



**Statement on behalf of OIC Group, delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmed, during General
Debate under Item 7**

58th HRC Session

26 March 2025

Mr. Vice President,

The OIC Group condemns in the strongest terms the renewed Israeli onslaught against the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The 18-month long assault has now killed more than 50,000 Palestinians – two-thirds of them women and children.

Instead of good-faith negotiations towards the next phase of the ceasefire and the release of captives, the occupying power's return to brute force belies its intentions.

Mr. Vice President,

Throughout the OPT (*Occupied Palestinian Territory*), the Palestinian people are being alienated from their own land.

In the West Bank, the rampant theft of Palestinian land and calls for annexation are matched only by the escalation of organized terrorism by extremist settlers.

Talk of “voluntary departures” is ludicrous while bombs continue to pummel Gaza.

This is forcible displacement of the Palestinian people, which we strongly reject in any form, under any circumstance or justification.

It is ethnic cleansing, a grave violation of international law and a crime against humanity.

We likewise reject any attempt to change the demographic composition of the OPT.

Mr. Vice President,

The international community is bearing witness in the OPT to one of the most heinous crimes – broadcast live on television and social media.

The commission of the genocide in Gaza is closely linked to the provision of military support, weapons, ammunition and related equipment to the illegal occupation regime.

In the face of the occupying power's latest return to unbridled aggression, we renew our call on countries providing weapons and ammunition to ban such exports or transfers.

While commending states that have recognised the State of Palestine, we reiterate our call for it to obtain full membership in the United Nations and treat with other states as an equal.

Mr. Vice President,

The past 18 months have once again demonstrated the relevance of Item 7 of this Council's agenda.

We hope certain states shying away on pretexts would instead demonstrate good faith and help address human rights in the OPT, where our collective humanity itself is at stake.

Thank you.

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