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**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

**Statement on Behalf of OIC Group, Geneva
by Ambassador Bilal Ahmad, Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

34th International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent

(30 October 2024)

Honourable Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OIC Group¹ in Geneva, congratulates the ICRC for holding 34th International Conference.

We reaffirm the importance and urgency to ensure adherence to International Humanitarian law under all circumstances.

The OIC annually commemorates 09 May as the international Humanitarian Law Day since 2015 in pursuance of its resolution adopted by OIC Foreign Ministers in Kuwait in 2015.

¹ Except Albania

The resolution and annual commemoration of this day by the OIC highlights the extent of our deep commitment to promoting the IHL principles and rules.²

We echo the call for respecting the IHL principles and rules to protect humans in conflicts and wars.

In this respect, we fully support international cooperation to promote peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and take concrete measures to strengthen IHL, whose principles are at the core of the Islamic values.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC group is deeply concerned at the worsening humanitarian crises in Gaza and Lebanon.

In flagrant disregard for the principles of proportionality, military necessity and distinction enshrined in international humanitarian law, Israel, the occupying power, continues with indiscriminate bombardment of densely populated urban centres and critical civilian infrastructure.

The occupying power has violated international humanitarian law with impunity; and with such an alarming regularity that poses risk to the future of IHL.

The OIC Group reiterates its call for implementation of UNGA Resolution ES-10/24 and ICJ judgments.

Earlier this year, several UN Human Rights Special Procedures concluded that the occupying power has destroyed more housing and civilian infrastructure as a percentage than any conflict in memory.³ The UN experts deplored the use of AI based military capabilities that could not operate with necessary due diligence.

² https://oic-oci.org/topic/?t_id=35014&t_ref=23710&lan=en

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/gaza-un-experts-deplore-use-purported-ai-commit-domicide-gaza-call>

The report of the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People released last month expressed alarm at the unprecedented destruction of civilian infrastructure and high death toll in Gaza, and raised serious concerns about the use by Israel of artificial intelligence in directing its military campaign.⁴

Codifying IHL principles for AI based military applications is a matter of urgency.

Honourable Chairperson,

If the world needed a reminder that principles and values enshrined in the IHL are at grave risk of becoming meaningless; then alarm bells are ringing loud and clear in Gaza and Labenon.

The common resolve to uphold the IHL must translate beyond words and into saving human lives.

I Thank You

⁴ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/report-of-the-special-committee-to-investigate-israeli-practices-20sep24/>