nablus in Area A. The Fatah-affiliated Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed the men as members. According to Israeli authorities, the three were members of a cell that have carried out attacks on Israeli forces, were planning additional attacks and tried to shoot at Israeli security forces during the incident.

On 22 February, a 13-year-old boy died after having been shot by Israeli security forces in the Al-Khader area, near Bethlehem. There are conflicting reports about whether the boy was throwing stones or a Molotov cocktail when he was shot.

On several occasions, Palestinians were shot and killed by Israeli security forces, reportedly in the context of attempted attacks, including on 21 December 2021, near the settlement of Mevo Dotan, south-west of Jenin; on 22 December 2021, near the Al-Amari refugee camp; on 31 December 2021, near Salfit; and on 17 January near Hebron. Palestinians were also killed during the exchange of fire or clashes with Israeli security forces on 13 December 2021 in Nablus; on 6 January in the Balata refugee camp; on 1 March in Jenin and Bethlehem; and on 15 March in Qalandia.

On 28 February, clashes erupted at Damascus Gate, in the Old City of Jerusalem, where hundreds of Palestinians had gathered to celebrate the Islamic holiday of Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj. Thirty-seven Palestinians were injured, including a six-month-old infant and an 11-year-old-girl with disabilities. Twenty Palestinians were arrested, most of whom were between the ages of 14 and 17. Israeli police stated that Palestinians had chanted incitement and thrown stones and bottles at police on the scene. On 6 March, a 15-year-old Palestinian was shot by Israeli security forces in Abu Dis, near Jerusalem, reportedly after having thrown Molotov cocktails at Israeli soldiers. The boy later succumbed to his wounds.

On 6 March, a Palestinian stabbed an Israeli police officer in the Muslim Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem, wounding him, and was subsequently shot dead by Israeli security forces. On 7 March, a Palestinian stabbed and injured two Israeli police officers near the entrance of the holy sites in Jerusalem's Old City, before being shot dead by Israeli security forces. Video of the incident shows a police officer shooting the man while he was on the ground, after already having been shot. Hamas later claimed the man as a member. On 15 March, Israeli security forces shot and killed a 16-year-old Palestinian boy in the Balata refugee camp during clashes that developed following an arrest operation.

Settler-related violence remains significant across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. On several occasions, Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers clashed, including in the context of the demolition of unauthorized structures in the outposts, which are also illegal under

Israeli law. Beita village, near Nablus, remained a flashpoint for clashes amid ongoing Palestinian demonstrations against the nearby Evyatar settlement outpost.

During clashes on 10 December 2021, a Palestinian man was shot and killed by Israeli security forces. On 4 February, 45 Palestinians were injured, including three with live ammunition. Another 26 were injured on 18 February — four by live ammunition, including a 10-year-old boy shot in the head with a rubber-coated metal bullet.

Areas in and around Burqa village, which is also near Nablus, saw serious confrontations. On 16 December 2021, a 25-year-old Israeli man was shot and killed by Palestinians near the evacuated settlement of Homesh. On 19 December 2021, Israeli security forces arrested six Palestinians in Silat Al-Harithiya, near Jenin, on suspicion of involvement in the attacks and three related charges. That same day, hundreds of settlers attempted to enter Homesh and set up illegal structures, clashing with Israeli security forces and breaking through their barricades. Later, on 1 March, eight Israelis were arrested in connection with those events.

From 23 to 25 December 2021, repeated raids by Israeli settlers on Burqa led to clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces, in which 171 Palestinians were injured, including 15 by live ammunition. On 13 February, a 16-year-old Palestinian was shot and killed by Israeli security forces in Silat Al-Harithiya, near Jenin, amid clashes that erupted after Israeli forces entered the village to demolish the family home of one of the suspected perpetrators of the December shooting.

On 21 January, adjacent to Burin village, near Nablus, Israeli settlers injured five Israeli activists involved in a tree-planting activity with local Palestinians. On 7 February, three Israeli settlers from Givat Ronen were arrested, and demolition orders were issued on structures in the settlements. On 24 January, Israeli settlers drove a convoy to Huwwara, near Nablus, throwing stones at Palestinians and their property. Three Palestinians, including a 17-year-old, were injured.

On 16 February, Israel announced the arrest of 17 Israelis in connection with those incidents. On 25 February, Israeli civilians shot and injured two Palestinian men following a car accident near the Yizhar checkpoint.

On 2 and 3 March, two Israeli civilians were stabbed and injured in Hizma town, in Jerusalem. The Israeli security forces subsequently arrested a Palestinian suspected of carrying out one of the attacks.

In Gaza, Palestinian militants launched two rockets, and there was one instance of launching incendiary balloons towards Israel. No injuries or fires were reported. In response, Israeli forces carried out three air attacks on what they said were military targets in the Strip, resulting in no injuries. On 29 December, a Palestinian opened fire towards the Gaza perimeter fence, injuring an Israeli civilian. In retaliation, Israeli forces fired several tank shells at what they said were Hamas observation posts in Gaza. Four Palestinians were injured, including a 16-year-old boy.

On 1 January, the Israel Defense Forces said that two rockets had been fired from Gaza and landed off the coast of Israel. In response, Israeli forces conducted air strikes against what they said were militant facilities in Gaza. No injuries were reported.

Resolution 2334 (2016) calls for the parties to refrain from acts of provocation, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric. Some Palestinian and Israeli officials continued to engage in such activity during the reporting period. In a highly provocative move, in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem, at the height of the tension over the potential eviction, a far-right member of the Israeli Knesset set up a makeshift office in the neighbourhood. Several members of the Knesset visited the neighbourhood, expressing support for him, while others encouraged his inflammatory actions.

In separate statements, the same member of Knesset also expressed hope that Palestinian hunger strikers would die and that any Palestinian who threw a stone would get a bullet in the head. In the wake of the killing of three Palestinians by Israeli security forces in Nablus, Fatah social and media pages encouraged Palestinians to increase confrontation with Israel. Hamas also called for increased clashes with the Israeli forces throughout the occupied West Bank. Some Palestinian Authority officials deny the Jews' connection to the region and to the holy sites in Jerusalem.

Resolution 2334 (2016) reiterates the call on the Middle East Quartet for affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse the negative trends on the ground that are imperilling the two-State solution. The reporting period witnessed some progress on civil and economic steps, with instances of high-level official engagement.

On 27 December, the State of Qatar announced that it had signed an agreement with the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza Electricity Distribution Corporation to advance the construction of a natural-gas pipeline from Israel to Gaza. The pipeline aims to increase electricity generation at the Gaza power plant. In Gaza, during the reporting period, the Israeli authorities authorized the issuance of permits for some 12,000 Palestinian merchants and traders. In January, the daily movement of workers, traders and businesspeople through the Erez crossing was the highest since the tightening of the Israeli closure in Gaza in 2007.

In February, technical bilateral meetings on the Gaza reconstruction mechanism between the Palestinian Authority, the Government of Israel and the United Nations resumed, with steps identified to improve the mechanism. In a welcome development, white cement, long deemed a dual-use material, began entering Gaza without any special monitoring.

There was a marked increase in the movement of goods out of Gaza in recent months, peaking in January with more than 900 truckloads passing through the Kerem Shalom crossing to the West Bank, Israel and other countries. That is the highest monthly figure recorded since 2007; it comes close to the rate that had existed prior to it and is significantly above the pre-May 2021 rates.

The United Nations continues to highlight to the Israeli Government priority items to enter Gaza, largely for United Nations health, water, sanitation and other projects, some requested more than a year ago. Significant delays in approvals, including for dual-use materials under the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, impact all aspects of United Nations operations in Gaza, the economy and the lives of ordinary people in the Strip.

With funding from Qatar, the gradual reconstruction of housing units totally destroyed during the May 2021 escalation, to date some 150 households, has begun. Meanwhile, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has completed the repair of nearly 7,000 housing units and is currently working with 700 families whose homes were

totally demolished. On 28 December, UNRWA announced the start of a cash assistance allocation of \$8.2 million to families whose homes were damaged during the May 2021 escalation.

In the occupied West Bank, some actions by the Israeli authorities have contributed to some reductions in tension. On 11 December, the Palestinian Central Election Commission conducted the first phase of local council elections in several hundred small communities in the West Bank, with more than 66 per cent of eligible voters participating.

On 12 January and 17 February, the Commission concluded voter registration and candidate nomination periods for the second phase of the local council elections, scheduled for 26 March. However, on 17 January, the Palestinian Cabinet postponed local council elections in Gaza.

From 6 to 9 February, the Palestinian Central Council (PCC) met for the first time since 2018, electing a new leadership for the Palestinian National Council and new members for vacant positions in the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In its final statement, the PCC called for a halt to security coordination and the suspension of the recognition of Israel until it recognizes the Palestinian State based on the June 1967 lines and halts settlement activities, reiterating decisions taken at previous meetings of the PCC.

In its resolution 2334 (2016), the Security Council called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. No such steps were taken during the reporting period. Resolution 2334 (2016) also called upon all parties to continue, inter alia, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations. On 14 January, the envoys of the Middle East Quartet met virtually to discuss the latest political developments and the situation on the ground. On 19 February, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, France, Germany and Jordan met in Munich and expressed their commitment to supporting all efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace on the basis of the two-State solution, in accordance with international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed parameters.

On 9 March, the Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian Foreign Ministers met on the margins of the ministerial meeting of the League of Arab States in Cairo to discuss efforts to launch negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive and just settlement of the conflict.

In closing, allow me to share the Secretary-General's observations concerning the implementation of the provisions of resolution 2334 (2016) during the reporting period. I remain deeply concerned by the continued settlement advancement by Israel in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Settlement expansion continued to fuel violence in the occupied Palestinian territories, further entrenching the occupation and undermining the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independent statehood and eroding the possibility of establishing a continuous and viable Palestinian State.

Some 670,000 Israeli citizens currently reside in more than 130 illegal settlements and more than 100 outposts in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. I am particularly concerned about the increasing settlement advancement in and around East Jerusalem. Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have no legal validity and constitute a flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and international law and are a serious impediment to peace. I urge the Government of Israel to cease all settlement activities immediately.



The continued demolition and seizure of Palestinian-owned structures, including internationally funded humanitarian projects, remain deeply concerning. Demolitions affect not only residential structures, but also those related to income-generation and the provisions of essential services. I call upon the Government of Israel to end the demolition of Palestinian-owned property and the forcible displacement and eviction of Palestinians, in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

I remain particularly concerned about the potential eviction of several families from homes in which they have lived for decades in Sheikh Jarrah and in the Silwan neighbourhood of occupied East Jerusalem. Many legal cases initiated by settler organizations invoke an Israeli law by which Israelis, but not Palestinians, may claim land they owned prior to 1948.

