



EUROPEAN UNION  
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office  
and other international organisations in Geneva

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**  
**28th session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of  
human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967**

**23 March 2015**

**EU Intervention**

The European Union would like to thank Special Rapporteur Wibisono for the presentation of his first report on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory to this Council [HRC/28/78].

The European Union underlines the urgency of renewed, structured and substantial efforts towards peace. The EU is convinced that respect for justice, the rule of law and international human rights and international humanitarian law by all parties are cornerstones of peace and security. The EU recalls the applicability of international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory and in the Occupied Golan Heights, including the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians. The EU remains gravely concerned at the continuing tensions and violence on the ground.

The European Union reiterates the view that the "Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories" (Item 7) should properly be addressed by this Council as any other specific country situation under the general item on "Human rights situations that require the Council's attention" (Item 4) or other Items. The substantive positions and concerns of the European Union regarding this situation are being expressed under different items during this Council session.

The European Union reiterates its reservation regarding this mandate which is limited to "investigate Israel's violations" only whereas we believe that all alleged human rights violations and abuses, regardless of the offending party, should be subject to scrutiny and investigated in accordance with international standards.

In this context, the European Union appreciates the efforts by Special Rapporteur Wibisono to engage with all sides.

The European Union regrets that Israel has so far refused access to the Special Rapporteur despite indications that it might positively consider the possibility of a visit by the new mandate holder. The European Union calls on Israel to grant access to the Special Rapporteur without delay as well as to issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures.

The UN Secretary General's report to this session [A/HRC/28/45] stresses that "*key violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights by all duty bearers drive the conflict and violence*", and explains "*how an end to those violations and abuses is a key component of any enduring peace*". Could the Special Rapporteur indicate ways to prevent further violations and abuses by all duty bearers?