



**Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,  
Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, at the 30<sup>th</sup> Special Session of  
the Human Rights Council on grave human rights situation in OPT, including  
East Jerusalem**

**27 May 2021**

**Madam President,**

On behalf of the OIC member states that have requested for the Special Session, we strongly condemn Israel's recent military aggression, use of lethal force against peaceful protestors, and state-sponsored settler violence against the Palestinian people.

We also deplore unacceptable actions by the occupation forces including unauthorized entry into Al-Aqsa mosque, use of force and undermining the sanctity of the places of worship during the holy month of Ramadan.

The OIC condemns the growing pace of illegal evictions, and demolition of Palestinian homes, and properties.

This wave of aggression, building on previous patterns of violent state repression has further exacerbated the long-standing human rights and humanitarian crises in OPT. In only 11 days, 277 Palestinian civilians have been killed, including 70 children and 40 women; 8500 are wounded and 75000 displaced.

Critical civilian infrastructures, such as schools, hospitals and media outlets, have been deliberately targeted and flattened out by the occupying power. As a result, today, the Palestinian people have limited access to water, sanitation and health services, as they brave a deadly COVID virus, and even a deadlier occupier.

The sheer scale of civilian deaths, destruction and displacement in OPT is another sober reminder that global inaction has sustained a disturbing pattern of impunity for willful violations of international law by the occupying power.

Regrettably, the self-professed global champions of human rights continue to shield the occupier from global accountability, and literally provide arm and ammunitions for its widely reported war crimes and crimes of apartheid against the Palestinian people.

Let us be clear. There is no legal and moral equivalence between the occupier and the occupied. The OIC reaffirms its unstinted support for the legitimate struggle of Palestinian people for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.



Despite ceasefire, Israeli colonial occupation and policy of ethnic cleansing continues.

We call for result-oriented global efforts to address the root causes of this long festering issue. For durable peace, justice and protection and promotion of human rights of Palestinians, it is imperative that they should be granted their inalienable right to self-determination within the framework of the two-State solution.

As the global custodian of human rights, it is a moment of introspection for this Council. Today's Session is the 8<sup>th</sup> one since the establishment of this body to discuss and address grave human rights abuses of Israel in the OPT. Continued lack of meaningful accountability of Israel and abundance of expediency and appeasement will further erode the credibility of this global body.

We hope that the Council would not belittle the loss of thousands of Palestinian lives including innocent children and women. We reiterate our call on the Council to:

- a) Demonstrate its credibility and speak with one voice to ensure respect for basic human rights and dignity of the Palestinian people.
- b) Ensure meaningful accountability for human rights abuses, being perpetrated by Israel in occupied Palestinian Territory and beyond.

I thank you.