



National Statement by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during the Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel

50th HRC Session
14 June 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the Commission of Inquiry (COI) for its first report and commend its valuable contribution in addressing a long-standing human rights situation of grave concern.

We acknowledge that allocated resources to the Commission do not commensurate with the unique and challenging nature of its mandate. We are confident that the resource gap would be bridged.

We appreciate the engagement of the State of Palestine with the COI. Israel's refusal to cooperate with the COI is telling and reflective of its impunity to defy international legality. However, such a regressive approach cannot be allowed to undermine the Commission's work. COI has rightly observed that Israel is bound by its obligations of an occupying power set out in the Fourth Geneva Convention and customary international law.

Mr. President,

We are gravely concerned over the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) including East Jerusalem especially the recent wave of violence perpetrated by the occupation forces, the excessive use of force, extrajudicial killings, destruction of properties, desecration of the holy places and forced evictions.

The brutal killing of Aljazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in the occupied West Bank is yet another reminder of the callous disregard for human rights and rule of law. We welcome the development of repository and trust that the Commission would also investigate this incident in line with global calls to provide justice to the victim and hold the perpetrators accountable.

We echo COI's assessment that ending the occupation of lands which are not de jure part of Israel in full conformity of UN Security Council resolutions is essential to end the perpetual illegal occupation. Ensuring the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and achieving lasting peace and justice remains the litmus test for the international community.

We look forward concrete recommendations from the COI in this regard.

Pakistan reaffirms its longstanding support to the Palestinian people and reiterates its call 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. Thank you.