I note Israeli court rulings during the reporting period that postponed and suspended such evictions, contributing to a reduction in tensions on the ground. As demonstrated in recent weeks, forced evictions, especially in such politically sensitive areas, can trigger dangerous tensions and violence. Demolitions and evictions entail numerous human rights violations and have raised concerns about the risk of forcible transfers.

I am deeply troubled by the continued loss of life and injuries, including of children, in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as by the overall deterioration of the security situation, including an apparent increase in shooting attacks during the reporting period. The possible excessive use of force by Israeli security forces, particularly the use of live ammunition, continues to raise serious concerns. Security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life. I am particularly appalled by the continued injury and killing of children. Children should never be targets of violence or be put in harm's way. I urge Israeli authorities to conduct thorough, prompt, effective and transparent investigations into those killings and injuries.

I remain deeply concerned about the level of settler-related violence in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Israel, the occupying Power, has an obligation to protect the Palestinian population there from all acts of threats and violence and to ensure, as far as possible, public order and life.

I am also deeply concerned about Palestinian attacks against Israeli civilians. I underscore that all perpetrators of violence must be held accountable and swiftly brought to justice. I am particularly alarmed by the high number of arrests by the Israeli security forces of Palestinians, including children, particularly in occupied East Jerusalem. I am concerned that those arrests, particularly of children, may represent a disproportionate response to the offences committed. Under international law, the arrest and detention of children should be used only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

I urge all sides to refrain from actions that could further escalate the situation across the occupied Palestinian territories, and I call upon all politicians and religious and community leaders to help reduce tension, particularly in Jerusalem. I am deeply concerned that, at a highly sensitive moment on the ground, officials on both sides continue to stoke tensions and take actions that have the potential to provoke more deadly violence. Acts of terror, violence and incitement must be clearly and unequivocally condemned by all. Officials on all sides have a responsibility to avoid all actions that could escalate tensions.

Palestinians continue to suffer in Gaza under Hamas rule and continued Israeli closures. I welcome the parties' recent engagement on easing access, including for workers from Gaza and the West Bank, into the Israeli labour market. I am encouraged by the growing volume of goods exiting Gaza, which clearly surpasses previous years. Nevertheless, more significant steps are needed to see durable economic benefits. I hope that the resumption of technical-level trilateral meetings of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism will facilitate reconstruction and the much-needed development projects, leading to reduced aid dependency.

The physical condition of the Palestinian Authority (PA) remains precarious. Revenues are not keeping pace with expenditures, leading to accumulated debt, and investments in important sectors such as health, education and infrastructure are insufficient. In order to address the root causes of recurring financial crises, internal PA reforms and improvements in the economic relationship between Israel and the PA are needed, alongside donor support. To that end, I welcome the current work of the International Monetary Fund mission to support the PA's important work on fiscal stability and reform.

The United Nations is grateful to all donors that continue to support the crucial work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). I am concerned, as UNRWA will already face critical cash-flow challenges in the upcoming three months. Any reduction or disruption of services has the potential to trigger significant humanitarian, political and security consequences, impacting the broader region. As Muslims in the region start the holy month of Ramadan, I appeal to all donors to advance the disbursement of confirmed pledges as much as possible. Preserving UNRWA's services is a joint responsibility of all Member States.

As we endeavour to support the critical needs of the Palestinians across the occupied Palestinian territories, it is also vital that we continue working towards advancing intra-Palestinian unity, as it is central to advancing a two-State solution. The United Nations stands firm in its support of Egyptian-led intra-Palestinian reconciliation efforts. The holding of general elections in the occupied Palestinian territories would be a crucial step towards Palestinian unity, giving renewed legitimacy to national institutions, including a democratically elected Parliament and Government in Palestine.

In conclusion, let me add that it is regrettable that we have seen little progress in the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) since its adoption in December 2016. On the contrary, the absence of a meaningful peace process to end the Israeli occupation and resolve the conflict is fueling a dangerous deterioration that is destabilizing the situation across the occupied Palestinian territories.

In just one week, as Ramadan begins, thousands of Muslims will come to pray at Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, with the Jewish and Christian faithful following soon after to mark Pesach and Easter in April. That should be a time of peaceful reflection, prayer and celebration for all religions. Provocation must be avoided. Leaders on all sides have a critical role to play in ensuring calm.

In line with the relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements, we must keep in sight the vision of an end to the occupation and of two States — Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian State living side by side, in peace and security, within secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, with

Jerusalem as the capital of both States. I remain actively engaged in advancing those efforts with my counterparts in the Middle East Quartet, key regional partners and Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

**V. PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIR ADDRESSES  
48TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION**

*On 22 March, the Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) addressed the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Chair's [statement](#) and excerpts of the [OIC Islamabad Declaration](#) are reproduced here.*

On behalf of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), it is my singular honour and privilege to address the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Over the years, the Committee has implemented its United Nations General Assembly mandate of 1975 to raise awareness on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and advocate for a just and peaceful settlement to the question of Palestine based on international law, UN resolutions and past agreements. As a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the Committee shares with the Security Council and other United Nations organs the common goals of ending the Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine, promoting the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence, and achieving the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 lines.

The Committee works with both States and civil society toward the implementation of the international consensus based on two States, Israel and the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side-by-side in peace and security, within internationally recognized borders.

The OIC is a valuable strategic partner of the Committee in the implementation of its mandate. We jointly convene an annual conference on the question of Jerusalem with the OIC's support. These Conferences aim at drawing attention to ongoing Israeli policies and practices that are unlawfully changing the demographics, character and status of occupied East Jerusalem, focusing on evictions of Palestinians from their homes and demolitions of Palestinian houses and other structures in the City and violations of the historic and legal status quo at the holy sites, including at Al-Haram Al-Sharif. We also address the socioeconomic situation of Palestinians and alternatives to empower them. The Committee also partnered with the OIC on a unique project to reproduce highly acclaimed exhibits displayed at the United Nations for the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and turn them into printed booklets for wide distribution. An electronic version (e-Book) is available on the website of the Committee, the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL). We are extremely grateful for the OIC's support to this ongoing project.

Last year, our Jerusalem Conference took place amidst heightened tensions and severe confrontations between Israeli occupying forces, extremist settlers and the Palestinian residents of



the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in East Jerusalem, which the conference speakers helped to highlight.

Persistent human rights violations by Israeli occupying forces, a 15-year Israeli blockade of Gaza in collective punishment of the population, ongoing expansion of illegal settlements, acts of settler violence, and creeping annexation are preventing the Palestinian people from enjoying their rights in their homeland in freedom and peace. Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are contrary to its obligations according to international law, many amounting to grave breaches. The Committee continues to call for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory, that has now lasted for nearly 55 years.

These challenges underline the continued relevance of the Committee, as affirmed by the General Assembly's adoption, in December 2020 and by large majorities, of all four resolutions on the question of Palestine. The Committee's programme of work for 2022 involves high-level advocacy and events to mobilize Member States to act to uphold their legal obligations and implement these resolutions and also to mobilize international public opinion in support of Palestinian rights and a just solution for this prolonged injustice. Such meetings, including with the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commissioner General of UNRWA and international experts help, among other, to mobilize international support for UNRWA to receive sufficient and predictable funding to meet the critical needs of Palestine refugees.

In addition, the Committee issued public statements regarding the Israeli war on Gaza in May 2021, strongly condemning attacks against civilians and calling for the Security Council to act. In October 2021, we voiced deep concern over the Israeli designation of reputable Palestinian human rights NGOs, including partners of the Committee, as "terrorist organizations."

Our quarterly statements to the Security Council Open Debate on the Middle East call for attention to the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and urge the needed efforts to advance a peaceful and just resolution of the question of Palestine. We also engage with stakeholders, including global parliamentarians, and conduct regular consultations with civil society organizations (CSOs) from Palestine, Israel and elsewhere. The Committee's enhanced engagement with CSOs from Palestine come at a time when they continue to face restrictions to their freedoms of expression, assembly, and association.

The Committee also engages in capacity-building for Palestinian officials to support the State of Palestine in the development of its national institutions and fulfilment of its functions. To further expand its broader international audience, the Committee continues to improve its dynamic communication, periodic publications, media digital and web based UNISPAL, the largest repository of information on the question of Palestine.

The question of Palestine remains one of the longest-standing issues on the UN's agenda, and the Committee is highly concerned about the stalled peace process. As the United Nations and the international community strive to revive efforts to reboot the Israel-Palestine peace process, the Committee continues to reach out to the Member States to this end. We regularly meet with members of the Security Council and the Middle East Quartet to mobilize the international community in support of a meaningful political horizon and credible peace process to achieve a

just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, including in the context of an international peace conference.

In implementing its mandate, the Committee upholds the values enshrined in the UN Charter, relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, including SC resolution 2334 (2016), and the agreed parameters for a just solution that remain our shared framework.

We call on all Member States of the United Nations to focus on the longdenied inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and demonstrate their solidarity with the Palestinian people in their ongoing just struggle. We call on the OIC to continue supporting our joint Jerusalem Conferences, as well as other innovative advocacy and capacity building efforts that the Committee implements for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

We are proud that the Committee's membership includes 10 members and 20 observers who are also members of the OIC and we invite everyone to join our efforts.

The Committee stands ready to join hands with the OIC to assist the Palestinian people and garner the broader international support needed to finally make a reality the just and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine we have all long sought.

### **OIC Islamabad Declaration**

...

We re-emphasize the centrality of the question of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the Muslim Ummah, reaffirming its principled and continued all-level support to the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable legitimate national rights, including their right to self-determination and the independence of the State of Palestine along the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. We also reaffirm our duty to protect the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 194 and to unequivocally counter any denial of these rights.

We reaffirm that Al-Quds Al-Sharif is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian Territory of the State of Palestine and call on the international community to compel Israel, the occupying power, to desist from its colonial practices and abide by all international resolutions on the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and to refrain from all measures, practices and decisions aimed at altering the character and legal status of the Holy City, including through intensification of Jewish colonial settlements therein and forcible expulsion of its Arab Palestinian inhabitants; and to desist from the desecration of Islamic Shrines, including aggression against Al-Quds Al-Sharif and call for mobilization of all efforts to confront Israeli colonial occupation and hostile takeover of the Holy City and to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people as well as reiterate that maintaining Jerusalem's legal status as the Capital of the State of Palestine is the only guarantee to achieving peace and security for the region.

