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40th SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate on Agenda Item 7 -Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

OIC Statement delivered by Pakistan

(18 March 2019)

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

We are deeply disappointed that certain member states have stopped participating in Agenda Item 7 which is a deliberate attempt to undermine the credibility of the Human Rights Council.

The OIC is disturbed by double standards which embolden Israel the Occupying power to continue its systematic and gross violations with total impunity, thus undermining the peaceful efforts for the realization of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

Israel, the Occupying power, continues to relentlessly act as a State above the law and unbound by principles of international law. It blatantly defies all UN resolutions and persistently refuses to cooperate with UN mechanisms and bodies, and all without any consequence.

Mr. President,

The OIC strongly condemns the recent brutal aggression perpetrated by the occupying power against Al-Aqsa Mosque and against all the worshipers. The systematic aggressions and attacks against Al-Aqsa Mosque by the occupying power calls for public mobilization at all levels to protect it and to thwart the Israeli plans aimed at controlling and dividing it.

The OIC is concerned that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to expand, in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem and the surrounding areas, being the main obstacle for a political solution. We deplore the involvement of Israeli and multinational corporations in illegal settlements, resulting in the risk of corporate complicity in war crimes. Moreover, trade with Israeli settlements contributes to the existence and maintenance of settlements, and thus illegal and should be ceased.

It is in this context that we take note of the High Commissioner's letter, and we ask for the fulfillment of Resolution 31/36 mandate in its entirety, by publishing the Database at the earliest.

Mr. President,

The OIC believes that the passing of the Israeli "Jewish Nation-State" bill turns a "de-facto" Apartheid regime into a "de-jure" reality for all of historic Palestine. This law builds up on dozens of racist and discriminatory laws against non-Jews, being an extension of racist and colonialist practices that aim at burying the rights of the Palestinian people.

The OIC is still concerned about the rise of Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians, and we deplore the unilateral decision taken by Israel not to renew the mandate of The International Presence in Hebron (TIPH). We see it as an effort by the Occupying power to strengthen its impunity by not having international presence that monitors the ongoing violations and crimes by their forces and settlers against the Palestinian people.

The OIC condemns the series of raids on prisons by the Israeli forces, threatening Palestinian children prisoners with guns and military police dogs, and injuring more than 100 Palestinian prisoners in Ofer military Israeli prison near the city Ramallah. Such actions pose a grave danger to the life and fate of the prisoners.

Mr. President,

Every passing day reaffirms that Israel is more interested in colonizing Palestinian land, rather than achieving a just peace and security. For that, we urge the international community to urgently uphold its legal and moral obligations to force Israel to cease and reverse its violations of international law. And to bring the Israeli military occupation of Palestine to an end and realize its sovereignty over the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. And end the illegal occupation of All occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and the Lebanese territories, and the continuing violations of the human rights of its people.

I thank you.