



**National Statement, delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, DPR, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children**

**HRC 55<sup>th</sup> Session**

**13 March 2024**

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Representative for presenting her report to the Council.

We echo the SR's assertion that the need to prevent and respond effectively to violence against children remains more urgent than ever. Violence against children was becoming ever more normalized, globally.

Even though, the report highlighted several key areas pertaining to violence against children but we are dismayed that the report barely takes into account the brutalities being committed against the children in OPT.

The exposure and vulnerability of children violence in Gaza and the ensuing calamity is unprecedented.

Committee on the Rights of Child has stressed that no child in Gaza is free from fear, pain and hunger.

UNICEF has termed Gaza as the most dangerous place to be a child.

More than 1 million have been forcibly displaced from their homes; sadly, this titanic figure continues to grow unabatedly.

No words can aptly capture the trauma that these children are being put through and the long term negative affects on their mental, physical and emotional health, as well as, their educational and professional potential.

We request the SR to keep the plight of children in Gaza and other areas of occupation in focus while continuing her work.

I thank you!