

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 54th SESSION

Item 7¹: General debate

(4 October 2023)

Contents

Countries Concerned	2
Member States: Joint Statements.....	2
Statements made by Member States	4
List of NGOs that took the floor:	10

This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 7 that took place on the 4th of September 2023 at the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The report includes the statements made by the Member States of the Human Rights Councils, Observer States, and other Observers. The statements are presented in the order of speaking and are not exhaustive.

. Please refer to the **recordings of the General Debates on the UN WebTV** for full statements:

- 04 October: [UN WEB TV](#)

¹ Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Main Points Raised (thematic issues, country and/or territorial concerns)	
Countries Concerned	
Israel	Did not take the floor
State of Palestine	Reminded that countries must abide by the HRC review resolution of 2011 and in this regard condemned the breach of procedural, legal and historic rules. Stressed that the Israeli occupation practices, that is are becoming more ferocious and barbaric against Palestinian people, denouncing the racist laws approved by the Knesset such as the nation state law, the execution of prisoners, the Judaization of Jerusalem, incursion policies, theft of natural resources, aggression against religious sites, ethnic cleansing an apartheid. This year 258 were killed including 45 children, 2350 administrative detention order were made or renewed and 5200 Palestinian detainees are held in Israeli prisons at the moment. Also denouncing the speech of hatred, supremacy and arrogance of the Prime Minister of Israel before the General Assembly on the 23th of September 2023. Stated that the Israeli government and its opposition refuse the right of Palestinian people to self-determination . Questioned how the 75 th Anniversary of the UDHR can be celebrated given the targeting of civilians and journalists, and the siege on the Gaza strip. Called for accountability and on the international community to shoulder its responsibility .
Syrian Arab Republic	Asserted that settlements are designed to perpetuate the illegal occupation, consolidate the illegal annexation policies and violate the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Denounced settlement policies including the plans announced at the end of 2021 to double the number of settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan within five years, as well as the several steps taken to expand settlements which are prohibited by international humanitarian law and amount to a war crime . Asserted that Israel's aggressive policies threaten regional and international stability and depends in its criminal acts on the impunity provided by its main sponsors, the United States and other Western countries. Reaffirmed that the Occupied Syrian Golan us an integral part of the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and its restoration by all means is guaranteed by international law and is an eternal right that is not subject to bargaining concession or the schedule of limitation. Called upon all countries not to recognize any steps taken by the occupying power to perpetuate its occupation and to consider effective measures to dismantle the settlement structure, including by ending financing our commercial transactions with entities involved in settlements or exploitation of natural resources. Renewed its support for the right of Palestinians to self-determination , the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital and its support for the liberation of the remaining occupied Lebanese territories.
Member States: Joint Statements	

<p>1. Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of African Group</p>	<p>Reaffirmed undying support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination. Supported the establishment of an independent state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. Opposed settlement activity by Israel as well as all projects aimed at annexing parts of the West Bank. Reaffirmed the necessity to attack all root causes of this conflict and put an immediate end to the occupation, lifting of the blockade on Gaza, the cessation of detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians and all other forms of collective punishment. Called upon the international community to ban the Israeli system of colonialism and apartheid. such acts.</p>
<p>2. Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)</p>	<p>Reaffirmed the sanctity of agenda item 7 of the Human Rights Council. Requested OHCHR to continue updating the database of companies operating in settlements as mandated by resolution 31/36 and reaffirmed by resolution 53/25. Reaffirmed that the Israeli colonization, occupation, and apartheid are breaches of international law and blatant denial of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. Stated that the colonial occupation is being made possible through the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crime of apartheid. Condemns the way in which Israel has depicted all of historic Palestine as Israel and asserted it is an open declaration of Israel's illegal colonial designs and policies of ethnic cleansing and annexation of the Palestinian territory. Urged the Council to hold the illegal occupier and grave violator of human rights accountable. Reiterated support of the two-state solution. Reiterate demand for ending illegal occupation of all occupied Arab territories, including occupied Syrian Golan and Lebanese territories.</p>
<p>3. Venezuela on behalf of the group of friend in defense of the United Nations Charter</p>	<p>Expressed great concern about the continuing Israeli settlement and related activities including the expansion of settlements and the expropriation of land. Also concerned about the demolition and confiscation of property, which is changes in the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories. Underscored the need to continue political, economic and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian people and to bolster their resilience in line with their legitimate national aspirations including the inalienable right to self-determination in the independent State of Palestine. Reaffirmed support to restore the full sovereignty of the Occupied Syrian Golan.</p>
<p>4. Pakistan on behalf of a group of countries</p>	<p>Called for immediate end of all human rights violations, including Israel's policies that are aimed at perpetuating decades-long illegal occupation. Called on the Council and the international community at large to do more in bringing an end to the grave violations of the international human rights and humanitarian laws in OPT and hold the perpetrators accountable. Reiterated the call for ending the Israeli occupation and reaffirm our support for the two-state solution on the pre-1967 border based on free and secure state of Palestine.</p>
<p>5. Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)</p>	<p>Referred to the 30th session of the Human Rights Council on the grave human rights situation in the OPT, the relevant decisions of the Ministerial and Summit meetings, and declaration of the NAM including the Communiqué issued on the 13th of May 2021. Underscored the need to continue providing political, economic, and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian people and to bolster their resilience and efforts aimed at achieving their legitimate national aspiration including their inalienable right to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine. Express its grave concern at the continuing Israeli state settlement policy and related activities. Commended the efforts of UNRWA and the Committee of exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.</p>
<p>6. Oman on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)</p>	<p>Reaffirmed full support of the Palestinian people to enjoy their full human rights and sovereignty over 1967 territories, the creation of an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Also expressed full support for the guarantee of rights for refugees in line with relevant initiatives and resolutions. Condemned the repeated incursions by Israel and settlements around the Al Aqsa mosque as it is a serious violation of international law. Urged the international</p>

