



**Statement on behalf of OIC Delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during ID with the High Commissioner on OPT**

**On 3 March 2023**

**Mr. Vice President,**

The OIC takes note of the High Commissioner's report, presented pursuant to HRC resolution 49/4.

We reiterate our grave concern over attempts to create a false equivalence between Israel, as an illegal occupier, and the occupied people of Palestine. There can be no legitimacy for a colonizing state whose crimes against humanity over decades are well established under international law.

The OIC strongly condemns the continuous systematic violations of international law in the occupied territory both by Israeli occupying forces and extremist settlers.

The apartheid regime has unleashed the reign of terror against the defenceless Palestinian people, resulting in loss of innocent lives and injuries. This loss does not differentiate between combatants or non-combatants as well as of age, sex, occupation, cultural identity or religion. Innocent children, defenceless women, courageous youth, elders with special needs, media people, traders, academia and farmers, all are victims Israel's relentless dehumanizing campaign. They are being punished for holding on their struggle for an independent state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

**Mr. Vice President,**

The turmoil and destruction caused by Israeli military assaults in Jenin and Nablus and increasing incursions in Al-Aqsa Mosque have amplified anger and fears throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. It serves as yet another indication of the occupying Power's ruthless intentions towards the Palestinian people and its absolute disregard for their lives and most fundamental human rights. Such actions testify the level of impunity for gross and systematic human rights violations and absence of accountability.

It is time to end the massacres, end the ethnic cleansing, end the colonization and annexation, end this illegal, abhorrent occupation and apartheid regime. We therefore call once again on the international community, in particular the Security Council, to act, in line with their obligations and uphold the longstanding responsibility towards the Palestine question and the attainment of justice.

I thank you.