We decide to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the realization of the Palestinian people to self-determination, through ensuring protection and bringing an end to Israelis' illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime, and for achieving a just solution. In this regard, we decide to seek accountability measures against the occupying power, and to lend full

support to and cooperation in all actions that seek accountability and are aimed at bringing an end to this colonial occupation and its apartheid regime, including at the ICJ.

...

## **VI. PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HOLDS A VIRTUAL EVENT ON THE IMPACT OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN**

*On 23 March, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) organized a virtual event on the margins of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women on “Impact of forced displacement on Palestinian women. The [chair’s summary](#) of the event is reproduced below.*

The event “**Impact of forced displacement on Palestinian women**” held on the margins of the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was convened virtually, on 23 March 2022, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP). The event was moderated by H.E. Mr. Neville Gertze, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations. It consisted of an opening session with remarks by the Vice-Chair and H.E. Ms. Feda Abdelhady-Nasser, Deputy Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations. The panel comprised of Ms. Amy Cohen, Director of International Relations and Advocacy, Ir Amim; Ms. Reem Hamad, and Ms. Amani Odeh, residents of the East Jerusalem neighbourhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, respectively; Ms. Sarah Muscroft, Head of Office of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT); and Ms. Inas Margieh, UN Women Programme Coordinator, Palestine Country Office. Member States participated in the two-hour event on WebEx platform. The event was livestreamed on UN WebTV as well as the Committee social media channels and the public had an opportunity to make comments and pose questions to the panellists.

At the opening, **Vice-Chair Gertze** explained that Israel’s policies and practices had forced the displacement of Palestinians, including Bedouin and refugee communities, while further entrenching its occupation. In recent months, Israeli authorities had enforced or attempted to enforce evictions of Palestinian residents from their homes in the neighbourhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan in favour of Jewish settlers. As a result, Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem had endured violent attacks by Israeli settlers and disproportionate use of force by the Israeli Security Forces. He added that women bore most of the collective burden of such policies and practices, which resulted in forced family separation, displacement, threats to their physical integrity, arrests and detention of their children, as well as discrimination in almost every aspect of daily life.

In her introductory remarks, **Ambassador Abdelhady-Nasser** spoke of the broad impact of decades of Israel’s illegal policies and practices on Palestinian women that systematically forced them and their families from their homes and lands. These actions have had traumatic consequences on their lives and the enjoyment of their human rights and on the prospects for the peaceful and secure life the Palestinian people have sought for so many years. She stressed that Palestinian people had the right to a home and to live in security in it and expressed her gratitude to the Committee for organizing this event, thanked Ambassador Neville Gertze for Namibia’s unwavering solidarity with Palestine, and expressed appreciation to the panellists for sharing their perspectives with the Committee and wider audience.

Ambassador Abdelhady-Nasser stressed further that the role of women was central to the struggle to realize justice and freedom for the Palestinian people and to achieve a just and lasting solution, highlighting the human rights violations being perpetrated by Israeli forces and armed, extremist settlers, as well as the discriminatory laws enacted by the Israeli government, against the Palestinian people. The constant threat of displacement and seizure of properties and expulsion of Palestinian families from their homes causes severe distress and trauma in the lives of Palestinian women, undermining their security and affecting their ability to care for their children and families and to pursue their livelihoods. Since early 2021, Israel, the occupying Power, has demolished more than 1,000 Palestinian structures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, forcibly displacing more than 1,400 Palestinians, including women and girls.

**Ms. Amy Cohen** spoke of how the drivers of displacement were aimed at weakening the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, while eroding conditions for a future Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem. These drivers have included policies on land confiscation and settlement construction, denial of full citizenship and political rights, permanent residency revocations, insufficient service provision, and severe restrictions on urban planning and building in East Jerusalem. More recently, home demolitions and evictions of Palestinian families had increasingly driven Palestinians from both their individual homes and their collective home - Jerusalem. Such measures had a disproportionate impact on Palestinian women who are the traditional caretakers of the home and the backbone of Palestinian family and community life, in violation of international law and UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2334 and Resolution 1325, which specifically address both the vulnerability of women in conflict zones and their unique contribution to peacebuilding and security.

Ms. Cohen emphasized that entire Palestinian communities across East Jerusalem were under impending threat of expulsion, particularly in the Old City and adjacent Palestinian neighbourhoods. Many of the families facing eviction were Palestinian refugees who lost homes in what became Israel in 1948 and now risked being displaced for a second time. Settler groups working in collusion with state bodies had acted to secure property ownership rights of these assets. In parallel, the risk of mass demolitions of some 200 homes in Al Bustan, Wadi Yasul, and Al Walajeh, placed another 2,500 Palestinians at risk of displacement. In all of these areas, demolition orders had been issued under the pretext of lacking building permits which are nearly impossible to procure due to the absence of proper zoning plans which the Israeli authorities have systematically neglected to advance and/or approve.

Following the vision of an OCHA-produced video showing her family life, **Ms. Reem Hamad** described how 28 residential units, including her family home, were under the constant threat of forced displacement in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Karm al Jaouni (Sheikh Jarrah). Ms. Hamad still lives with her children in the house where her ancestors, refugees from Haifa, moved to in 1956. She recounted the stress she experienced after receiving eviction orders in 2020, as well as the fear felt when leaving her home, fearing that settlers could take over the house during her absence. Palestinians faced violence and threat from settlers and Israeli Security Forces, including direct intimidation, use of pepper spray, sound bombs, rubber bullets and skunk water. This situation caused a lot of physical and psychological trauma to the local inhabitants, and to children, such as insomnia, pulmonary issues and anxiety. Ms. Hamad also explained how the local community advocated for its rights, taking example from activists such as Ms. Mona al-Kurd and her social media campaign #savesheikhjarrah.

**Ms. Amani Odeh** shared her experience of living in her family home under threat of imminent demolition in al-Bustan, recalling the tension in the area, confrontations with settlers and daily arrests, including of her own family members, as well as the high number of children. She recalled her own arrest, during the night, because of her activism. She explained how her story was like that of many other families.

**Ms. Sarah Muscroft** presented the general context of demolitions and displacement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, stressing the difficulties to understand the scale of displacement without witnessing it. Planning regime, access restrictions, settler violence and excessive use of force further contributed to translating a macro-aggression onto the daily lives of Palestinians, with women being disproportionately affected. In East Jerusalem, at least 218 Palestinian households comprising 970 people, including 424 children, had eviction cases pending in Israeli courts.

Ms. Muscroft informed that many “illegal” structures had outstanding demolition orders, including 55 schools, because of the impossibility to obtain a building permit in Area C. Around 660,000 settlers live in 250 settlements, and settler violence increased with 1,776 incidents recorded since 2017. Finally, the excessive use of force by Israel Security Forces contributed to the coercive environment in the OPT, with over 4,000 Palestinians, including approximately 1,000 children, and around 100 Israelis killed during four successive escalations of hostilities since 2008.

**Ms. Inas Margieh** emphasized the importance of amplifying the voices of young East Jerusalemite women to achieve sustainable solutions. This year, CSW meeting’s priority theme ‘Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes’ put youth at the centre of this agenda. Too little had changed 26 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, but the Generation Equality Action Coalitions took on six critical issues underpinning gender equality and youth leadership as critical for this transformative vision. UN Women supports the fundamental engagement of young Palestinian women leaders from East Jerusalem in describing their reality and providing their views on how to overcome challenges and achieve success in diverse walks of life.

East Jerusalemites living under Israel’s occupation and the threat of settlers’ violence, endure political, social and cultural restrictions, including unemployment affecting young women more than young men. The labour force participation for women in East Jerusalem stood at 10.4 percent in 2021, in comparison to 34.8 percent for men. These challenges limited the realization of women’s potential and the realization of their aspirations in different domains. However, young women leaders from East Jerusalem sought to change the paradigm from victims to drivers of social change, putting forward solutions to address stereotypes and traditional opinions, supporting the role of women leaders with disabilities as well as the role of young women leaders in defending the rights of Jerusalemites in general, their labour participation and economic leadership. Youth female leaders also supported initiatives that enhance the role of young women and their participation in public spaces and challenging stereotypes.

During the **Question-and-Answer** session, Ms. Reem Hamad and Ms. Amy Cohen responded to a question on assistance for cases of evictions and demolitions that many affected families were left without immediate support or long-term solutions and had to rely on personal networks. On

the use of social media, Ms. Inas Margieh emphasized the importance of their use to amplify the voices of the affected people. Legal support to those families remained difficult and local organizations mandated to support women and affected populations lacked resources, increasing the importance of properly identifying their needs. Ms. Cohen recalled the impact of recent activism conducted by young Palestinian women from Sheikh Jarrah who capitalized on social media to change the discourse on Palestinian rights and forced displacement since 1948. It was essential not to censure these voices to support advocacy and lobbying campaigns and shift the global discourse on those issues. Ms. Margieh spoke of the responsibilities of the occupying Power to uphold the human rights of Palestinian people, including the rights to education and shelter, with considerations of their identity, ethnicity or gender.

In her closing remarks, **Ambassador Abdelhady-Nasser** thanked the panellists for their presentations and testimonies as they reminded of the extent and the impact of the violations perpetuated by Israel against the Palestinian people, and Palestinian women in particular. She lauded the Palestinian women's resilience and the enormous contribution they continued to make to the Palestinian struggle for justice and accountability. She recalled that the space for civil society in Palestine was shrinking, as Israel continued its intimidation and harassment of civil society even going to the extent of outlawing some organizations, including those supporting women. She finally saluted the efforts of the many organizations, UN agencies and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for their assistance to and capacity-building efforts for women and girls for their full empowerment, urging states and organizations to strengthen their relationships with the Committee.

**Ambassador Gertze** closed the event.

*\*\*\*Note: This summary provides an overall picture of the deliberations of the virtual event. A [video](#) of the event can be found on the [webpage](#) of the CEIRPP, as well as in its official [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube account](#). The views and opinions expressed in this summary are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.*

## **VII. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL CONDEMNS TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ISRAEL, CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE END TO VIOLENCE**

*The following [statement](#) was issued by the spokesperson for UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 29 March.*

The Secretary-General condemns the recent terrorist attacks in Israel, which claimed the lives of at least 11 Israeli citizens. Such acts of violence can never be justified and must be condemned by all.

The Secretary-General extends his heartfelt condolences to families of the victims and wishes a prompt recovery to those injured.

In the spirit of the upcoming religious holy days, the Secretary-General calls for an immediate end to violence, which only serves to undermine the prospects for peace.