	community to immediately intervene and to bring pressure , including with the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.
7. Libya on behalf of the group of Arab States	Asserted that the violation of human right and international law, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention , by the Israeli occupying power continues to intensify, including against children and against families victims of incursion. Also mentioned the continuous provocative storming of Al-Aqsa mosque. Affirmed that Israel continues to enact and legislate more racist colonial laws, along with plans to build 10,000 new settlement units, 9 outposts legalized and a draft decision was approved to repeal disengagement laws and return to settlements located in the northern West Bank. Called upon the international community to shoulder its the responsibilities and avoid the policy of double standards by working to end the Israeli occupation of all other occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and continuous violations of human rights of the people of the Arab people and the Lebanese territories.

Statements made by Member States

1. Luxemburg	Gravely concerned by the expansion of settlements in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. Urged the Israeli authorities to end the illegal settlement policy ensuring that justice is rendered for all human rights violations. Condemned the claimed legalization of settlement outposts and measures to alter the demographic composition of the OPT. Also concerned about the revoking part of the 2005 disengagement law and the transfer of governance in the West Bank from the army towards the civil administration. Troubled by harassment, criminalization, and attacks against journalists , human rights defenders and NGO workers in the OPT and in Israel. Also urged the Palestinian Authority and the de facto authorities in Gaza to cease their repression of the human rights defenders working for LGBTIQ+ persons. Urged the parties to fully cooperate with OHCHR and with special procedure mandate holders by giving them full access .
2. Qatar	Denounced the attacks on civilians, execution, settlements, racist policies, attacks on shrines, attempts at the Judaization of Jerusalem, the blockade against Gaza are violations of international conventions and instruments . Stated the international community must shoulder its legal responsibility to ensure accountability . Stated its intention to continue humanitarian, political, and development support to the Palestinian people so that they can enjoy the inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the creation of a sustainable state respecting the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.
3. United Arab Emirates	Reiterated support for efforts towards the two-state solution and the creation of an independent state Palestine on the basis of 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. Condemned the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Reaffirmed the role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to care for religious endowments and the religious places. Reaffirmed that all human rights violations including settlement activities should be stopped.
4. Chile	Reaffirmed its support for the two-state solution and the right of Israel and Palestine to live in harmony . Stated that Israel's blockade of Gaza, expansion of settlements demolition of houses, land confiscation, forced displacement, revocation of residence permits, arbitrary detention including children and imposition of a system of check points that restrict freedom of circulation and affect the rights to education, work and health are part of the cause of the situation. Recalled that Chile was one of the first states to make a submission to the ICJ requesting an advisory opinion on the implications of the ongoing violations by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
5. Malaysia	Aligned with OIC and NAM. Reiterated that the occupying power must be held accountable for the continued acts of aggression and blatant disregard of international human rights and humanitarian laws. Urged the OHCHR to allocate the necessary resources and support to both the commission of inquiry and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of

