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42nd SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate on Agenda Item 7 -Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

OIC Statement delivered by Pakistan

(23September 2019)

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

Once again, we regret that some member states decided to continue with their boycott of Agenda Item 7 in support of Israel, the Occupying power. This action only encourages the occupying power to continue its relentless acts as a State above the law and unbound by principles of international law and all without any consequence.

The occupied east Jerusalem faced the biggest demolition act since 1967. The Israeli occupation legalised the demolition of 16 residential buildings that included 100 homes, as a first step for further demolitions, forcibly displacing hundreds of Palestinians. This type of home demolitions is illegal under international law, but that has not prevented the Israeli military from demolishing residences across the West Bank for decades. And it's just one of the Israeli illegal practices against Palestinians.

Mr. President,

The OIC is concerned that the illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to expand and the advancement of plans for settlement construction continues at a higher rate than last year, in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. It is in this context we ask for the fulfilment of Resolution 31/36 mandate in its entirety, by publishing the Database at the earliest.

The OIC strongly deplores the announcements made by Israel's PM of annexation plans of areas in the west bank, particularly Hebron, the Jordan valley and the northern portion of the dead sea.

The OIC also deplores the violent arrests and detentions by the occupying power throughout the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Palestinian children are being detained daily. Each year approximately 500-700 Palestinian children, some as young as 12 years, are detained and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system.

The OIC strongly condemns the systematic attacks and aggressions against Al-Aqsa Mosque and all worshipers by the occupying power, and we call for public mobilization at all levels to protect it and to thwart the Israeli plans aimed at controlling and dividing it.

Mr. President,

Every passing day reaffirms that Israel is more interested in colonizing Palestinian land, rather than achieving a just peace and security. For that, we urge the international community to urgently uphold its legal and moral obligations to force Israel to cease and reverse its violations of international law. And to bring the Israeli military occupation of Palestine to an end and realize its sovereignty over the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. And end the illegal occupation of All occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and the Lebanese territories, and the continuing violations of the human rights of its people.

I thank you.