



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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15 June–3 July 2020

Agenda item 7

**Human rights situation in Palestine and other  
occupied Arab territories**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 May 2020]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

GE.20-09545(E)



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## **Human Rights Situation in Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)**

Since its foundation, Israel has invested significant resources in expanding its control over the lands it has occupied and in destruction of Palestinian properties and infrastructures. Also it establishes and expands the settlements in the occupied territories, both in terms of the area of land they occupy and in terms of population.

According to reports and statistics, Israel directly controls 93 percent of the land, including occupied East Jerusalem and thousands of Palestinians have been forcibly displaced and still are at risk of forced displacement.

Although it is illegal for the occupying power to deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies, and any annexation of Occupied Palestinian Territory directly violates fundamental norms in international law, they seem no longer to be taken seriously by Israeli policy makers.

Alongside Israel, the United States of America and many European Union countries are involved in a close military, economic and political relationship with Israel, and fail to stand up for the rights of the Palestinian people.

Recently, even in the middle of a health crisis and the concerns for Covid-19 pandemic, Israel is continuing to entrench the illegal occupation and plans to annex more occupied lands to its own territories.

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is deeply concerned about the violations of International, Humanitarian and Human Rights law committed by Israel. The right to life, health, housing, equality, self-determination, property, fair trial, freedom of movement, freedom of expression, freedom from torture and inhuman treatment and adequate standard of living are among violated rights of all Palestinian population.

ODVV is concerned about new annexation plans which undermine the peace process.

ODVV is also worried that the lack of accountability for using lethal force and committing unlawful acts against Palestinians perpetuates a cycle of impunity that facilitates further violations and oppressions.

ODVV also draws attention to the land, sea and air blockade which has deprived people of occupied territories from their own lands and resources and restricted their freedom of movement. 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza remain 'locked in', denied free access to the remainder of the territory and the outside world.

ODVV expresses its concerns over the health emergency situation caused by Corona Virus in relation to Israeli detentions and jails. The number of Palestinian detainees, especially children, increased in Israel since January 2020 despite the widespread calls to decrease the number of people in custodial detention globally. Palestinian detainees imprisoned by Israeli authorities live in close proximity to each other, often in compromised sanitary conditions, with limited access to resources to maintain minimum hygiene routines.

### **Recommendations**

ODVV urges Israel to stop targeted attacks and killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians especially children.

ODVV calls upon Israel to immediately and fully halt settlement construction in OPT and respect the right of Palestinians to self-determination. Also, considers the annexation of new lands contrary to international laws and violation of the inalienable Palestinian rights.

ODVV calls upon Human Rights Council, Security Council and other international institutions to make efforts for removal of blockades and borders which surrounded Palestinians so they can not enjoy their right to land and recourses and freedom of movement.

ODVV believes that the resistance towards settlement building in the OPT requires a global will and legal approach, and calls upon the international community and human rights institutions to support Palestinians and consider the settlements as war crime.

We call on Israel to take immediate action to release all Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, especially children, due to the rapid global spread of the novel coronavirus.

We hope that in the near future, Israel's inaction and indifference to hundreds of resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council will be stopped by international community's decisive action and condemnation of Israeli occupation.

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