



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-sixth session

22 February–19 March 2021

Agenda item 7

**Human rights situation in Palestine and other  
occupied Arab territories**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 January 2021]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **The need for Israel to meet its international obligations**

It is illegal for an occupying power to deport the people of occupied territory or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory, and it violates fundamental norms in international law, however, the violation does not seem to be taken seriously by Israeli policy makers.

So far, Israel has invested significant resources in expanding control over occupied territories. It establishes and expands the settlements both in terms of the area of land they occupy and in terms of population.

According to reports, Israel directly controls 93 percent of the land, including the occupied East Jerusalem which has led to forced displacement of thousands of Palestinians.

Alongside Israel, the United States of America and many European Union countries are involved in a close military, economic and political relationship with Israel, and fail to stand up for the rights of the Palestinian people.

Recently, even in the middle of a health crisis and the concerns for Covid-19 pandemic, Israel is continuing to entrench the illegal occupation and plans to annex more occupied lands to its own territories.

Our non-governmental organization is deeply concerned about the violations of international, humanitarian and human Rights law in the occupied territories. The right to life, health, housing, equality, self-determination, property, fair trial, freedom of movement, freedom of expression, freedom from torture and inhuman treatment, and adequate standard of living are among violated rights of all Palestinian population.

We are concerned about new annexation plans which undermine the peace process. Also, we express concerns over the health emergency caused by Covid-19 in Israel detentions and jails. The number of Palestinian detainees, especially children, increased in Israel since January 2020 despite the widespread calls to decrease the number of people in custodial detention globally. Palestinian detainees imprisoned by Israeli authorities live in close proximity to each other, often in compromised sanitary conditions, with limited access to resources to maintain minimum hygiene routines.

### **Recommendations**

- We believe that the resistance towards settlement building in the Occupied Palestinian Territory requires a global will and legal approach, and call upon the international community and human rights institutions to support Palestinians and discourage expansion of settlements;
- We call on Israel to take immediate action to release all Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, especially children, due to the global spread of Covid-19.

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