OIC Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel
53rd HRC Session
20 June 2023

Madam Vice President,

On behalf of OIC member states, we thank the Commission of Inquiry (COI) for its report; reiterate our support for its mandate and register our grave concerns over attempts to undermine its authority.

We deplore Israel's persistent non-cooperation with the COI, continued defiance of decisions of the UN Security Council and this body as well as its ongoing egregious violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Lack of accountability, silence and shielding of powerful states has emboldened the occupation machinery to label the Palestinians as "terrorists" in order to delegitimize their 75 years long just struggle for the realization of the right to self-determination. This must end.

Impunity is writ large on Israel's dehumanizing and apartheid policies.

It is unconscionable that a self-styled democracy openly mocks and violates every tenet of international law in the third decade of 21st century without any accountability.

We condemn Israel's policy to squeeze the civic space by criminalizing Palestinian civil society organizations and their members including on the pretext of "terrorism". Clearly, these efforts are part of crude tactics to suppress independent voices.

We recommend COI to consider in its next reports (1) analysis of the impact of protracted occupation and lack of accountability on the integrity of rules-based international order (2) recommendations on accountability measures for egregious international law and human rights violations (3) third States obligations to ensure respect for international law in the OPT and (4) identification of structural constraints impeding the realization of right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and concrete measures to remove them.

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