	human rights in OPT. Also urge the High Commissioner to release the annual update of the database of business enterprises operating in the OPT . Maintained support for the two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital .
6. South Africa	Call on the international community to intensify efforts to secure a just and equitable settlement based on the establishment of a viable Palestinian state existing side by side in peace with Israel within the internationally recognized 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. Condemned the recent escalation of conflict provoked by Israeli defense forces and the Israeli Government settlement policies. Call on the international community to continue to provide humanitarian support, as well as economic political support aimed at the achievement of the self-determination of Palestinian people .
7. Bangladesh	Aligned with OIC and NAM. Regretted that the occupying power continues illegal policies and practices in flagrant violation of human rights. Urged the international community to end double standards and the culture of impunity and hold Israel accountable to international law . Requested the Office of the High Commissioner to update the database of all business enterprises involved in the illegal settlements in the OPT on an annual basis. Reaffirmed unwavering support to the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle for self-determination to the establishment of the sovereign state of Palestine based on the two-solution and pre-1967 borders with East and Jerusalem at its capital.
8. Maldives	Reaffirmed the necessity that those responsible for clear violations of international law and humanitarian principles are held accountable . Supported the request to seek an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory. Supported the two-state solution with an independent and sovereign state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital based on the pre-1967 borders.
9. Pakistan	Aligned with the OIC. Rejected changing the status of a holy city of Jerusalem and affirmed that it cannot constitute a serious violation of international law. Deeply concerned over the involvement of business corporations in perpetuating illegal settlements and urged the OHCHR to fulfill its mandate in line with HRC resolutions and publish the database of all such business entities. Called for urgent actions by the international community to end the Israeli occupation and reaffirm support for the two-state solution on the pre-1967 borders based on a free and secure state of Palestine with Al-Quds al Sharif as its capital, living side by side and in peace with all its neighbors.
10. Morocco	Renewed commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause with Al-Quds Al-Sharif at its core. Asserted that Morocco's policy based on faith and constant adherence to the option of peace and the approach of dialog and negotiation as the only pathway to reaching a two-state solution with the state of Israel right next to an independent Palestinian state on the borders of June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital
11. Cuba	Reiterated condemnation of systemic aggressions by the state of Israel against Palestinian population, a tantamount to two policies of occupation and colonialism in violation of the UN charter, international law and IHL. Supported a solution which guarantees the exercise of the inalienable right to the Palestinian people to build their own state within the pre-1967 borders with its capital in East Jerusalem , a withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan and up to the lines of 4 June, 1967, and ending the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory. Rejected unilateral actions that do not provide for the creation of an independent Palestinian state.
12. Algeria	Aligned with the groups it belongs to. Stated that the mechanisms in place to implement international law are still weak , as shown by the continued human rights violation perpetrated by Israel. Recalled resolution 1514 on the ending occupation of all Arab territories that have not been realized. Stated that the United Nations reports reflected the

	conflict in an unbalanced manner which is not acceptable as the Palestinians and their areas are not an equal footing with the occupier.
13. Senegal	Aligned with the statement of the African group. Troubled by the worsened humanitarian situation in Gaza, which has led to negative repercussions for prospects of peace. Called for a renewed commitment from the international community with a view to reach a two-state solution. Reiterated its support to the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and encouraged a peaceful settlement of the conflict, reaffirming its commitment to the two-state solution.
14. Bolivia	Condemned the settlers practices, occupation of land, extrajudicial killings, use of force and violence land confiscation. The attacks on infrastructure and educational facilities as well as a lack of accountability, furthermore, the continued denial of Israel to return Palestinians to the occupied land, as they are key elements in setting up and maintaining an apartheid regime against the Palestinian people and violating their right to self-determination . Asserted that the attacks of the occupying power against the civilians cannot be justified under any circumstances and must be punished and condemned by the international community . Supported the solution for a free sovereign and independent State of Palestinian with pre-1967 borders, and Eastern Jerusalem as capital.
15. Sudan	Aligned with the African group, the Arab group, the NAM, and the OIC. Stressed the need to end the cycle of violence and called on the occupying power to abide by its obligations under international law and resolutions of international legitimacy. Called on the Human Rights Council to address human rights violations including those related to prisoners and vulnerable groups such as children and women .
16. China	Firmly supported the fundamental solution of establishing a fully sovereign and independent Palestinian State based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. Stated the international community should increase development assistance and humanitarian aid to Palestine and push relevant sides to pursue the right direction of peace talks and uphold the historical status quo of the holy side . Urged all parties to effectively implement the General Assembly and Council's resolutions on protecting Palestinian people's rights. Also called on Israel to stop expanding settlements stop evicting the Palestinian people and end the Gaza blockade as soon as possible.
17. Brunei Darussalam	Condemned Israel's human rights violations such as the indiscriminate attacks against civilians, the blockade on Gaza, expansion of legal settlements and granting impunity to security forces and authorities. Expressed full support for international efforts aimed at ending the occupation and achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East in line with international law and all relevant UN resolutions, including those of the Security Council. Reiterated solidarity with the people and the informal commitment to the two solution as the only viable solution to achieving independent and sovereign State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders .
1. Sovereign Order of Malta	Deeply preoccupied by the increased violations of human rights in Palestine and other occupied territories in particular with regard to medical and humanitarian access to populations in need as well as the right to freedom of religion or belief and freedom of worship . In the past months medical access has been severely impeded by check points. Called for unrestricted access to healthcare and ensuring the safety of medical staff in patients and condemned in the strongest possible terms of recent attacks against places of worship, including many Christian churches .

