



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 7

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

## **Written statement\* submitted by ArabEuropean Forum for Dialogue and Human Rights, 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.

[29 January 2024]

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



## **Strengthen International Efforts to Improve the Human Rights Situation in the State of Palestine and Commend the Efforts of the United Arab Emirates to Achieve Peace and to Protect and Support the Palestinians**

We wish to express our deep appreciation for the efforts of the Human Rights Council and all United Nations bodies and organizations concerned with peace and humanitarian assistance in the pursuit of peace, the establishment of a Palestinian State and the improvement of the human rights situation in the State of Palestine. We highly appreciate the important role played by the Human Rights Council in endorsing the state of the human rights situation in the State of Palestine, and the willingness of the Council to discuss and debate the human rights situation in the State of Palestine, working towards the adoption of resolutions, positions and initiatives to promote respect for human rights in the State of Palestine, and to ensure the full, complete and just enjoyment of human rights by the entire Palestinian population in all the Palestinian territories. We particularly appreciate the positions taken by the Secretary General of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations bodies and international organisations during the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territory of Gaza since last October.

As representatives of the international community, we express our deep concern about the conditions of civilians in the Gaza Strip and in other Palestinian cities and regions, in particular the violations, crimes against humanity and war crimes suffered by civilians in the Gaza Strip, especially children and women, who face the most horrendous forms of violations and crimes and who account for the largest number of casualties and injuries. We stress the importance of acknowledging and implementing the calls of the UN Secretary General, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN bodies and agencies, and of working to end the plight of civilians in the Gaza Strip and other Palestinian territories, on the basis of the call by the United Arab Emirates through its membership of the UN Security Council to address the Council's inertia and inability to take effective decisions on the crisis in Gaza. In its address to the Security Council, the United Arab Emirates called for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza, sustained humanitarian access, the provision of vital and life-sustaining services, stressing that Palestinian lives are precious and equal and deserve full legal protection, as well as the need to spare and protect women and children from the scourge of the conflict in Gaza. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the United Arab Emirates to seek a resolution in favour of an immediate ceasefire, as well as their presentation of the draft resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council, which called for an immediate ceasefire on humanitarian grounds, allowing for the safe and unhindered entry and access of humanitarian aid.

We also welcome the positions of the United Arab Emirates and their moral and humanist support for the Palestinian people, so that they can fully enjoy their human rights. The United Arab Emirates delegate to the Security Council stressed that what is happening in Gaza should awaken the human and moral conscience, and that Palestinian children deserve to be protected. She rejected settler violence against Palestinians, stressed the need to ensure the protection of the population in the West Bank, and to improve human rights throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, in addition to supporting the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire and guaranteeing humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip, as well as welcoming the decisions of the International Court of Justice on the imposition of provisional measures in the Gaza Strip, the protection of civilians and the cessation of incitement and genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. In addition, we commend the United Arab Emirates's humanitarian and development efforts on behalf of civilians in the Gaza Strip, in particular the initiatives to provide health services and treatment for the wounded, the rescue of premature babies, the treatment of wounded children and oncology patients, the establishment of field hospitals to treat the wounded in Gaza, the inauguration of desalination plants and making them available to the population of the Gaza Strip, as well as the provision of humanitarian aid, aid for life, emergency aid, medical aid and development aid on an ongoing basis, and ensuring that it reaches civilians trapped and displaced in the Gaza Strip.

**Based on these elements, we formulate the following recommendations:**

- Work towards the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace and the creation of the State of Palestine.
- Work towards an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.
- Work towards the full protection of civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- Work towards the implementation of the Security Council resolution proposed by the United Arab Emirates and adopted by the Human Rights Council regarding the Gaza Strip.
- Work towards the full implementation of the decisions of the International Court of Justice regarding the Gaza Strip.
- Work towards improving the human rights situation in the State of Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories.
- Work towards providing continuing humanitarian and development assistance to the Palestinian people.
- Work towards ensuring the allocation of funds, and providing programmes and initiatives related to the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, particularly with regard to the provision of vital services, health, education and infrastructure.

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Union Society for Human Rights, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.