



National Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor, during the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territory at 47th Session of Human Rights Council

09 July 2021

We thank the Special Rapporteur (SR) for his report.

We appreciate State of Palestine's cooperation with the SR and regret Israel's lack of cooperation.

The report presents valuable insights into the legal and political perspective on Israel's illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) since 1948, and expose the complicity of the international community in ensuring compliance with international law.

The report corroborates that Israeli has been using forced evictions, demolitions and settlement activities as a tool to perpetuate its illegal occupation. These unlawful practices are not only violation of fundamental rights but their mental and traumatic impacts have serious repercussions on children as well.

We agree with the SR that illegal settlements have created a humanitarian desert for the Palestinian people as they are victims of decades long apartheid policies.

The SR has rightly pointed towards the apathy of the international community as it has been remarkably reluctant to enforce international norms and laws. There has been no serious effort in recent decades to demand that Israel comply with international law and UN resolutions by fully dismantling its settlements.

We endorse SR's assessment that all international peace initiatives over the past three decades have tried to accommodate the facts on the ground in violation of international law.

We echo SR's call on Israel to comply fully with its obligations under international law and completely dismantle its civilian settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

We also urge the OHCHR to continue publishing the database on companies operating in settlement enterprise in accordance with HRC resolution 31/36.

I thank you.