2. Iraq	Condemned the confiscation of martyr corpses , pillaging and plundering of natural resources the destruction of land and housing, the forced displacement of inhabitants and attacks against Jerusalem as well as attempts to change its identity. Stated that the international community must shoulder its responsibility .
3. Bahrain	Associate with its regional groups. Support the solution of an independent State of Palestine with the borders of 1967 as part of the two state solution with East Jerusalem as it is a capital. Supported a final and peaceful solution and stopping the settlement and ensuring that rule of law is adhered to in.
4. Libya	Associate with its regional groups. Called call for ending the occupation and the crimes that are perpetrated against Palestinian people. Stated that practices and attempts to change the legal and historical status of Jerusalem requires the Council to document the grave violations perpetrated by the occupied power against Palestinian people.
5. Jordan	Supported the creation of the Palestinian State with the 1967 borders in line with the international laws , resolutions, as well as the Arab Peace Initiative . Supported the end of unilateral measures and to respect the historic and legal status quo of the Holy city and the Jordanian custodianship of religious places.
6. Kuwait	Stated that Israel continues violations against the Palestinian people in addition to the repeated attacks against the Muslims around the world through the repeated instances of storming of the al-Aqsa mosque compound. Called upon the international law to shoulder its responsibilities to stop these violations.
7. Türkiye	Condemned the targeting Palestinians and on the historical status quo at the holy places, the expansion of illegal settlements, settler violence. Supported the ongoing efforts to ensure that a sovereign and contentious state of Palestine based on the pre-1967 lines with East Jerusalem as is capital .
8. Egypt	Deeply regretted the continuation of illegal settlers practices, the settlement of the destruction of houses as well as the attempts to destroy religious identities. Regretted the continuation of the illegal occupation of the occupied Syrian Golan and other Lebanese regions . Support the establishment of an independent State with the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. Also supported the respect of the rights of the Palestinian people and its fundamental freedoms, including the right to self-determination .
9. Russian Federation	Concerned by military raids carried out in the OPT, arbitrary arrest of Palestinians, proactive violations of the status quo of the holy places in Jerusalem and also legalization of outposts and unprecedented expansion of settlements with unparalleled violence, expulsion of Palestinian families and confiscation of their property were particularly troubled by growing violence against Palestinian youth destruction of educational institutions which undermines the fundamental right to education. Supported two-state solution .
10.	
11. Zimbabwe	Concerned by the continuing expansion of settlements , expropriation of land, diminution of houses, and confiscation and destruction of property, all of which have altered the legal physical and demographic status of the occupied Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan. Deeply concerned by the continuing hostilities in the OPT including the stepped up military raids in refugee camps in the occupied West Bank. Encouraged support from the Council to bolster Palestinian resilience and efforts aimed at securing their inalienable right to self-determination and freedom in an independent state of Palestine within the context of the two state solution based on pre-1967 borders