## **VIII. PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECEIVES THE BUREAU OF THE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

*The President of the 76<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, on 30 March received the Bureau of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The related [statement](#) of the Bureau is reproduced below.*

The Bureau of the United Nations General Assembly's Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People met today with H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th General Assembly. The Bureau called for renewed efforts by the international community to facilitate a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine on the basis of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

The Bureau underlined the urgent need for international mobilization to enable the Palestinian people to realize their right to self-determination, to achieve the two-State solution wherein Palestinians and Israelis live side-by-side in peace within secure and recognized pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine, to find a just solution to the plight of the Palestine refugees, and to ensure that all final status issues are solely decided through negotiations between the parties.

The Bureau of the Committee stressed that new global crises and conflicts of concern should not divert the international community's attention from the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory where Israel's policies and practices are turning into a de facto annexation.

The Bureau thanked the President of the 76th General Assembly for his commitment to Palestinian rights and for working to ensure that "no country is left behind" in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **IX. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ISSUES CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS ON THE FIFTH PERIODIC REPORT OF ISRAEL\***

*The Human Rights Committee considered the fifth periodic report of Israel under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights at its 3,841<sup>st</sup> and 3842<sup>nd</sup> meetings, held on 2 and 3 March 2022. At its 3868<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 22 March 2022, the Committee adopted concluding observations ([CCPR/C/ISR/CO/5](#)) and the advance unedited version of the latter is replicated below.*

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### **B. Positive aspects**

3. The Committee welcomes the adoption by the State party of the following legislative, policy and institutional measures:

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\* Adopted by the Committee at its 134th session (28 February-25 March 2022).

(a) Government Resolution No. 550, which aims to, inter alia, promote diversity and inclusion of the Arab population in private and public sectors, in 2021;

(b) Amendment No. 137 to the Penal Law 5737-1977, which recognizes racist motives as an aggravating circumstance for the offence of murder, in 2019;

(c) Amendment No. 20 to the Legal Aid Law 5732-1972 which grants free legal aid to victims of serious sexual offenses throughout criminal and administrative proceedings, in 2017.

## **C. Principal matters of concern and recommendations**

### **Implementation of the Covenant and its Optional Protocol**

4. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on court cases that referred to the provisions of the Covenant and that law enforcement officials, members of the Israeli Defence Forces, Israeli Prison Service and Israeli Security Agency, and legal practitioners are provided with training on human rights, including international human rights law. It, however, regrets that the State party has not yet acceded to the two Optional Protocols to the Covenant and maintains its reservation to article 23 of the Covenant (art. 2).

**5. The State party should continue and strengthen its efforts to raise awareness among judges, prosecutors, lawyers, law enforcement officers, security forces, civil society actors and members of the general public about the Covenant and its applicability in domestic law, including by providing training on the provisions of the Covenant. Furthermore, it should consider acceding to the two Optional Protocols to the Covenant and withdrawing its reservation to article 23 of the Covenant.**

### **Applicability of the Covenant to the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including East Jerusalem, and occupied Syrian Golan**

6. The Committee reiterates<sup>3</sup> its concern that the State party maintains its position that the Covenant does not apply with respect to individuals under its jurisdiction, but outside its territory, despite the interpretation to the contrary of article 2, paragraph 1, supported by the jurisprudence of the Committee, various other treaty bodies and the International Court of Justice, and State practice. It is further concerned at the State party's position that international human rights law does not apply when international humanitarian law is applicable (art. 2).

**7. Recalling its previous recommendations,<sup>4</sup> the Committee urges the State party to:**

**(a) Interpret the Covenant in good faith, in accordance with the ordinary meaning to be given to its terms in their context, including subsequent practice, and in light of the object and purpose of the Covenant, and review its legal position so as to acknowledge the extraterritorial application of the Covenant under certain circumstances, as outlined, inter alia, in the Committee's general comment No. 31 (2004) on the nature of the general legal obligation imposed on States parties to the Covenant.<sup>5</sup> In this respect, the Committee**

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<sup>3</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 5 and [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/3](#), para. 5.

<sup>4</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 5 and [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/3](#), para. 5.

<sup>5</sup> [CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.13](#).



**reiterates and underscores that the Covenant applies with regard to all conduct by the State party's authorities or agents adversely affecting the enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Covenant by persons under its jurisdiction regardless of the location;**

**(b) Review its legal position and acknowledge that the applicability of international humanitarian law during an armed conflict, as well as in a situation of occupation, does not preclude the application of the Covenant.**

### **Human Rights Institution**

8. The Committee notes that, notwithstanding the general support expressed by the State party for the establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris principles), no such institution has yet been established (art. 2).

**9. The State party should step up its efforts to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, including through promoting pluralism and diversity of its composition, and allow civil society organizations to participate in this process.**

### **Equality and non-discrimination**

10. The Committee expresses its deep concern about the Basic Law: Israel – The Nation-State of the Jewish People (2018), which may exacerbate pre-existing systematic and structural discrimination against non-Jews in the State party. It is particularly concerned that, under this Law, the right to self-determination is “unique to the Jewish people”, Hebrew is the State language while Arabic is downgraded to a language with “special status”, and the development of Jewish settlement is viewed as a national value (art. 2).

**11. The Committee reiterates the recommendations made by the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination<sup>6</sup> and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>7</sup> that the State party review and amend the Basic Law: Israel – The Nation-State of the Jewish People with a view to eliminating its discriminatory effect on non-Jewish people and ensuring equal treatment of all persons within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, in conformity with the Covenant.**

12. The Committee takes note of the measures aimed at promoting representation of Arab population and women in the civil service and amendment No. 12 to the Municipal Council Law (Funding of Elections) (5774-2014) aimed at enhancing women's representation in political parties. It, however, remains concerned at the continuing underrepresentation of these groups in the civil service, particularly in decision-making positions, including in the regional councils and the Knesset (arts. 2, 25 and 26).

**13. Bearing in mind the Committee's previous recommendations,<sup>8</sup> the State party should strengthen its efforts to achieve equitable representation of Israeli citizens of Arab**

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<sup>6</sup> CERD/C/ISR/CO/17-19, para. 14

<sup>7</sup> E/C.12/ISR/CO/4, para. 17.

<sup>8</sup> CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4, para. 8.

**origin and women in the civil service, particularly in decision-making positions in legislative and executive bodies, including the Knesset, and the Government.**

### **Settlement activities and the Wall**

14. The Committee is deeply concerned at the continued construction and expansion of the Israeli settlements and unauthorized outposts in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, and the transfer of the State party's population thereto, despite recommendations made by different treaty bodies,<sup>9</sup> the Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),<sup>10</sup> Human Rights Council resolution 31/36 (2016)<sup>11</sup> and the General Assembly resolution 75/97 (2020).<sup>12</sup> It notes with concern the State party's interference with full access of Palestinians and the Syrian Arab population to their lands and livelihood in the occupied territories, through wrongful expropriation, confiscation, requisitions and encroachment. It is further concerned that, despite the ruling of the Israeli High Court of Justice that found the Regularization Law of 2017 unconstitutional, there remain other alternative mechanisms under the Israeli law allowing for retroactive legalization of unauthorized outposts and structures in settlements. It notes with deep concern the continued construction of the Wall in the West Bank, which significantly restricts Palestinians' enjoyment and exercise of rights and freedoms, including freedom of movement and access to land, especially agricultural land, property and natural resources (arts. 1, 2, 9, 12, 17, 18 and 26).

**15. Recalling its previous recommendations<sup>13</sup>, the Committee urges the State party to:**

**(a) Cease the construction and expansion of settlements in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, and all settlement-related activities, including the transfer of its own population thereto;**

**(b) Put an end to the practice of expropriating and declaring as "State land" private land owned by Palestinians and the Syrian Arab population for settlement purposes;**

**(c) Take immediate steps to dismantle the Wall in line with the Advisory Opinion of ICJ on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory of 9 July 2004 (para. 163), with a view to ensuring Palestinians' full access to their lands and livelihood and enjoyment of the Covenant rights, including the right of self-determination.**

### **State of emergency**

16. While noting serious security concerns affecting the State party and the ongoing review process of the state of emergency, the Committee remains deeply concerned that the State party maintains the state of emergency and continues to resort to emergency measures. It also notes with concern that emergency measures taken during the two-year state of emergency in response to the

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<sup>9</sup> CERD/C/ISR/CO/17-19, paras. 4 and 43; E/C.12/ISR/CO/4, para. 11.

<sup>10</sup> S/RES/2334.

<sup>11</sup> A/HRC/RES/31/36.

<sup>12</sup> A/RES/75/97.

<sup>13</sup> CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4, para. 10.

coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has further restricted the enjoyment of the Covenant rights by Palestinians in the OPT, especially in the Gaza Strip (art. 4).

**17. Recalling its previous recommendations,<sup>14</sup> the Committee calls on the State party to ensure that revisions to the national legal framework on emergencies and related measures, including those relating to the protection of public health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as any restrictions, are made in strict accordance with the conditions outlined in the Covenant, particularly in the Committee’s general comment No. 29 (2001) on article 4 and its Statement on derogations from the Covenant in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic (2020).<sup>15</sup>**

### **Counter-terrorism measures**

18. The Committee is concerned that Counter Terrorism Law 5776-2016 contains vague and overbroad definitions of “terrorist organization” and “terrorist act” and may be used to oppress and criminalize legitimate political or humanitarian acts, as illustrated by the designation, in October 2021, of six Palestinian civil society organizations as “terrorist organizations” based on secret information. It is further concerned about the use of secret evidence in counter-terrorism proceedings, which is inaccessible to defendants and their lawyers, thereby violating their right to fair trial. It is also deeply concerned that amendment No. 30 to the Entry into Israel Law (2018) providing for revocation of permanent residency on a vague ground of “breach of allegiance against the State of Israel”, defined as a terrorist act under the Counter Terrorism Law, has been used to revoke permanent residency of Palestinian residents and human rights defenders advocating for the rights of Palestinians, including human rights lawyer, Salah Hammouri (arts. 2, 9, 12 and 14).

**19. The State party should review its Counter Terrorism Law 5776-2016, with a view to ensuring that its definitions of “terrorist organization” and “terrorist act” and the powers and limits on their exercise are in full compliance with the Covenant and the principles of legal certainty, necessity, proportionality and the rule of law. It should also clarify the definition of “allegiance against the State of Israel”, including under amendment No. 30 to the Entry into Israel Law, and refrain from using this provision to control the demographic composition in the State party or to silence human rights defenders advocating for the rights of Palestinians. Furthermore, the State party should ensure that persons suspected of or charged with terrorist acts or related crimes are provided, in law and practice, with appropriate procedural safeguards, in accordance with the Covenant, particularly articles 9 and 14.**

### **Violence against women, including domestic violence**

20. While noting the provision of trainings to investigators and patrol officers on handling cases of violence against women and the opening of a 24-hour emergency centre for victims of domestic violence, the Committee remains concerned at underreporting by victims of violence against women and the lack of impact assessment of measures taken to combat such violence. It

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<sup>14</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 10.

