



**National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, during General Debate under
Agenda Item 7 at 48th session of Human Rights Council**

1 October 2021

Madam President,

Pakistan aligns itself with NAM and OIC statements and thanks the High Commissioner for her oral update.

We express our serious concerns over the continuing violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and other Arab occupied territories. Excessive and brute use of force and loss of innocent lives have exposed Occupation power's arrogance, blatant disregard for international law and prevalence of more than five decades long impunity. Forced evictions and illegal settlements are reminiscent of apartheid policies.

These unlawful acts aggravate the sufferings and pain of the Palestinian people.

Blockade of Gaza and deteriorating humanitarian situation due to absence of basic necessities for two million inhabitants is deplorable. More than 14 years of Gaza's illegal siege is indeed a wake-up call for all those who uphold universal values of equality of humanity, dignity and freedom. The Council and the international community must uphold its moral and legal responsibility by demanding Israel to end this inhumane blockade and the resultant humanitarian crisis.

Madam President,

It is time to end the policy of appeasement towards Israel. False equivalence between the occupier and the people under occupation is morally reprehensible and legally untenable.

We welcome the appointment of Commissioners and echo the call for provision of all requisite resources to the Commission so that impunity is brought to an end and accountability of the aggressor ensures for its grave human rights violations.

We are also deeply concerned over the involvement of Israeli and multinational corporations in perpetuating illegal settlements. We urge the OHCHR to fulfill its mandate and publish the database of all such business entities.

The realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and other people living under foreign occupation remains the litmus test for achieving lasting peace and justice.



We, therefore, reiterate our call for urgent actions by the international community to end the Israeli occupation and reaffirm support for the two State solution on the pre-1967 borders, based on a free and secure State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital, living side by side and in peace with all its neighbours. I thank you.