	and with East Jerusalem as its capital.
12. Sri Lanka	Deeply concerned at the dire humanitarian situation in the OPT, including the recent escalation of hostilities and attacks against civilians in Gaza . Requested all parties to limit the use of force and recognized the legitimate security concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli people and legitimate expectation of the Palestinian people for statehood . Called for genuine dialog and political commitment towards the two state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders
13. Namibia	Aligned with the statement of the African group. In light of numerous UN reports, asserted the international community must hold Israel accountable for the numerous violations of international human rights, must not recognize the illegal policies and practices of Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory, and all States must cut all financial relationships with Israel.
14. Saudi Arabia	Stressed the need to have the Palestinian question as a priority , which is for us their case, Expressed support for Palestinians to restore their lands and rights and have a state of their own according to the 1967 borders.
15. Tunisia	Aligned with the statements of like-minded groups. Stressed commitment to the inalienable rights of the Palestinians to counter the ongoing violations by the Israeli occupying force. Supported the Palestinian right to self-determination and to regain the rights to have sovereignty on their territories on the basis of the 1967 border with East Jerusalem as its capital. Call on the international community to put an end to the occupation of the Syrian Golan and Lebanese lands and to ensure accountability and redress.
16. Yemen	Condemned the human rights violations in the OPT committed by Israel occupying power which has been manifested in mass murder, continued settlement expansion, demolitions, deportation, forced displacement, collective punishment, restrictions, excessive use of force, racial discrimination and appropriation of water resources. Called on the Council to take binding measures . Appealed to the Council and all countries to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital within the borders of the 4th of June, 1967.
17. Djibouti	Aligned with the groups it belongs to. Recognized the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and rejected the Israeli annexation plan which is a grave violation of international law. Supports the assessment of any mechanism for accountability for the violations of the most basic rights of the Palestinian people.
18. Nigeria	Underscored the importance of urgent action by the international community to end the crisis and uphold the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people. Reaffirmed its support for the struggle of the Palestinian people towards the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and principally their right to self-determination .
19. Venezuela	Affirmed that the prolonged occupation of the Palestinian Territory and the Occupied Syrian Golan negatively impacts the living conditions and human rights of their populations. Reiterated unrestricted support for the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, to become a free, sovereign, and independent State.
20. Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Reiterated the concern about the systemic violations of human rights, international law, and HRC Resolutions by Israel in the OPT and other occupied Arab territories. It called on the Israel to end these atrocities .

21. Oman	Aligned with the GCC. Rejected all violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces , including arbitrary arrests, the policy of house demolitions, settlement expansion, and attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque, in violation of all principles of relevant international laws and resolutions. Called for avoiding double standards, the international community should assume its responsibilities in confronting these violations and exert all pressure to stop these crimes hold their perpetrators accountable , and ensure the protection of the rights of the Palestinian people.
22. Mauritania	It called on the international community to assume its responsibilities in accordance with international law and take the necessary measures to compel Israel, the occupying power, to refrain from all illegal procedures and practices.
23. Ireland	Affirmed its deep concern about the mutually reinforcing negative trend witnessed in the OPT by the Israeli forces. This has been exacerbated by an absence of political engagement and a narrow space for civil society organizations . Stressed the need for concrete steps for the accountability process .
24. Lebanon	Aligned with the statements of groups it belongs to. Condemned violations and crimes committed by the occupied power. These crimes aimed to annihilate the Palestinian people. Racism, oppression, and humiliation are seen. Called upon the Council and the international community to provide assistance to the Palestinian people.
25. Iran Islamic Republic of)	Focused on the 75th anniversary of the mass displacement of Palestinians that occurred on the "Nakba" day. The international community cannot remain a passive observer of this situation in which war crimes and crimes against humanity are perpetrated as a routine .
26. League of Arab States	Observing violations and crimes by Israel as an occupied power, called for a permanency of Item 7. Called for international protection for the Palestinian people, and their resources . Called for putting Israel, its army and its settlers on the UN "List of Shame" as perpetrators of crimes in armed conflict.
27. Colombia	Shared concerns of the Secretary General to the General Assembly. Echoed the call of the SG: all states should help to find peace with a two-state solution , to put an end to the occupation, and to recognize the right of all to live with dignity, peace and security.

List of NGOs that took the floor:

Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine, Defence for Children International, Jerusalem Institute of Justice, International Foundation Witnesses Ashoora, World Jewish Congress, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnat Va Salamat Iranian, B'nai B'rith, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Union of Arab Jurists, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, Human Rights & Democratic Participation Center "SHAMS", Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling, BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, International-Lawyers.Org, Institute for NGO Research, Servas International, United Nation Watch, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, Youth Parliament for SDG, Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration.