



46th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Item 7 – Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories
Joint Oral Intervention¹
Date: 18 March 2021
Speaker: Ms. Shahd Qaddoura

Third States must fully cooperate with ICC and take meaningful action to ensure justice for Palestinian victims

Thank you, Madam President,

Rooted in the institutionalised oppression, displacement, and dispossession of the Palestinian people since the start of the ongoing Nakba in 1948, Palestinians continue to experience an ongoing reality of Israeli settler-colonialism and apartheid.

Just last month, the Israeli occupying forces raided Khirbet Humsa al-Fawqa, a Palestinian community located in what Israel has declared as a ‘firing zone’ area, five times. Khirbet Humsa al-Fawqa was previously targeted in November 2020, when the Israeli occupying authorities conducted what was [described](#) as “the largest forced displacement incident in over four years,” [leaving](#) 72 Palestinians, including 38 children, homeless amidst a global pandemic.

Madam President,

It is high time that the international community recognises the root causes of the prolonged denial of Palestinian rights inherent in Israeli settler-colonialism and apartheid.

We therefore call on the Human Rights Council to establish an independent Human Rights Council fact-finding mission into Israel’s apartheid regime and associated obligations of states, international organizations and business enterprises.

¹ Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Aldameer Association for Human Rights, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Human Rights & Democracy Media Center “SHAMS”, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies, and The Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC).

Third States must take effective steps to ensure justice for Palestinian victims of Israel's crimes, and fully cooperate with the ICC, ensuring the arrest and transfer to the Hague of persons suspected of international crimes.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights must ensure the annual update of the UN database on business enterprises involved in Israel's illegal settlement enterprise, and include JCB, CAT and Volvo bulldozers used to demolish Khirbet Humsa al-Fawqa.

As of time of writing, these calls are supported in a public [petition](#) of some 1,500 signatures from all over the world to #SaveHumsa, and a joint public statement of over 100 Palestinian, regional and international organisations.

Thank you.