

**Cross-Regional Joint Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan during General Debate under
Agenda Item 2**

51st Human Rights Council Session

13 September 2022

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of more than sixty countries¹ from across various regions.

The unlawful raids and closure of six Palestinian civil society organizations last month by Israel on the unsubstantiated pretext of “terrorism financing” is a matter of deep concern.

We deem these recurrent declarations, designations and attacks unacceptable and deplorable.

We share the serious concerns expressed by the Special Procedures of this Council that Israeli actions have resulted in serious infringement of the rights to freedom of opinion & expression, association and assembly, among others.

These illegal measures impede the provision of financial resources, thereby undermining the vital humanitarian, human rights and development work these organizations undertake in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

Civil society organizations are critical to promotion of democratic values and human rights as well as delivery of humanitarian and development assistance. They are also central to the achievement of a two-state solution.

We also regret the refusal of Israeli authorities to grant visa extension to OHCHR officials. We share the High Commissioner’s concerns that such actions would prevent regular monitoring and reporting on human rights situation in the occupied territory.

We urge the Israeli authorities to immediately rescind these unlawful actions; comply fully with its international obligations; ensure safe and secure space for civil society organizations; grant visa extension to OHCHR officials and afford universally admissible privileges and immunities to them.

I thank you.

¹ List is annexed

List of Countries

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Azerbaijan
5. Bahrain
6. Bangladesh
7. Benin
8. Bolivia
9. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
10. Brunei Darussalam
11. Burkina Faso
12. Cameroon
13. Chad
14. Comoros
15. Cote d'Ivoire
16. Cuba
17. Djibouti
18. Egypt
19. Indonesia
20. Gabon
21. Gambia
22. Guinea
23. Guinea-Bissau
24. Guyana
25. Iran
26. Iraq
27. Jordan,
28. Kazakhstan
29. Kyrgyzstan
30. Kuwait
31. Libya
32. Lebanon
33. Maldives
34. Malaysia
35. Mali
36. Mauritania
37. Morocco
38. Mozambique
39. Namibia
40. Niger
41. Nigeria
42. Oman
43. Palestine
44. Pakistan
45. Qatar
46. Saudi Arabia
47. Senegal
48. Sierra Leone
49. Somalia
50. South Africa
51. Sudan
52. Suriname
53. Tajikistan

54. Togo
55. Tunisia
56. Turkey
57. Turkmenistan
58. Uganda
59. Uzbekistan
60. Venezuela
61. Yemen