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**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related
forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation
of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

Written statement* submitted by International Foundation Witnesses Ashoora, 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.

[21 August 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Racial Apartheid of the Occupying Power against Palestinians and Inhabitants of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Introduction

For more than half a century, the population of the Occupied Palestinian Territory has suffered from racist apartheid, and their fundamental rights and freedoms have been violated by the colonial oppression of the Occupying Power. Continuation of systematic racial domination and oppression of Palestinians to subjugate the Palestinian people and the continuation of apartheid through racist and discriminatory policies, deprivation of fundamental civil rights, imposition of harsh conditions, arbitrary mass arrests, torture, land confiscation, inhumane and it is humiliating.

Occupying Power's planned discriminatory policies and systematic demolition of Palestinian homes are a symbol and embodiment of the racism that underlies the apartheid by the power and its brutality. For decades, Occupying Power authorities have sought to disrupt the demographic composition of Palestinians by evicting them from their homes and displacing them from their land and achieve their racist demographic goals.

Moreover, the racist behavior of the Occupying Power is directed not only against the Palestinians but also against Jewish immigrants living in the occupied territories. The Occupying Power discriminates against its residents, and while some have full rights, many are marginalized. The most basic discrimination used by the Occupying Power against Jews from the East, and especially against African immigrants such as the Ethiopian immigrants known as "Flasher" has always been met with criticism and discontent among the Occupying Power citizens. The Occupying Power favors Ashkenazi Jews (Eastern and Central European Jews who are white) in social, economic, and political matters. Upon entering Occupying Power, Ethiopian Jews faced horrific racism and discrimination from the Occupying Power establishment. The discriminatory behavior of Occupying Power is one of the main reasons why this Occupying Power is facing the phenomenon of the Reverse migration of Jews from the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Occupying Power commits crimes against humanity, and these acts take the form of apartheid and harassment of Palestinians, and violation of their rights through forced eviction and demolition of Palestinian homes, the establishment of illegal settlements, and implementation of demographic changes with the aim of establishing and protecting the apartheid by the Occupying Power. This is thus a gross violation of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The international community should also do more to protect the international community, in line with the commitment contained in paragraph 3 of the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action.

We condemn all of Occupying Power decisions and laws against the Palestinian people and call on the international community to dismantle and ban Occupying Power's colonial and apartheid system in accordance with international law. We call for an immediate end to the discriminatory actions and measures of the Occupying Power by human rights institutions, as this is a clear expression of Occupying Power and the systematic division of the Palestinians. Some cases of racial apartheid by the Occupying Power are mentioned:

Palestinians are subjected to the discriminatory policies of the Occupying Power that restrict access to housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, and other essential services, including health care and education.

The Occupying Power in East Jerusalem gives priority to Occupying Power settlements and acts on the basis of race, color, ancestry, or national or ethnic origin.

According to the March 2022 report of the Human Rights Council, Occupying Power 55-year occupation of the Palestinian territories amounts to apartheid.

Ethiopian Jews also suffer from the highest poverty rate among Occupying Power Jews and are much more likely to be subject to police searches, arrests, and detentions. Unemployment is also significantly higher among Jews of Ethiopian descent than among other Jews in Occupying Power. Another noteworthy point is the significant difference in monthly income per family among Ethiopian Jews and other Jews.

Ethiopian Jews suffer from limited job opportunities and substandard schools and housing. Ethiopian Jews "Flasha" are among the poor groups who immigrated to the occupied countries based on the false promises of the Zionists and were then severely discriminated against and treated as third-class citizens.

The unemployment rate among Ethiopian women was 63 percent in 2000. The unemployment rate among Ethiopian Jewish men was also 20% in 2016. In 2016, 55% of Ethiopian Jewish children attended primary and secondary schools, compared to 77% of other Jewish children.

With a nearly 50% drop in the birth rate in the Israeli-Ethiopian community over the past decade, according to the program (sic), women in transit camps in Ethiopia have been intimidated or threatened to inject contraceptives.

Suggestions & Recommendations:

We call on the international community to:

live up to its obligations and hold the occupying power accountable with effective measures;

In light of Occupying Power laws, policies, and practices of racial discrimination, persecution, and apartheid against the indigenous Palestinian population, and the systematic failure of the Occupying Power to stop committing crimes under international law and to ensure that they are held accountable, we call upon this Council to take effective action to address and respond to the crimes committed against the Palestinian people in accordance with international law.

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1. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/04/israels-housing-policies-occupied-palestinian-territory-amount-racial>
 2. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/448/72/PDF/G2244872.pdf?OpenElement>
 3. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/ethiopian-jews-suffer-racism-in-israel/1526782#>
 4. <https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/racism-in-israel-some-jews-are-more-equal-than-others-28109>