



43RD SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, including on HC/SG reports - General Debate

15-16 June 2020

Ms **Michelle Bachelet**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented 4 reports:

Periodic report on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

[A/HRC/43/70](#)

covering the period from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019

An overview of recurring violations of international humanitarian law by Israel and by Palestinian armed groups; and violations of international human rights law by all three duty-bearers, namely Israel, the State of Palestine and the de facto authorities in Gaza.

- the ongoing shrinking of civic space;
- restriction of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly;
- ill-treatment and torture;
- persistent excessive use of force by Israeli Security Forces;
- continued lack of accountability;
- collective punishment of the Gaza population (restriction of the movement, punitive demolitions, revocation of travel and work permits, withholding of bodies).
- human rights violations committed by the Palestinian Authority and the de facto authorities in Gaza (arbitrary arrest and detention, ill-treatment, in some cases possibly amounting to torture, gender-based violence and discrimination, including against LGBTI persons).

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

[A/HRC/43/67](#)

From 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019

Describes the impact on human rights of continued Israeli settlement expansion in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It also addresses issues relating to Israeli settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan.

- The expansion of Israeli settlements accelerated in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- The construction of outposts, the demolition and destruction of Palestinian property and the resulting displacement continued at a fast pace.

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

[A/HRC/43/69](#)

The report is based on information received from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

Database of business enterprises

[A/HRC/43/71](#)

- The report set out factual determinations that 112 business enterprises were involved in one or more of the listed activities set out by the fact-finding mission. It did not provide legal characterization of those activities or entities' involvement.
- The compilation and screening of data, including the inclusion of specific entities in the final report, was undertaken on its own by OHCHR.
- OHCHR recommends that the Human Rights Council establish a group of independent experts, with a time-bound mandate, to report directly to the Council for such a purpose.



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State of Palestine: Palestine calls on the states that have refrained from participating in the work of this agenda item to review their positions. The state welcomes the release by the High Commissioner of the database of companies operating in the illegal Israeli settlements in implementation of the Council's mandate. Israel continue unabated with its violations and illegal practices; especially in light of Covid-19 pandemic. Unjust blockade is imposed on the Gaza Strip, impeding the general movement and the movement of patients for treatment; the Palestinian people are still subject to massive arrests. The so-called American vision of peace and prosperity is a gross violation of the principles of international law and the United Nations charter. The international community is required to assume its responsibilities, take practical deterrent measures, and to recognise the State of Palestine. Palestine calls for the Secretary-General of the UN, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the international community to pressure the occupying power to allow mandate-holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian territory and fact-finding missions, to visit Palestine.

States that took the floor:

Countries concerned: State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic

Human Rights Council members: UAE (on behalf of the GCC countries), Pakistan (on behalf of the OIC), Azerbaijan (on behalf of NAM), Tunisia (on behalf of the African group), Palestine (on behalf of the Arab group), Pakistan, Qatar, Afghanistan, Libya, Mexico, Bangladesh (by video), Namibia, Chile, Sudan, Venezuela, Nigeria, Indonesia, Senegal, Mauritania.

Observer states: Iraq, Djibouti, Botswana, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Ecuador, Cuba, Malaysia, Luxembourg, Kuwait (by video), UAE, Tunisia, Morocco, People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Turkey, Oman, Algeria, Maldives, Lebanon, Yemen, China, Sri Lanka (by video), Switzerland, Ireland.



Also taking the floor were the Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine, and a number of representatives of Civil Society