<sup>15</sup> [CCPR/C/128/2](#)

regrets the lack of disaggregated data on cases of violence against women, which would allow for targeted prevention and protection measures (arts. 2, 3, 6, 7 and 26).

**21. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Address the underreporting of violence against women, including by ensuring that all women have access to information about their rights and available remedies, and conduct awareness-raising campaigns about the unacceptability and adverse impact of violence against women;**

(b) **Intensify efforts to investigate all allegations of violence against women, prosecute and, if found guilty, punish perpetrators with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offences, and provide effective remedies to victims, including by strengthening training of relevant public officials, including judges, lawyers, prosecutors and law enforcement officers;**

(c) **Establish a reliable system for the collection of statistical data on violence against women, disaggregated by race or ethnic origin, in order to effectively target measures to ensure their protection.**

**Past human rights violations**

22. While noting the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Turkel Commission, including the establishment of a special unit within the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division, the Committee regrets the lack of updated information on investigation into human rights violations in the Gaza Strip related to the “Operation Cast Lead” (27 December 2008-18 January 2009), “Operation Pillar of Defence” (14-21 November 2012), and “Operation Protective Edge” (8 July-26 August 2014), and their outcomes (arts. 2, 6, 7, 9, 12, and 17).

23. **Bearing in mind the Committee’s previous recommendations,<sup>16</sup> the State party should continue and strengthen its efforts to implement the recommendations of the Turkel Commission, including by impartially and thoroughly investigating all allegations of human rights violations committed during the military operations in the Gaza Strip in 2008-2009, 2012 and 2014, bringing perpetrators, including those with command responsibility, to justice, and providing victims or their families effective remedies and guarantees of non-repetition.**

**Settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem**

24. While noting information provided by the State party on the investigations conducted into “ideologically-based offences” by settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Committee remains concerned about: (a) a significant increase in the number and severity of settler violence in recent years;<sup>17</sup> (b) the involvement of the Israeli Security Forces in such violence; and (c) a very low rate of indictments and convictions of perpetrators, fostering a general climate of impunity. The Committee notes with concern the underreporting by victims for lack of trust in the

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<sup>16</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 6.

<sup>17</sup> [A/76/336](#), para. 17.

authorities and fear of reprisals, and the lack of access by victims to justice and effective remedies (arts. 2, 6, 7, 14, 17 and 26).

**25. Recalling its previous recommendations,<sup>18</sup> the Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to prevent and combat violence perpetrated against Palestinians by the Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as by the Israeli Security Forces alongside with these settlers, and provide adequate protection to victims. To this end, the State party should ensure that all allegations of settler violence are thoroughly and impartially investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if found guilty, punished with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offences, and that victims are provided with effective remedies.**

#### **Excessive use of lethal force**

26. The Committee is deeply concerned by continuing and consistent reports of excessive use of lethal force by the Israeli Security Forces against Palestinian civilians, including children, and the lack of accountability for these acts, resulting in a general climate of impunity. It is particularly concerned about excessive force used in policing demonstrations, including the Great March of Return between March 2018 and December 2019, during which 183 people, including children, paramedics, journalists, and persons with disabilities, were shot dead. It is also concerned that no perpetrator has been brought to justice for excessive force used against 260 Palestinians, including children, during the May 2021 Escalation of Hostilities in Gaza (arts. 6, 7 and 21).

**27. Bearing in mind the Committee's previous recommendations,<sup>19</sup> the State party should take all necessary measures to prevent incidents of excessive use of force during law enforcement operations, including by:**

**(a) Ensuring that rules and regulations governing engagement or open fire of the Israeli Security Forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, and their practice, are consistent with the Committee's general comments Nos. 36 (2019) on the right to life and 37 (2020) on the right to peaceful assembly, the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and the United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement;**

**(b) Ensuring that prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations are launched into all incidents involving the excessive use of force by the Israeli Security Forces, that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if found guilty, punished, and that victims are provided with effective remedies;**

**(c) Providing regular training to all members of the Israeli Security Forces on the use of force, and the employment of non-violent means and crowd control, and ensure that the principles of necessity and proportionality are strictly adhered to in practice.**

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<sup>18</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 16.

<sup>19</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 13.

## **Prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

28. The Committee is deeply concerned that, despite the State party's 2017 report<sup>20</sup> indicating that its authorities were in the final stage of drafting a bill on the prohibition of torture, no such law has been adopted. It is also concerned that the State party continues to recognize the "defence of necessity" as a legal justification for torture and that an independent monitoring mechanism over detention facilities has not been established. While noting real-time monitoring of the Israeli Security Agency (ISA)'s interrogation rooms through closed-circuit televisions, the Committee remains concerned that no recording, apart from a concise memorandum, is kept of video transmission of the actual interrogations, leaving torture victims without audio or visual documentation to be used as evidence in courts (arts. 7 and 14).

**29. Bearing in mind the Committee's previous recommendations,<sup>21</sup> the State party should place an absolute ban on torture, including by incorporating into its legislation, such as the draft Basic Law on the rights of suspects and defendants, a definition of torture that is fully in line with article 7 of the Covenant, and removing the notion of "necessity" as a possible justification for the crime of torture. It should also establish an independent and effective monitoring mechanism over all detention facilities within its territory and occupied territories, keep audio and visual documentation of all interrogations taking place in the ISA facilities and ensure that such documentation can be used as evidence in courts.**

30. The Committee is deeply concerned about reports of the widespread and systematic practice of torture and ill-treatment by the Israeli Prison Service guards and the Israeli Security Forces against Palestinians, including children, at the time of arrest and in detention. It is particularly concerned about the use of physical and psychological violence, sleep deprivation, stress positions and prolonged solitary confinement, including against children and detainees with mental or psychosocial disabilities. It also notes with concern a very low rate of criminal investigations, prosecutions and convictions concerning allegations of torture and ill-treatment (arts. 7, 9, 10 and 24).

**31. In view of the Committee's previous recommendations,<sup>22</sup> the State party should take all necessary measures to end the practice of torture and ill-treatment against Palestinian detainees, particularly children, in line with the Covenant and international standards as reflected in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). In particular, it should consider abolishing the use of solitary confinement against children and developing alternative measures where necessary. It should ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment are promptly, impartially, thoroughly and effectively investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if found guilty, are punished with sanctions commensurate with the severity of the crime, and that victims are provided with full reparation, including rehabilitation and adequate compensation.**

32. The Committee is particularly concerned that, pursuant to amendment No. 3 to Counter Terrorism Law (2018), the Israeli police authorities have been withholding bodies of Palestinian militants and civilians who allegedly committed terrorist acts and were killed by the Israeli security forces. It is further concerned that the bodies were used as leverage for the release of Israeli bodies

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<sup>20</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4/Add.1](#), para. 78.

<sup>21</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 14.

<sup>22</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 15.



held by Palestinian militant groups and that the authorities set conditions for the release of bodies, including the payment of deposits and specific requirements for the funeral, including a limited number of participants and immediate burial. It expresses concern that the practice of withholding bodies of the deceased and denying the right of families to bury the deceased may amount to collective punishment and to torture and ill-treatment (arts. 6 and 7).

**33. The State party should review amendment No. 3 to Counter Terrorism Law (2018) allowing for the withholding of bodies of deceased Palestinians, with a view to bringing it into conformity with the Covenant, and immediately return the bodies of deceased Palestinians to their families.**

### **Liberty and security of persons**

34. The Committee is concerned about the widespread practice of arbitrary arrests and detention of Palestinians, including journalists, human rights defenders and children, including in facilities located in Israel in violation of international humanitarian law and the Covenant. It is further deeply concerned about the continuing practice of administrative detention of Palestinians, including children, without charge or trial and without the guarantee of fundamental legal safeguards, as in the case of human rights defender Salah Hammoudi. It notes with concern the use of secret evidence in administrative detention proceedings and routine approvals and renewals by military courts of administrative detention orders, even in cases involving detainees with serious health issues, such as Amal Nakhleh who was a minor at the time of his arrest (art. 9).

**35. Bearing in mind the Committee's previous recommendations,<sup>23</sup> the State party should immediately put an end to the widespread practice of arbitrary arrests and detention, including administrative detention, of Palestinians, in particular children. It should ensure that Palestinian detainees, including those held in administrative detention, are provided with all legal and procedural safeguards, including the rights to be informed of the reason for their arrest and detention, to access legal counsel and be brought promptly before a judge, and to notify a person of their choice of their detention, in line with article 9 of the Covenant and its general comment No. 35 (2014) on liberty and security of person.**

### **Freedom of movement**

36. The Committee reiterates<sup>24</sup> its deep concern about the continuing restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by the State party throughout the OPT, including East Jerusalem, through its discriminatory permit regime and designation of access-restricted areas. It is further concerned that, in enforcing movement and access restrictions, the Israeli Security Forces often use lethal force, such as live ammunition, leading to deaths and serious injuries of, inter alia, Palestinian commuters from the West Bank to the Israeli settlements or Israel, Gaza farmers whose lands were designated as an access-restricted area, and Gaza fishermen along the Gaza Coast where the authorized fishing zones are often reduced or entirely closed (arts. 2, 12 and 26).

**37. Bearing in mind the Committee's previous recommendations,<sup>25</sup> the State party should ensure that any restrictions imposed on freedom of movement of Palestinians from,**

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<sup>23</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 10.

<sup>24</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), paras. 12 and 18.

<sup>25</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 18.

into and within the OPT, including East Jerusalem, are consistent with the requirements for permissible restrictions set forth in article 12, paragraph 3, of the Covenant. It should also ensure that the enforcement of movement and access restrictions in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, is fully in line with the Covenant, the 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice and other international standards (see para. 27 (a) above), that all members of the Israeli Security Forces found responsible for excessive use of force are held accountable and appropriately sanctioned, and that victims of those acts receive effective remedies.

### **Blockade of Gaza Strip**

38. The Committee is deeply concerned about the long-standing blockade of air, sea and land of the Gaza Strip imposed by the State party, which amounts to the collective punishment of residents of Gaza, and about its adverse impact on the enjoyment of the right to freedom of movement and other rights under the Covenant, including access to basic and life-saving services. It is concerned about the decrease in the approval rate of applications for exit permits from Gaza and reported delays and even denials of applications for exit permits submitted on behalf of patients in need of medical treatment (arts. 1, 6, 7 and 12).

