



Statement on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative during General Debate under Agenda Item 7

49th HRC Session
25 March 2022

Mr. President,

The OIC reiterates its strong support for agenda item 7 as part of the Institution Building package linked to the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. We reject any effort to undermine this agenda item as such moves are aimed at shielding the occupying power, Israel, from international accountability. Doing so would further erode the reliability of the UN system, reward impunity and normalize foreign occupation, in violation of international law and norms.

Mr. President,

The OIC strongly condemns Israel's continuous illegal policies and practices in Occupied Palestine, resulting in flagrant human rights violations and abuses including extrajudicial killings; torture; brutalization of children; confiscation of land, forcible transfers, demolition of homes. The over 15 years of Israeli blockade has forced Gaza's two million inhabitants to live in deplorable humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions, with repeated military strikes and suffocating movement restrictions.

The situation on the ground further confirms that Israel is more interested in colonizing Palestinian land, rather than achieving a just peace and security.

The Israeli settlements are at the core of colonial occupation and are only made possible through the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of Apartheid. Unfortunately, the occupying power continues to initiate and expand settlements in complete defiance of international law. The OIC reiterates its call on the High Commissioner to continue updating the database of companies operating in settlements as mandated by resolution 31/36.

Impunity for Israeli crimes is a threat to the international order. The double standards used in avoiding accountability on these crimes and politicization of Palestinian human rights is what undeniably emboldens Israel to continue with its military operations and aggressions towards the defenseless Palestinian civilians.

A rule based international order is equally at risk from both its violations as well as its selective application.



The OIC urges this Council to urgently uphold its legal and moral obligations, hold Israel accountable for its illegal occupation in accordance with international law in order to pursue the path for achieving a just two states solution on the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

We also reiterate long standing global demand for ending 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.