



Statement, delivered on behalf of the OIC by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Organizational Meeting for the 30th Special Session of Human Rights Council on the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

25 May 2021

Madam President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the OIC member states that have requested convening of the Special Session. We would like to express our gratitude to all those countries that have supported the call for this Special Session in the face of grave rights' violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem and in Israel. This signifies their commitment to uphold the human rights and international law.

Unfortunately, Israel persists with its distorted discourse of being "singled out" by the United Nations in order to mask its impunity and to shield itself from international accountability. Israel must realize though, that it will never be able to bury the truth of its brutalization of the Palestinian people, after it bombs and flattens residential buildings, hospitals, schools and offices of international media outlets, reducing them to rubble, and even as it tries to bully States into silence and inaction.

Millions of people of conscience all over the world, including Israelis and countless Jewish organizations, have risen to call out Israel's persistent and grave human rights violations, including against Muslim and Christian Palestinian worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque and at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The occupying power continues to use brute force against the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, killing hundreds including women and children and wounding thousands. Through forced evictions, Palestinian civilians are being ethnically cleansed from their homes in East Jerusalem and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Palestinian citizens in Israel are also being attacked and lynched by the mobs and extremist settlers with Israeli government's complicity or abdication of its duty. The people of Palestine deserve equal opportunity like any other people to exercise their fundamental rights, freedoms and dignity under international human rights law.

We will continue to use all peaceful, political, diplomatic and legal means to call for accountability. We will continue to call for addressing the root causes of the grave injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people for over seven decades. Only by restoring justice, equality and dignity of the Palestinian people, we can transform oppression, occupation and discrimination into just, peaceful and secure future for all.

In a spirit of constructive engagement and to garner wide support, we have convened informal consultations on the draft resolution as an outcome of the Special Session this



morning. We trust that all States will uphold their responsibilities under the UN Charter and international law and support the calls for justice, accountability and a peaceful future for the people of Palestine.

We call on all Member States to actively contribute to the deliberations of the Special Session and hope that the resolution will be adopted by consensus.

I thank you.