



**Statement by Amb. Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative, during Briefing by
Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem,
and Israel
10th November 2023**

Mr. Commissioner,

We thank the members of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry and the Special Rapporteur for this joint briefing.

We appreciate the services of members of the Commission, the Special Rapporteur, and all UN officials, doctors, journalists and others working on the ground under extremely challenging circumstances.

For more than a month now, the world has witnessed brazen violations of international human rights, international humanitarian laws and UNSC resolutions.

Daily targeted killings and destruction in Gaza are at a scale that is unacceptable for the human conscience.

Human lives have been reduced to numbers, most notably the killings of more than 4500 children.

As parents ourselves, the particular suffering of children is heart-wrenching, for us all.

Dehumanization of the Palestinian people must also end.

Human dignity is being violated every minute in Gaza.

We appreciate the announcement by the COI that it is collecting evidence of crimes committed in the latest spate of violence.

We draw satisfaction from COI and SR's correct reflection on Israel's fallacious claims of self-defense. This was timely and necessary.

We also recognize the public warning by the Special Rapporteur on the risk of ethnic cleansing, however, it must be noted that we are already in the midst of an ethnic cleansing.

Accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression must follow.

In this context, the COI can also highlight the path forward to accountability in its upcoming reports.



Mr. Commissioner,

While reaffirming our support to the respective mandates of the COI and the Special Rapporteur, we call for an immediate ceasefire, protection, and safe return of all civilians, provision of essential supplies, and humanitarian assistance.

We also reiterate our call for urgent actions by the international community to end the Israeli occupation and ongoing brutalities and reaffirm support for the two-state solution on the pre-1967 borders, based on a free and secure State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. living side by side and in peace with all its neighbors.

I thank you once again and hope that the Commission, despite the challenges, will continue documenting the crimes committed by Israel.

I thank you!