



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 46th SESSION

Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on Occupied Palestinian Territory

(24 February 2021)

OHCHR report [A/HRC/46/22](#) “Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem”

The report provides an overview of the implementation of the resolution, and developments that are of relevance to ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The reporting period is from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020.

Michelle Bachelet, High-Commissioner for Human Rights – Presenting the Report (video message):

Serious human rights violations continued in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) during the reporting period: 67 Palestinians, including 16 children, were killed by Israeli forces.

No notable progress was observed in the investigations of suspected violations of international law, perpetrated by all parties to the conflict.

The OHCHR continues to observe impunity given to Israeli security forces operating in the West Bank. Charges and sentences appeared extremely weak giving the gravity of the acts committed by those held accountable.

Regarding the accountability of the Palestinian authorities, the OHCHR observes a lack of accountability regarding human rights violations perpetrated. No charges were brought against any person involved in these violations.

The OHCHR urges all parties to the conflict as well as the international community to address the human rights violations committed in the OPT. Accountability is the key element to a lasting peace in the region.

Israel – Speaking as the country concerned:

Hamas is not even mentioned in the OHCHR’s report, despite regular violations of international human rights law. No accountability for Hamas means no justice for Israel.

The State of Israel is a law-abiding democracy committed to defend the values of international law.

Israel deplores once again the institutional biases of this report. It is the proof of OHCHR’s lack of objectivity and impartiality when it comes to Israel.

State of Palestine – Speaking as the country concerned:

Israel has many obligations as the occupying power of the OPT. Despite this, Israel is continuing its illegal territorial occupation, including building demolitions and illegal settlements in the OPT. Israel is also continuing its blockade of the Gaza strip, which constitute a grave human rights violation. Among the victims of the violations committed by Israeli forces we are medical workers, journalists and children, all victims of the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces.

Palestine welcomes the return of the United States in the Human Rights Council. Palestine expects the US to play a positive role in the protection of human rights.

Palestine continues to urge the international community to abide by international law. Absence of justice in Palestine is absence of justice everywhere. The lack of accountability of Israel puts in danger human rights all around the world.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

38 delegations took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue.

The vast majority of States taking the floor commended the OHCHR for its report. They all agreed that **accountability** was a key issue regarding the situation in the OPT and that there was a serious **lack of accountability** observed regarding **serious human rights violations committed by all parties to the conflict**.

A high number of delegations strongly condemned **human rights violations committed by Israel** in the OPT, including excessive use of force against civilians, increase in illegal settlements, house demolitions and confiscation of lands by Israeli authorities. The European Union and Ireland condemned the **Gaza de-facto authorities** for the launch of **rockets** and **incendiary balloons** against Israel.

The **International Court of Justice's decision** to establish jurisdiction over the OPT was welcomed by several States, underlining a **significant step towards justice and accountability** (Qatar, Libya on behalf of Arab Group, Iran, Namibia, Tunisia, Sudan, Turkey, Oman)

Several States condemned **Israel's refusal to cooperate with the OHCHR** (Pakistan on Behalf of OIC, European Union, Libya on behalf of African Group, Libya on behalf of Arab Group, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Luxembourg), with some States urging Israel to **issue visas for OHCHR staff** in the OPT (Luxembourg, Ireland).

Many delegations condemned the **continued blockade of Gaza** operated by the Israeli forces, which constitutes a **grave violation** of international human rights law and humanitarian law (European Union, Qatar, Senegal, Iran, Tunisia, Lebanon, Turkey).

Some States maintained they support for the **two States solution, with the 1967 borders and East-Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine** (Qatar, Malaysia, China, Tunisia, Sudan, Cuba).

Several States expressed the **important role that the international community** must play in ensuring lasting peace as well as respect for human rights in the OPT (Kuwait, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China).

Indonesia and Turkey urged Israel to give **equal access to the Covid-19 vaccine to the Palestinian populations**. As the occupying power, Israel should ensure the **right to health** to the populations under its control (Libya on behalf of African Group, Egypt)

Few States expressed their concerns over the balance established in the report about acts committed by Israeli and Palestinian authorities. For these States, **there can be no moral equivalence between Israel and Palestine** (Pakistan on behalf of OIC, Iraq, Bangladesh).

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue (38 delegations):

Pakistan on behalf of OIC, European Union, Libya on behalf of African Group, Qatar, Libya on behalf of Arab Group, Kuwait, Russian Federation, Jordan, Mauritania, Malaysia, Iraq, Indonesia, Senegal, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Iran, South Africa, Israel (point of order to Iran), Namibia, Egypt, China, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Syria, Luxembourg, Botswana, Sudan, Cuba, Turkey, Bangladesh, Ireland, Oman, Albania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Libya.

10 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue.

Several NGOs condemned the grave **human rights violations committed by the Israeli forces** (*Al-Meazan Center for Human Rights, Norwegian Refugee Council*).

Ingénieurs du Monde, Institute for NGO Research and *UN Watch* denounced the **lack of objectivity in the OHCHR's report** and the continuing accusations against Israel at the UN.

Al-Haq, Cairo Institute for Human Right Studies and *Al-Meazan* condemned **Israel's Apartheid regime**.

Medical Aid for Palestinians denounced the **killing of health workers by Israeli forces** during demonstrations.

The Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling condemned **violations of women's rights by Israel** in the OPT.

To watch full Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR's report on human rights in the OPT, [click here](#).