



**Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Amb. Khalil Hashmi during the General Debate under**  
**Agenda Item 7**  
**29 March 2023**

**Mr. Vice President,**

We reaffirm the sanctity of Agenda Item 7 of the Human Rights Council and consider it as an integral part of the Institution Building package.

The scale of ongoing human rights violations in the OPT validates the importance of this agenda item.

Those seeking to undermine item-7 only need to read the High Commissioner's latest report.

UNSC resolutions, international human rights and humanitarian law and 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva conventions apply in the OPT. Israel is in full spectrum violation of all these laws. It violates even its own domestic laws, when it comes to occupation.

Extrajudicial killings, violence, confiscation of land, forcible transfer, demolition of homes, arbitrary detention, torture, abuse and brutalization of children are some of the ugly manifestations of these violations.

The Israeli illegal settlements are at the core of colonial occupation and are being made possible through the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of Apartheid.

The High Commissioner has reported a nearly 35% increase in settlement population over the last decade.

We reject occupying power's decision to so-called "legalize" nine (9) settlement outposts, established by extremist settler groups on land forcibly seized from Palestinians. Latest decision to approve a bill that permits settlers to return to settlements in Northern West bank is another evidence of illegal Israeli policy to colonize the Palestinian land.

Illegal settlements expansion policy is vicious in its design and brutal in its enforcement. It starts with occupation of land, the building of infrastructure followed by increasing military footprint and use of force in coordination with civilian settlers, to kill and push away Palestinians and then it begins again.

The cycle of brutalizing Palestinian never ends.

Tragically Israeli laws and legal systems have perpetuated these crises. The Israeli High Court of Justice has recently concluded that civilian Jewish presence is part of Israeli defence forces regional security doctrine in the area. Never before all civilian and military elements in an occupation have mercilessly become partners in crime.

We once again urge the High Commissioner to continue updating the database of companies operating in settlements as mandated by resolution 31/36 of 2016.



The increasing frequency of Israeli military raids on the Al-Aqsa compound violate its sanctity and is a serious provocation to Muslims worldwide.

The OIC urges this Council to uphold its accountability mandate and holding the illegal occupier and grave violator of human rights to account. This is important for achieving a just two states solution on the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine.

We also reiterate long standing global demand for ending 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.