



OIC group statement delivered by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, First Secretary, during ID with Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory

HRC 55th Session

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Mr. President,

The OIC Group¹ welcomes the Special Rapporteur and thanks her for presenting a focused and timely report.

We reaffirm our abiding support for the Special Rapporteur's mandate.

We are gravely concerned by and reject in the strongest terms attempts to silence discussion of the urgent and deplorable human rights situation in Occupied Palestine.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

We commend your courage in documenting the acts and intentions underlying Israel's ongoing all-out aggression and acts amounting to genocide in Gaza.

You have shed much-needed light on the perversions of international law with which the occupation regime seeks to justify the unjustifiable. We reject efforts to dehumanize the entire civilian Palestinian population as collateral damage. The whole of Gaza cannot be considered a human shield.

In past months, Israel's settler-colonial project has been completely unmasked.

The occupation forces' dangerous and ruthless push for a "Final Solution" to the Palestinian question is plain for all to see as its forces encircle Rafah like vultures and its ravenous land-grab continues unabated in the West Bank.

Mr. President,

The OHCHR, UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders and allied mechanisms calling out Israel's gross violations have strengthened the case for accountability.

Justice delayed is justice denied. We hope in earnest that the ICJ and ICC (International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court) would finally deliver where the international community has failed.

¹ Except Albania

We demand full implementation – by the occupation power and all other countries – of the ICJ's orders to prevent acts amounting to genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. We call for an arms embargo and economic sanctions against Israel for failing to comply with the Court's orders and international protection for the people of Palestine.

A hands-off approach is no longer workable.

Thank you.