



Statement on behalf of OIC Group¹, delivered by Ms. Murk Abro, Director, during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Right to Education
HRC 56th Session
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Mr. President

We thank the SR for her report.

Education is an enabling human right, which plays a critical role due to its transformational impact on fostering inclusive societies, eradicating poverty, and achieving sustainable development.

While we agree that academic freedom is an integral part of quality education and must be protected; however, these ideals can only be upheld and safeguarded when educational institutions are allowed to exist in peace.

Education paves the way to freedom and hence always attacked deliberately by occupying powers.

This is most glaringly visible in Occupied Palestine, where systematic targeting of educational infrastructure, by Israeli forces, continues with brazen impunity.

These genocidal attacks are aimed at robbing the Palestinians off enabling opportunities to realize their inalienable rights to education and development.

Israel, the occupying power, in blatant violations of IHL, has decimated 90% of schools and all universities in Gaza, through incessant bombardment.

Shockingly, innocent women and children, taking refuge in these establishments, have been deliberately targeted and maimed.

For the past 8 months, this brutal trampling of Palestinians' right to education continues and approximately 625,000 children in Gaza have been out of school due to the ongoing brutalities.

Distressingly, the negative impacts and consequences of this ruthless destruction, on Palestinian students, would be felt for the decades to come.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

The OIC Group would request you to focus on these horrific violations of Palestinian's right to education, in your next report, and on the need to institute effective accountability for the war crimes perpetrated and the impact on their quest to realize their right to self-determination.

I thank you!

¹ Except Albania