



**Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary,
during the Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian
Territory
53rd HRC Session
10 July 2023**

Mr. President,

The OIC Group thanks the SR for her report; reiterates its support for her mandate and rejects attempts to silence her independent voice for exposing the grave violations of international human rights law by the Israeli apartheid regime.

We are deeply concerned over denial of SR's access to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as is the case also to all other Special Rapporteurs.

We strongly condemn the occupation regime's attack on Jenin last week, resulting in loss of innocent lives.

We share the SR's concerns that generations of Palestinians have endured widespread and systematic arbitrary deprivation of liberty. Since 1967, over 800,000 Palestinians, including children, have been detained based on their legitimate right to resist an illegal occupier.

Currently, almost 5,000 Palestinians, including 155 children, are detained by Israel. The Palestinian people's right to self-determination that the occupying power targets, appears as the ultimate so called 'threat' to be suppressed.

The OIC endorses SR's observation that the Israeli occupation has been a tool of colonialism. The systematic use of arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment and torture, are indeed foundational elements of apartheid and constitute blatant violation of UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law.

The OIC agrees with SR that the unlawfulness of the Israeli occupation negates any form of legitimacy to exercise any control over OPT or to arrest any Palestinian.

We call upon the occupying power to immediately end its illegal occupation, release all Palestinian detainees, including Waleed Daqqa who was diagnosed with cancer, detained for more than 37 years, and release all withheld bodies of deceased Palestinians and guarantee dignified burials, without any delay.

I thank you!

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