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40th SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Protests
in the Occupied Palestinian Territories -Agenda Item 7

OIC Statement delivered by Pakistan

(18 March 2019)

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC member states.

The OIC would like to welcome the Commission of Inquiry to investigate in the events occurred in the context of mass protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 30 March 2018 and we thank them for the comprehensive report presented to the Human rights council. And we once again condemn Israel's refusal to give access and to cooperate with the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry.

Mr. President,

In the light of this report, the OIC condemns the ongoing barbaric aggression by the Israeli occupation forces against civilian protesters in the occupied and besieged Gaza Strip, which, until last week, killed approximately 256 Palestinians and wounded over 29 thousand others, including children, health workers, journalists and persons with disabilities. The targeting of civilians especially the protected persons and intentionally by the Israeli snipers is in direct violation of international law and it tantamount to a war crime. Which is what the COI concluded in its investigation.

The more than a decade long closure and blockade, has a devastating impact on the 2 million Palestinians' rights to health, education, family, access to

economic opportunities, access to justice, and in particularly grave cases, the right to life in Gaza. Which led the Palestinian people to demonstrate and call for their rights. And their right to peaceful assembly is protected by all laws which were affirmed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. President,

In this regard, the OIC calls on all states and relevant UN bodies to take concrete and decisive actions to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made in the report, to hold those responsible accountable for the violations and crimes they committed, to end the culture of impunity and to compel Israel to comply with its obligations under international law.

I thank you.