39. **Recalling its previous recommendations,<sup>26</sup> the Committee urges the State party to lift the blockade and closures in the Gaza Strip and end the practice of collective punishment. The State party should ensure that any measures restricting the freedom of movement of civilians and the transfer of goods from, into and within Gaza are consistent with its obligations under the Covenant. It should also take necessary measures to provide unrestricted access for urgent humanitarian assistance and to make its exit permit system more transparent and effective, including by prioritizing requests for patients in need of medical treatment and those accompanying patients, especially in cases of child patients.**

### **Treatment of refugees and asylum seekers**

40. The Committee is concerned about the persisting low recognition rate of refugees in the State party and the reported lack of coherent and transparent rules and criteria for refugee status determination procedure. It is further concerned at significant waiting times for the asylum procedure, the lack of access to free legal aid throughout asylum proceedings and automatic detention of asylum seekers and refugees who enter the country irregularly. It also notes with concern reports that, despite the State party's guarantee for safety, some Sudanese and Eritrean refugees who had been relocated from Israel to undisclosed third countries were subjected to ill-treatment and human trafficking (arts. 2, 6, 7, 9, 13 and 26).

41. **Recalling its previous recommendations,<sup>27</sup> the Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Introduce dedicated legislation governing the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and relevant procedures, in conformity with international human rights and refugee laws;**

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<sup>26</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 12.

<sup>27</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 20.



**(b) Make asylum procedures more effective and reduce the waiting times, including by increasing the financial and human resources of the competent authorities handling asylum applications;**

**(c) Provide asylum seekers with access to free legal aid throughout asylum procedures, including appeal proceedings;**

**(d) Review its policy of relocating Sudanese and Eritrean refugees to undisclosed third countries, with a view to finding safe and durable solutions for them in line with the principle of non-refoulement.**

### **Demolition and forced eviction in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem**

42. The Committee is concerned about the State party's increased and intensified practice of demolitions of Palestinian houses and other infrastructures in the West Bank, including in Sheikh Jarrah, including schools and water, sanitation and hygiene structures, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and their forced evictions and forcible transfer. While noting the State party's claim that demolitions are limited to illegal constructions, the Committee regrets that Palestinians have been systematically deprived of their land and housing rights for decades, and the restrictive zoning and planning regime in the West Bank makes it almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain construction permits, leaving them with no choice but to build illegally and risk demolition and eviction. In this respect, the Committee expresses its deep concern that such systematic practice of demolitions and forced evictions based on the discriminatory policies has led to the separation of Jewish and Palestinian communities in the OPT, which amounts to racial segregation (arts. 2, 7, 12, 14, 17, 26 and 27).

**43. The Committee strongly reiterates its previous recommendations<sup>28</sup> that the State party refrain from implementing evictions and demolition orders based on discriminatory planning policies, laws and practices affecting Palestinians, including Bedouins, in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The State party should review and reform its planning and zoning regime and construction permit system in order to prevent forced evictions and demolitions owing to the impossibility for Palestinians to obtain construction permits and ensure that affected populations are allowed to participate in the planning process. It should also ensure that procedural protection and due process guarantees are provided against forced evictions and demolitions.**

### **Family reunification**

44. The Committee is concerned that the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order) continues to prohibit family reunification of Israeli citizens with their Palestinian spouses living in the West Bank or Gaza Strip, or with spouses living in States classified as "enemy States". It is further concerned that, under the Law, East Jerusalem residents are required to either surrender their residency and live in the West Bank or apply for an annual permit for the non-resident spouse. It also notes with concern that Palestinian women whose residency status depends solely on that of their spouses may be reluctant to report domestic violence or file for divorce (arts. 17, 23, 24 and 26).

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<sup>28</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 9.

45. **The Committee strongly reiterates its previous recommendations<sup>29</sup> that the State party revoke the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order), with a view to removing disproportionate and adverse restrictions on the right to family life. The State party should also address the vulnerability of women whose residency status solely depends on that of their spouses and take adequate protection measures, including in cases of domestic violence or divorce.**

### **Conscientious objection to military service**

46. The Committee reiterates<sup>30</sup> its concern about the predominantly military nature of membership of the Special Military Committee that decides on requests for conscientious objection to compulsory military service. It is further concerned that conscientious objectors continue to be subjected to repeated punishment and imprisonment for their refusal to serve in the army (arts. 2, 14, 18 and 26).

47. **The Committee reiterates its recommendations<sup>31</sup> that the State party take concrete measures to diversify the membership of the Special Military Committee that handles requests for conscientious objection, with a view to making it fully independent and impartial. The State party should also put an end to the practice of repeated punishment and imprisonment of conscientious objectors, which may amount to a violation of the right not to be tried or punished again for the same offence.**

### **Freedom of expression**

48. The Committee is deeply concerned about serious restrictions on the right to freedom of expression in the State party, in particular:

(a) The chilling effect of: (i) amendment No. 28 to the Entry Into Israel Law, which allows the denial of entry to Israel and the OPT to any foreigner who publicly calls for a boycott of Israel; and (ii) 2016 amendment to the Disclosure Requirements Concerning Beneficiaries of Donations by a Foreign Political Entity Law, which requires non-governmental organizations that receive more than half of their funding from foreign sources to indicate such fact in every communication to the public;

(b) Increasing reports of threats, intimidation, harassment, attacks and arbitrary arrests and detention of journalists and human rights defenders, and of smear and defamation campaigns aimed at discrediting civil society organizations and discouraging support and funding for their work;

(c) The use of counter-terrorism legislation to criminalize work of civil society organizations and their members, such as the designation, in October 2021, of six Palestinian civil society organizations as “terrorist organizations” and declaration of these organizations by the Israeli Military Commander as “unlawful” (art.19).

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<sup>29</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 21.

<sup>30</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 23.

<sup>31</sup> [CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4](#), para. 23.

49. Bearing in mind the Committee's previous recommendations,<sup>32</sup> the State party should:

(a) Review the above-mentioned laws that may restrict the exercise of freedom of expression with a view to bringing them into line with article 19 of the Covenant;

(b) Guarantee effective protection of journalists and human rights defenders against any kind of threat, pressure, intimidation, attack and arbitrary arrests and detention, and ensure that such acts are independently and thoroughly investigated, those responsible are brought to justice and victims are provided with effective remedies;

(c) Refrain from intimidating, harassing, arresting, detaining or prosecuting for terrorist offences, journalists and human rights defenders who are exercising their right to freedom of expression, and ensure that six Palestinian organizations designated as "terrorists" and declared "unlawful" are provided with procedural safeguards, including access to evidence, and the right of appeal to an independent body. The Committee further recalls that any restrictions on the right to freedom of expression on national security grounds must comply fully with the strict requirements of article 19 of the Covenant and the Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011).<sup>33</sup>

#### **Participation in public affairs**

50. The Committee is concerned about State party's legislation that may have discriminatory effects on the exercise of the right to participate in public affairs by members of minority groups, particularly the Arab population, including:

(a) Amendment No. 62 to the Knesset Elections Law, which raises the threshold for political parties to be elected to the Knesset from 2 percent to 3.25 percent;

(b) Amendment No. 44 to the Basic Law: The Knesset, which allows the expulsion of a Knesset member from tenure, upon the approval of 90 Knesset members, on two grounds: incitement to racism and support for armed struggle of an enemy state or a terrorist organization;

(c) Amendment No. 46 to the Basic Law: The Knesset 5777-2017, which expands the grounds for disqualifying candidates from the Knesset election, which, among others, includes the act of negating the existence of the State of Israel as a "Jewish" state (arts. 2 and 25–26).

51. The State party should bring its electoral regulations and practices as well as laws concerning political parties into full compliance with the Covenant, including its article 25. In particular, it should review the aforementioned amendments with a view to ensuring that members of minority groups, especially the Arab population, are not disproportionately affected in exercising their rights under article 25 of the Covenant.

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<sup>32</sup> CCPR/C/ISR/CO/4, para. 23.

<sup>33</sup> CCPR/C/GC/34.

#### **D. Dissemination and follow-up**

52. The State party should widely disseminate the Covenant, its seventh periodic report and the present concluding observations with a view to raising the awareness of the rights enshrined in the Covenant among the judicial, legislative and administrative authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations operating in the country, and the general public. The State party should ensure that the report and the present concluding observations are translated into the official languages of the State party.

53. In accordance with rule 75, paragraph 1, of the Committee's rules of procedure, the State party is requested to provide, by 25 March 2025, information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in paragraphs 9 (national human rights institution), 29 (Prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment) and 43 (demolition and forced eviction in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem) above.

54. In line with the Committee's predictable review cycle, the State party will receive in 2028 the Committee's list of issues prior to the submission of the report and will be expected to submit within one year its replies to the list of issues, which will constitute its sixth periodic report. The Committee also requests the State party, in preparing the report, to broadly consult civil society and non-governmental organizations operating in the country. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/268, the word limit for the report is 21,200 words. The next constructive dialogue with the State party will take place in 2030 in Geneva.

### **X. UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADOPTS THREE RESOLUTIONS ON PALESTINE**

*On 31 March, the 49<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council adopted by a recorded vote (37 to 3, with 7 abstentions) a draft resolution ([A/HRC/49/L.26](#)) on the "Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice". On 1 April, the Human Rights Council adopted by a recorded vote (41 to 3, with 3 abstentions) a draft resolution ([A/HRC/49/L.17](#)) on the "Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" and another draft resolution ([A/HRC/49/L.18](#)) on the "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan" by a recorded vote (38 to 4, with 5 abstentions). The texts of the draft resolutions are reproduced below.*

**Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice ([A/HRC/49/L.26](#))**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and all*

relevant conventions, and affirming that these human rights instruments, among others, are applicable to and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* the relevant rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949 (Fourth Geneva Convention), which is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling further* the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014 at the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling* relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council,

*Recalling also* relevant United Nations reports, including the outcome reports of fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry, and the important recommendations made therein, and calling upon all duty bearers and United Nations bodies to pursue the implementation of those recommendations,

*Stressing* the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967,

*Affirming* the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Emphasizing* the need for States to investigate and prosecute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, to end impunity, to uphold their obligations to ensure respect and to promote international accountability,

*Regretting* the lack of progress made in the conduct of domestic investigations in accordance with international law standards, and aware of the existence of numerous legal, procedural and practical obstacles in the Israeli and Palestinian civil and criminal legal systems contributing to the denial of access to justice for Palestinian victims and of their right to an effective judicial remedy,

*Noting* the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, and its accession on 2 January 2015 to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Noting in particular* the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

*Reaffirming* the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and deeply concerned at the fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, through settlement activities and other measures that are tantamount to de facto annexation of Palestinian land,

*Gravely concerned* that long-standing impunity for international law violations has allowed for the recurrence of grave breaches and serious violations without consequence, and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure the access of victims to justice and effective remedies, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

