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## Human Rights Council

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

## **Written statement\* submitted by International Council Supporting Fair Trial 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.

[22 August 2022]

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



## Human Rights Situation in Occupied Palestinian Territory

The international community continues to ignore the decades-long suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of Israel's occupation of its territory. The Palestinian people continued to suffer from violations of their rights by Israel's occupation, which was indifferent to human rights and to persistent international demands for adherence to international legality and international humanitarian law.

Foremost among the grave violations committed by Israel's occupation against Palestinians are apartheid and persecution, which are crimes against humanity. The Israeli Government has a comprehensive policy of maintaining Jewish Israelis' dominance over Palestinians while ignoring the grave violations committed against Palestinians living in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem.

Israel's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, has also continued for more than 54 years. Israel routinely relies on forced displacement and excessive force. The Israeli authorities in the West Bank have also facilitated the transfer of more than 700 thousand Israeli settlers to strengthen Israel's domination of the Palestinian territories, which is by all accounts a war crime. Israel has also confiscated large swathes of Palestinian land and made it almost impossible for Palestinians to build on much of the land without facing the threat of demolition. On the other hand, Israel severely restricts the movement of persons and goods into and out of Gaza, with devastating humanitarian consequences.

In terms of military actions, Israel does not cease its repeated aggression against Gaza and various Palestinian areas, leaving dozens of casualties between dead and wounded, as well as major destruction of infrastructure, which further aggravates the suffering of the Palestinian people on its territory. Israel's policy of assassinations against Palestinians was unwavering. In August 2022, Israel assassinated a Palestinian figure in Rafah through an airstrike, followed by an aggression against the Gaza Strip that resulted in significant destruction of civilian facilities and civilian homes, as well as dozens of deaths, injuries and injuries.

The Israeli authorities also make a clear distinction with regard to security, infrastructure and services, providing all services to Israeli settlers and withholding them or providing them with unjust conditions for Palestinians. On the other hand, house demolitions and attempts to displace indigenous peoples from East Jerusalem and many Palestinian areas continue unjustly. In East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah and Sulwan neighbourhoods, Israeli settler organizations have stepped up their efforts to seize Palestinian homes and expel their long-term residents. Those actions were upheld by the Israeli courts under a discriminatory law, which allows these groups to pursue claims to land allegedly owned by Jews in East Jerusalem before 1948. It should be noted that Israeli law prohibits Palestinians, including the inhabitants of Sheikh Jarrah to be displaced, from recovering the property they owned in their land from which they fled in 1948.

With regard to enforced disappearances and detentions, Israel continued its arbitrary practices against Palestinians and practised a policy of administrative detention against Palestinians, who remained in Israeli detention without formal charges or trial and on the basis of long-standing confidential evidence. Israel also detains many Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territories inside Israel, which complicates family visits and violates international humanitarian law's prohibition of their movement outside the occupied territories. Here, Israel makes arbitrary arrests without regard to the detainees' age, sex or state of health. Hundreds of children, women and the elderly are detained without any regard for human rights and vulnerable groups.

It is necessary to recall that the Israeli Supreme Court upheld the "National State Law", which has constitutional standing and affirms that Israel is the "national home of the Jewish people" and that "the right to national self-determination in the State of Israel is solely for the Jewish people", and establishes "Jewish settlement" as a national value. This in itself constitutes a gross violation of human rights and a crime against humanity because it entrenches racial discrimination within an immoral constitutional legal framework.

At the international level, in May 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Council established a continuing commission of inquiry to investigate violations arising from the May hostilities and their root causes, including systematic discrimination and repression based on collective identity throughout Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to strengthen accountability for those responsible. However, all Western States members of the Council abstained or voted against the establishment of the commission of inquiry. This is clear evidence of the double standard policy of many States members of the international system, which is supposed to be in the defenders' position.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights stresses the importance of supporting the Palestinian people's access to all their human rights guaranteed under international humanitarian law and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights. It calls on Member States of the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to take a clear position on Israel's violations, which undoubtedly amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The International Council considers that Israel's continued arbitrary practices undermine international peace and security and stand in the way of peace in the region. The International Council also recalls that Member States must exert pressure on the Israeli Government to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the two-State solution and to secure all the rights of the Palestinian indigenous peoples and to cease immediately the practice of gross violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

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