



Item 2: The report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

OHCHR report [A/HRC/43/21](#), submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 40/13

A 14-page report covers the period from November 2018 to October 2019 and addresses violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law related to the **Great March of Return** along the Gaza-Israel fence and of law enforcement operations in the **West Bank and Gaza**. The report focuses on **Accountability**, including for the 2014 escalation of hostilities in Gaza and other rounds of hostilities, for unlawful use of force, and for violations by the Palestinian authorities.

Main human rights violations addressed: Excessive use of force; Targeting of paramedics and journalists; Children injured; Non-accountability

OHCHR also monitored a number of cases related to the **killing and injury of demonstrators** at the fence. In the large majority of cases, it found no indication that the demonstrators in question would have presented an imminent threat to life or of serious injury.

Recommendations: Ensure accountability and conduct investigations; Respect IHL and Human Rights

H.E. Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris – Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, *presenting the report:*

This report provides accountability for **human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**. Demonstrations known as the Great March of return continue to happen every Friday. 39 Palestinians, including 12 children were killed by the Israeli forces in the period covered by the report. 110 paramedics and 62 journalists were injured by Israeli defence forces.

The OHCHR have observed that the Great March of Return is **civilian in nature** and the demonstrators do not constitute military activities. In West Bank, **excessive use of force** by Israeli forces continues to be witnessed. Impunity prevails for unlawful use of force by Israeli forces, even outside the zones of hostilities. It is imperative that Israel conduct effective and **independent investigations** of the alleged violations. Likewise, the Palestinian Authority must conduct **effective investigations** on violations by Palestinian actors.

State of Palestine – Country concerned:

The **blockade** against Gaza has lasted for over **13 years** and violates the **Geneva convention**. Palestine will continue to call on the international community to oblige Israel to respect international law and human rights. Palestinians must be given their **right to self-determination**.

List of Speakers – States: Pakistan o/b of OIC, European Union, Qatar o/b of Arab Group, Qatar, Palestine, Bangladesh, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Slovenia, South Africa, Pakistan, Luxembourg, Namibia, Cuba, Malaysia, Jordan, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco, Ireland, Egypt, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Iran, Spain, Mozambique Turkey, Venezuela, Algeria, Indonesia, Lebanon, China, Libya, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Somalia, France, Albania

NGOs: Institute for NGO Research, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, United Nations Watch, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration, ADALAH - Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health, Ingenieurs du Monde

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