*Expressing grave concern* at reports of serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including of possible war crimes and crimes against humanity, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and all other actions designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Deploing* the continuing and negative consequences of the conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip, including all casualties, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children, and ongoing violations of international law, and calling for full respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and for the principles of legality, distinction, precaution and proportionality,

*Gravely concerned* about the dire humanitarian, socioeconomic and security situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged closures and severe economic impediments and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of this situation, and the widespread destruction and continued impediments to the construction and reconstruction process imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the human rights situation,

*Expressing grave concern* at the firing of rockets into Israel,

*Stressing* the need to end immediately the closure of the Gaza Strip and for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip, while taking into account Israeli security concerns,

*Stressing also* the need to end the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions and checkpoints, several of which have been transformed into structures akin to permanent border crossings, other physical obstacles and a permit regime, which are applied in a discriminatory manner affecting the Palestinian population only and all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, violating the human rights of the Palestinian people,

*Stressing further* the need for all parties, in conformity with relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the rapid and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, and the

delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons,

*Deploing* all policies and practices whereby Israeli settlers who reside illegally in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are accorded preferential treatment over the Palestinian population, and also deploring the widespread violations of the human rights of Palestinian civilians, including as a result of recurrent and escalating settler attacks,

*Expressing deep concern* that thousands of Palestinians, including many children, women, elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and human rights defenders, continue to be detained, including under terms of administrative detention with limited or no judicial recourse, and held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, restricted access to proper medical care, including in a time of pandemic, denial of family visits and denial of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also at the ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and all reports of inhumane treatment and torture,

*Recalling* the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and calling for respect for those rules,

*Recalling also* the prohibition under international humanitarian law of individual and mass forcible transfers, and of the deportation of protected persons, from occupied territory, and the prohibition of deportation or transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies,

*Deploing* the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calling for the release of the bodies that have not yet been returned to their relatives, in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Recognizing* the work of Palestinian, Israeli and international civil society actors, humanitarian agencies and human rights defenders in documenting, countering violations of international law and providing relief to affected persons in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Convinced* of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties to implement the agreements reached, and stressing the importance of non-governmental organizations, which have been instrumental to human rights monitoring, protection and relief efforts undertaken by the international community, and expressing concern about the decision taken by Israel to proscribe certain Palestinian non-governmental organizations,

1. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, withdraw from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, and stresses that all efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be grounded in respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law and relevant United Nations resolutions;

2. *Stresses* the imperative of credible, timely and comprehensive accountability for all violations of international law in order to attain justice for the victims and establish a just and sustainable peace;

3. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council are illegal and have no validity;

4. *Affirms* that no State shall recognize as lawful a situation created by a serious breach by a State of an obligation arising under a peremptory norm of general international law, nor render aid or assistance in maintaining that situation, and all States shall cooperate to bring to an end through lawful means any serious breach;

5. *Deplores* the persistent non-cooperation of Israel with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and other United Nations mechanisms seeking to investigate alleged violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls for full cooperation with the Council and all its special procedures, relevant mechanisms and inquiries, and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

6. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all illegal actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including the establishment and expansion of settlements; the demolition of privately owned and residential structures belonging to Palestinians, including punitive home demolitions; the forcible transfer of Palestinian inhabitants and the revocation of residency permits of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem through various discriminatory laws; excavations in and around religious and historic sites; and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the territory as a whole, all of which have, inter alia, a grave and detrimental impact on the human rights of the Palestinian people and the prospects for a just and peaceful settlement;

7. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and demanded by the General Assembly in its resolutions ES-10/15 and ES-10/13, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has had a grave impact on the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

8. *Calls upon* Israel to immediately cease any demolitions or plans for demolitions that would result in the forcible transfer or forced eviction of Palestinians, to facilitate the return of Palestinian families and communities already subjected to forcible transfer or eviction to their original dwellings, and to ensure adequate housing and legal security of tenure;

9. *Expresses grave concern* at the restrictions imposed by Israel that impede the access of Christian and Muslim worshippers to holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including



East Jerusalem, and calls upon Israel to ensure non-discrimination on grounds of religion or belief and the preservation of and peaceful access to all religious sites;

10. *Urges* Israel to ensure that water resource allocation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is not discriminatory, which has a broad impact on human rights, including in the Jordan Valley area, affected by the destruction of the wells of local civilians, roof water tanks and other water and irrigation facilities under military and settler operation since 1967;

11. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and that it cease all measures and actions taken in breach of these bodies of law, and discriminatory legislation, policies and actions in the Occupied Palestinian territory that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, including if carried out as collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law, and any obstruction of humanitarian assistance and independent and impartial action of civil society, and that it fully respect international human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard;

12. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;

13. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease immediately its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, which severely restricts the freedom of movement of Palestinians within, into and out of Gaza and their access to basic rights, and which has a direct impact on livelihoods, economic sustainability and development throughout Gaza, and in this regard calls upon Israel to implement fully the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, while taking into account Israeli security concerns;

14. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, including unlawful lethal and other excessive use of force by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, including against civilians with special protected status under international law and who pose no imminent threat to life;

15. *Also condemns* the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas resulting in loss of life and injury, and calls for an end to all actions by militants and armed groups contrary to international law;

16. *Calls upon* all States to promote compliance with international law and all High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions, and to fulfil their obligations under articles 146, 147 and 148 of the said Convention with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and the responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties;

17. *Urges* all States to refrain from transferring arms when, in accordance with applicable national procedures and international obligations and standards, they assess that there is a clear risk that such arms might be used to commit or facilitate serious violations or abuses of international human rights law or serious violations of international humanitarian law;

18. *Reiterates* the responsibility of Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the right to health of all persons within the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to facilitate the immediate, sustained and unfettered passage of humanitarian relief, including the access of medical personnel, the entry of humanitarian equipment, transport and supplies to all areas under occupation, including the Gaza Strip, and the granting of exit permits for patients in need of medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip, and stresses the need for the unhindered passage of ambulances at checkpoints, especially in times of conflict;

19. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply immediately with its international law obligations to the protected occupied population, and ensure non-discriminatory access to vaccines for immunization against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including in coordination with the Government of the State of Palestine;

20. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance, including humanitarian relief and development assistance, to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

21. *Calls* for an end to all harassment, threats, intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders and civil society actors who peacefully advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people, including by cooperating with United Nations human rights bodies, calls for their protection, and underscores the need to investigate all such acts and to ensure accountability and effective remedies;

22. *Calls upon* Israel to revoke any unsubstantiated designations of Palestinian human rights and humanitarian organizations as terrorist or unlawful organizations, and refrain from using anti-terrorism legislation to undermine civil society and its valuable work and contributions to the pursuit of accountability;

23. *Expresses deep concern* at the conditions of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including minors, in Israeli jails and detention centres, and at the continued use of administrative detention, and calls upon Israel to explicitly prohibit torture, including psychological torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; to fully respect and abide by its international law obligations towards all Palestinian prisoners and detainees in its custody, including ensuring access to medical care and vaccinations, including in the context of the ongoing pandemic; to implement fully the agreement reached in May 2012 for a prompt and independent investigation into all cases of death in custody; and to release immediately all Palestinian prisoners, including Palestinian legislators, detained in violation of international law;

24. *Demands* that Israel cease its policy of transferring prisoners from the Occupied Palestinian Territory into the territory of Israel, and respect fully its obligations under article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention;

25. *Urges* Israel to ensure that any arrest, detention and/or trial of Palestinian children is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including by refraining from holding criminal proceedings against them in military courts that, by definition, fall short of providing the necessary guarantees to ensure respect for their rights and that infringe upon their right to non-discrimination;

26. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law are held to account through appropriate, fair and independent national or international criminal justice mechanisms, and to ensure the provision of an effective remedy for all victims, including full reparations, and stresses the need to pursue practical steps towards these goals to ensure justice for all victims and to contribute to the prevention of future violations;

27. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to end the reporting on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1;

28. *Also requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-second session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

29. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

### **Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination ([A/HRC/49/L.17](#))**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the provisions of Articles 1 and 55 thereof, which affirm the right of peoples to self-determination, reaffirming the need for the scrupulous respect of the principle of refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force, as specified in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory resulting from the threat or use of force,

*Guided also* by the provisions of article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirm that all peoples have the right to self-determination,

*Guided further* by the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in particular article 1 thereof, and by the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, and in particular Part I, paragraphs 2 and 3, relating to the right of self-determination of all peoples and especially those subject to foreign occupation,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 181 A and B (II) of 29 November 1947 and 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, including those adopted by the Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, that confirm

and define the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination,

*Recalling also* Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002 and 1402 (2002) of 30 March 2002,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

*Reaffirming* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, relevant United Nations resolutions and declarations, and the provisions of international covenants and instruments relating to the right to self-determination as an international principle and as a right of all peoples in the world, and emphasizing that this *jus cogens* norm of international law is a basic prerequisite for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

*Deploing* the plight of millions of Palestine refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted from their homes, and expressing deep regret about the fact that more than half of the Palestinian people continue to live in exile in refugee camps throughout the region and the diaspora,

*Affirming* the applicability of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources to the Palestinian situation as an integral component of the right to self-determination,

*Recalling* the conclusion of the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004, that the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, which is a right *erga omnes*, is severely impeded by Israel, the occupying Power, through the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which, together with the Israeli settlement enterprise and measures previously taken, result in grave breaches of international humanitarian and serious violations of international human rights law, including the forcible transfer of Palestinians and Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land,

*Considering* that the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people is being violated further by Israel through the existence and ongoing expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Noting* that the failure to bring the occupation to an end after 55 years heightens the international responsibility to uphold the human rights of the Palestinian people, and expressing its deep regret that the question of Palestine remains unresolved 75 years since the resolution on partition,

*Reaffirming* that the United Nations will continue to be engaged on the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity and the right to their independent State of Palestine;

2. *Also reaffirms* the need to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in conformity with international law and other internationally agreed parameters, including all relevant United Nations resolutions;

3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to reverse and redress any impediments to the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Palestine, and further reaffirms its support for the solution of two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security;

4. *Expresses grave concern* at any action taken in contravention of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem;

5. *Also expresses grave concern* at the fragmentation and the changes in the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which are resulting from Israel's continuing construction and expansion of settlements, forcible transfer of Palestinians and construction of the wall, stresses that this fragmentation, which undermines the possibility of the Palestinian people realizing their right to self-determination, is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and emphasizes in this regard the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

6. *Confirms* that the right of the Palestinian people to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources must be used in the interest of their national development, the well-being of the Palestinian people and as part of the realization of their right to self-determination;

