



# General Assembly

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## Sixty-eighth session

Item 52 of the provisional agenda\*

### **Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories**

## **Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [67/118](#), concerns the provision of the necessary facilities and staff to support the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

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\* [A/68/150](#).



1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [67/118](#).
2. In line with paragraph 8 of that resolution, the Secretariat continued to provide the necessary facilities and staff to support the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. The Special Committee was directly supported in the fulfilment of its mandate by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Information Centre in Cairo, the Department of Safety and Security, the Department of Public Information and offices of the United Nations Resident Coordinators in Egypt and Jordan. In addition, the Special Committee engaged with the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
3. Much of the support was related to the Special Committee's annual investigative mission to the region. In the light of the continuing practice of Israel of non-cooperation with it, the Special Committee was unable to visit the occupied territories within its mandate. In the light of the heightened security situation in the region, the Special Committee did not visit the Gaza Strip through Egypt at the Rafah crossing as it had in previous years. The Special Committee convened meetings in Amman on 23 and 24 June 2013 and in Cairo on 25 and 26 June. The Special Committee engaged with interlocutors residing in the occupied Syrian Golan by way of teleconference. During its mission, the Special Committee collected testimony and information from 33 victims, witnesses, officials and representatives of organizations working to document and prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the occupied territories. Their testimony is recorded in the Special Committee's report, to be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

#### **Department of Public Information**

4. Pursuant to paragraph 8 (d) of resolution [67/118](#), the activities set out below were undertaken by the Department of Public Information.
5. The Department continued to cover the activities of the Special Committee, using both traditional means of communication and new media platforms to highlight the Special Committee's work and related developments in multiple languages.
6. The Department's Meetings Coverage Section provided timely, detailed and accurate coverage in English and French when the Special Committee's reports were taken up by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and by the General Assembly. The Media and Accreditation and Liaison Unit, together with the associated Media Documents Centre, e-mailed the Special Committee's reports and United Nations press releases thereon to its clients and used social media to alert clients about the Special Committee's activities.
7. The Special Committee was also prominently covered on the United Nations News Centre portal, which is available in the six official languages of the United Nations. News stories were posted online and distributed through the portal's e-mail service, RSS feeds and Facebook and Twitter accounts. The stories were reproduced by an array of external websites, including popular news aggregators and various online outlets based in Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the United States of America.

8. United Nations Radio, which operates in the six official languages in addition to Kiswahili and Portuguese, spotlighted issues and developments relating to the Special Committee's mandate, including news stories and feature programmes about the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, the activities of special rapporteurs and the overall economic, social and human rights conditions of people living in the occupied Palestinian territory. It also included stories based on reports released by the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Children's Fund.

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