



OIC Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor, during the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on OPT 47th Session of Human Rights Council

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The OIC Members States (list-annexed) thank the Special Rapporteur (SR) for his report.

We deplore the continuous non-cooperation by Israel with this mandate. The United Nations and this Council should address this lack of cooperation and bring Israel into compliance with the will of the international community.

The SR's report highlights grave violations committed by Israel, the occupying power, in the Occupied State of Palestine, in particular the continuation of the settlement enterprise. The Israeli settlements are at the core of colonial occupation and are only made possible through the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Despite this, the occupying power continues to initiate and expand settlements in complete defiance of international law and the Rome Statute.

Israel, the occupying power, continues unabated with its policy of house demolitions resulting in the displacement of hundreds of Palestinians. These demolitions are manifestations of Israel's illegal demographic and geographic engineering, which has always been a central pillar of its colonization, apartheid, and annexation policies.

We reiterate the urgent call for accountability, and for meaningful actions to address the root causes of this grave injustice. In this regard, we further reiterate our call to continue updating the database of business operating in settlements, as clearly mandated to the High Commissioner by HRC in resolution 31/36. We welcome the establishment of the ongoing Commission of Inquiry, and call upon all member states to support its work as a step towards achieving justice and accountability. Only such action can change the reality we face and bring justice and lasting peace for the people of Palestine.

I thank you.