7. *Calls upon* all States to ensure their obligations of non-recognition, non-aid or assistance with regard to the serious breaches of peremptory norms of international law by Israel, in particular of the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force, in order to ensure the exercise of the right to self-determination, and also calls upon them to cooperate further to bring, through lawful means, an end to these serious breaches and a reversal of Israel's illegal policies and practices;

8. *Urges* all States to adopt measures as required to promote the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, and to render assistance to the United Nations in carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter regarding the implementation of this right;

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

**Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan ([A/HRC/49/L.18](#))**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable instruments,

*Recalling* all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, the Security Council and the General Assembly reaffirming, inter alia, the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* all relevant United Nations reports, including reports by mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, and calling upon all duty bearers and United Nations bodies to pursue the implementation of recommendations contained therein,

*Noting* the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, and its accession on 2 January 2015 to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Reaffirming* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949 (Fourth Geneva Convention), to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Recalling* the declarations adopted at the Conferences of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, held in Geneva on 5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014, and reaffirming that States should not recognize as lawful a situation arising from breaches of peremptory norms of international law,

*Affirming* that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population to the territory it occupies constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary international law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES- 10/17 of 15 December 2006,

*Expressing grave concern* at the continuing construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, in violation of international law, and expressing its concern in particular at the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, and in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, thereby causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline in socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, creating a fait accompli on the ground that could be tantamount to de facto annexation in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, and making the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

*Noting* that the International Court of Justice concluded, inter alia, that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, had been established in breach of international law,

*Expressing its grave concern* at any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relevant to Jerusalem,

*Expressing its grave concern also* at the calls made by Israeli officials for the annexation of Palestinian territory in whole or in part, and recalling that such measures are internationally wrongful and are not to be recognized, aided or assisted,

*Noting* that Israel has been planning, implementing, facilitating and promoting the establishment and expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967, through, inter alia, the granting of benefits and incentives to settlements and settlers,

*Affirming* that the Israeli settlement policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, seriously endanger the viability of the two-State solution, undermining the physical possibility of its realization and entrenching a one-State reality of unequal rights,

*Noting* in this regard that the Israeli settlements fragment the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, into isolated geographical units, severely undermining the exercise of Palestinian self-determination, and deeply concerned that the magnitude, persistence and character of the settlement enterprise suggest that the occupation has been established with the intention of making it permanent, in violation of the prohibition of acquisition of territory resulting from the use of force,

*Noting also* that the settlement enterprise and the impunity associated with its persistence, expansion and related violence continue to be a root cause of many violations of Palestinians' human rights, and constitute the main factors perpetuating Israel's belligerent occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967,

*Deploing in particular* the construction and expansion of settlements by Israel in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan, which aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes, livelihoods and community infrastructure, including those structures provided as humanitarian relief by State-donors and independent humanitarian agencies, the eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, all of which further fragment and undermine the contiguity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Gravely concerned* about all acts of terror, violence, destruction, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers and groups of armed settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, which are a long-standing phenomenon aimed at, inter alia, displacing the occupied population and facilitating the expansion of settlements, and stressing the need for Israel to investigate and to ensure accountability for all of these acts,

*Aware* of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the appropriation of land, denial of access to farmers and the



dispossession of their land and crops, the forced diversion of water resources, the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of water wells by Israeli settlers, and of the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian consequences in this regard, including the loss of livelihoods in the agricultural sector, which precludes the Palestinian people from being able to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources,

*Aware also* that numerous Israeli policies and practices relating to settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, amount to blatant discrimination, including through the creation of a system privileging Israeli settlements and settlers against the Palestinian people, and in violation of their human rights,

*Recalling* the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which place responsibilities on all business enterprises to respect human rights by, inter alia, refraining from contributing to human rights abuses arising from conflict, and call upon States to provide adequate assistance to business enterprises to assess and address the heightened risks of abuses in conflict-affected areas, including by ensuring that their current policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures are effective in addressing the risk of business involvement in gross human rights abuses,

*Noting* that, in situations of armed conflict, business enterprises should respect the standards of international humanitarian law, and concerned that some business enterprises have, directly and indirectly, enabled, facilitated and profited from the construction and growth of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Emphasizing* the importance for States to act in accordance with their own national legislation on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law with regard to business activities that result in human rights abuses,

*Concerned* that economic activities facilitate the expansion and entrenchment of settlements, aware that the conditions of harvesting and production of products made in settlements involve, inter alia, the exploitation of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calling upon all States to respect their legal obligations in this regard, including the obligation to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention,

*Aware* that products wholly or partially produced in settlements have been labelled as originating from Israel, and concerned about the significant role that the production and trade of such products plays in helping to support and maintain the settlements,

*Aware also* of the role of private individuals, associations and charities in third States that are involved in providing funding to Israeli settlements and settlement-based entities, contributing to the maintenance and expansion of settlements, thereby contributing to the economic incentive structure perpetuating the occupation and its illegal manifestations throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Noting* that a number of business enterprises have decided to disengage from relationships or activities associated with the Israeli settlements owing to the risks involved,

*Expressing its concern* at the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate fully with the relevant United Nations mechanisms, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli settlements established since 1967 in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal under international law, and constitute a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and to economic and social development;

2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan, to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49 thereof, and to comply with all its obligations under international law and to cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all settlement activities in all the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and in this regard calls for the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions, including, inter alia, resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 452 (1979) of 20 July 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016;

4. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, including to cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated, to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and to make reparation for the damage caused to all natural or legal persons affected by the construction of the wall;

5. *Condemns* the continuing settlement and related activities by Israel, including the transfer of its nationals into the occupied territory, the construction and expansion of settlements, the expropriation and de facto annexation of land, the demolition of homes and community infrastructure, disruptions to the livelihood of protected persons, the confiscation and destruction of property, including humanitarian relief consignments, the forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians or the threat thereof, including of entire communities, and the construction of bypass roads, which change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, constitute a violation of international humanitarian law, in particular article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and of international human rights law, and undermine the viability of the two-State solution;

6. *Expresses its grave concern* at and calls for the cessation of:

(a) The conduct of economic activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, for the benefit of the settlement enterprise and associated activities;

(b) The expropriation of Palestinian land, the demolition of Palestinian homes, demolition orders, forced evictions and “relocation” plans, the obstruction and destruction of humanitarian assistance, including projects funded by the international community, and the creation of a coercive environment and unbearable living conditions by Israel in areas identified for the expansion and construction of settlements, and other practices aimed at the forcible transfer of the Palestinian civilian population, including Bedouin communities and herders, and further settlement activities, including the denial of access to water and other basic services by Israel to Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in areas slated for settlement expansion, and including the appropriation of Palestinian property through, inter alia, the declaration of “State lands”, closed “military zones”, “national parks” and “archaeological” sites to facilitate and advance the expansion or construction of settlements and related infrastructure, in violation of Israel’s obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

(c) Israeli measures in the form of policies, laws and practices that have the effect of preventing the full participation of Palestinians in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and prevent their full development in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;

7. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power:

(a) To end without delay its occupation of the territories occupied since 1967, which may be contrary to international law, to reverse and redress the settlement policy in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, and, as a first step towards the dismantlement of the settlement enterprise, to stop immediately the establishment of new settlements and the expansion of existing settlements, including so-called natural growth and related activities, and to discard any and all plans to install settlers in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem;

(b) To put an end to all of the human rights violations linked to the presence of settlements, especially of the right to self-determination, and to fulfil its international obligations to provide effective remedy for victims;

(c) To take immediate measures to prohibit and eradicate all policies and practices that discriminate against and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by, inter alia, putting an end to the system of separate roads for the exclusive use of Israeli settlers, who reside illegally in the said territory, the complex combination of movement restrictions consisting of the wall, roadblocks and a permit regime that only affects the Palestinian population, the application of a two-tier legal system that has facilitated the establishment and consolidation of the settlements, and other violations and forms of institutionalized discrimination;

(d) To cease the requisition and all other forms of unlawful appropriation of Palestinian land, including so-called State land, and its allocation for the establishment and expansion of settlements, and to halt the granting of benefits and incentives to settlements and settlers;

(e) To put an end to all practices and policies resulting in the territorial fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and which are isolating Palestinian

communities into separate enclaves and deliberately changing the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

(f) To take and implement serious measures, including the confiscation of arms and enforcement of criminal sanctions, with the aim of ensuring full accountability for and preventing all acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and to take other measures to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians and Palestinian properties and to afford all victims of settler violence access to justice and effective remedy without discrimination in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

(g) To bring to a halt all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian population;

(h) To cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the occupied Syrian Golan;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption of the European Union Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the European Union since 2014;

9. *Urges* all States and international organizations to ensure that they are not taking actions that either recognize, aid or assist the expansion of settlements or the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to continue to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to these and all other illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

10. *Reminds* all States of their legal obligations as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall, not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction, and to ensure compliance by Israel with international humanitarian law as embodied in the Fourth Geneva Convention;

11. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, including not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in these territories with regard to, inter alia, the issue of trade with settlements, consistent with their obligations under international law;

(b) To implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to take appropriate measures to help to ensure that businesses domiciled in their territory and/or under their jurisdiction, including those

owned or controlled by them, refrain from committing, contributing to, enabling or benefiting from the human rights abuses of Palestinians, in accordance with the expected standard of conduct in the Guiding Principles and relevant international laws and standards, by taking appropriate steps in view of the immitigable nature of the adverse impact of their activities on human rights;

(c) To provide guidance to individuals and businesses on the financial, reputational and legal risks, including the possibility of liability for corporate involvement in gross human rights abuses and the abuses of the rights of individuals, of becoming involved in settlement-related activities, including through financial transactions, investments, purchases, the importation of settlement products, procurements, loans, the provision of services, and other economic and financial activities in or benefiting Israeli settlements, to inform businesses of these risks in the formulation of their national action plans for the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to ensure that their policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively address the heightened risks of operating a business in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

(d) To increase monitoring of settler violence with a view to promoting accountability;

12. *Calls upon* business enterprises to take all measures necessary to comply with their responsibilities under the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and relevant international laws and standards with respect to their activities in or in relation to the Israeli settlements and the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to avoid the adverse impact of such activities on human rights, and to avoid contributing to the establishment, maintenance, development or consolidation of Israeli settlements or the exploitation of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

13. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies to take all necessary measures and actions within their mandates to ensure full respect for and compliance with Human Rights Council resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011, on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other relevant international laws and standards, and to ensure the implementation of the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, which provides a global standard for upholding human rights in relation to business activities that are connected with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

14. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-second session;

15. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.