



Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'Homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

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Item 3: ID on the report of the SR on the human rights of internally displaced persons
Oral Intervention
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
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Delivered by: Mayssa Achek

Impunity prolongs displacement, States must ensure accountability

Mr./Madam President,

CIHRS thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report that insists on what states prefer to obscure: forced displacement is not a by-product of war, it is, too often, its purpose.

In the MENA region, three situations demand this Council's sustained attention.

In Lebanon, CIHRS has condemned Israel's systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure and residential areas and found these attacks to be indiscriminate and in blatant violation of international humanitarian law (IHL). Since September 2024, more than one million people have been displaced. The right to return, recognized under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, remains largely illusory where villages have been razed and access to affected areas is denied. Despite the scale of displacement and destruction, Lebanon has yet to be seriously discussed on this Council's agenda.

In Gaza, the scale of displacement and destruction requires accountability. The right to return cannot be realized where homes, communities, and civilian infrastructure have been systematically destroyed.

In North Sinai, Egyptian military forces have been pressuring residents of Al-Muqata'a and Al-Kharafin, communities who returned and rebuilt after years of prior displacement, to abandon their land again. Shelters are demolished with no declared legal basis and no alternatives offered. UN Special Procedures raised concerns as recently as June 2026. This is a third wave of displacement for the same population.

The Special Rapporteur's findings confirm a clear pattern: impunity perpetuates displacement. States must ensure accountability.

Thank you.