



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

### **Geneva**

**Statement, delivered on behalf of OIC by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate on Agenda Item 7 -Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

**(30 September 2020)**

Madam President,

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

In the past several decades of military occupation, the Palestinian people's human rights, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent State, have been systematically and consistently violated by Israel, the occupying Power, with disregard to the universality of human rights, as enshrined in international law.

The OIC underscores the importance and continued relevance of Agenda Item-7 in the work of the HRC. By undermining this agenda item, Israel's violations will be unheard, unseen and unaddressed. This would directly contribute to further entrenching the current state of impunity and undermining the sanctity and standing of international law mechanisms.

Madam President,

Amidst COVID-19 pandemic, Israel is carrying on with its illegal policies and practices, compounding the vulnerability and needs of the Palestinian civilian population under its illegal occupation, undermining their ability to confront the pandemic, and further destabilizing the already-volatile situation on the ground. The OIC deplores continuation of their violent attacks against Palestinian civilians, destruction and appropriation of property, forced evictions and displacement, expansion of illegal settlements, continuation of annexation schemes, massive arrest campaigns, and acts of incitement and provocation, including at holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem.

Such unlawful and aggressive behavior is deepening the suffering of Palestinian civilians and is taking us farther away from a viable and just solution to this grave injustice. Those who speak of peace and coexistence cannot continue to ignore the reality of all of these illegal actions that only perpetuate conflict and suffering.

Moreover, the inhumane, illegal Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip continues to inflict misery on the Palestinian civilian population there. The 13- year blockade has forced Gaza's two million inhabitants to live in deplorable humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions, with repeated military strikes and suffocating movement restrictions being Israel's preferred policies. Coupled with an electricity crisis that provides a supply for only a few hours a day, Gaza's overburdened health care system cannot cope with additional suspensions or reductions of power sources while facing the threat of COVID-19.



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The situation on the ground further confirms that Israel is more interested in colonizing Palestinian land, rather than achieving a just peace.

The OIC urges the international community to urgently uphold its legal and moral obligations to force Israel to end its illegal occupation in accordance with international law, to achieve a just solution based on the two-state solution on 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.