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Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC
General Debate
Agenda Item 7

31th Session of the Human Rights Council

Mr. President,

While Israel is the only country to have boycotted the Human Rights Council, to have blatantly ignored all UN resolutions since its birth, and to have persistently refused to cooperate with UN mechanisms and procedures often combined with smear campaigns against independent experts, all without consequence, it has repeatedly hammered its cynical discourse of being victimised and « singled out » by the UN and the international community. It is a true shame to see that some States from the WEOG group have adopted this flawed and misleading discourse. We urge all member states to actively participate in item 7.

Mr. President,

Every passing day reconfirms that Israel is more interested in consolidating its control over the Palestinian land, rather than achieving a just peace and security.

67 years since the Nakba, Israel persists with its campaign of ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people and the denial of their basic rights, continuing with its systematic subjugation of millions of Palestinians by all illegal and destructive means and measures. Occupation, colonialism and apartheid—these words define the daily life of Palestinians under Israeli oppression.

Israel is allowed to continue with its grave violations of international law. These include house demolitions, forced evictions of families and communities, discriminatory land confiscation, excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, illegal colonial activity through settlement construction amounting to war crimes, the fragmentation of the territory and enclosure of Palestinians into Bantustan-like areas, and siege of the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Israel continues to build the illegal wall in the Occupied State of Palestine in complete defiance of international law, a wall twice as high and four times as long as the Berlin Wall. We deplore that no progress has been made on the implementation of the ICJ's Advisory Opinion since its adoption nearly ten years ago.

The illegal Israeli blockade on Gaza – a repugnant form of collective punishment amounting to a war crime and the source of countless human rights violations, continues. Regrettably, there has been little relief for the Palestinian people since Israel's criminal military aggression on Gaza in the summer of 2014, as reconstruction of the thousands of homes and other civilian infrastructure destroyed continues to be obstructed.

We deplore the involvement of Israeli and multinational corporations in illegal settlements, resulting in corporate complicity in war crimes. We call on companies to disengage from their involvement in Israeli abuses of human rights and international law. Moreover, trade with Israeli settlements contributes to the existence and maintenance of settlements, and is thus illegal and must be ceased.

The OIC condemns in the strongest terms the continuous incitement by the occupying forces against the Palestinian people and their holy places particularly at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which houses the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. Provocations and incitement by Israeli government officials and violent extremists, have been reckless and relentless, as reflected in recent alarming events. It is clear that such actions are aimed at illegally and forcibly further entrenching Israeli control over Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Occupied East Jerusalem and must be rejected unequivocally. We stress that the continuation of these racist acts is bound to have serious repercussions on the security and stability of the entire region.

Civilian casualties continue to rise and fear and tensions are mounting as a result of the continued violent Israeli criminal actions being committed against the Palestinian people with complete and utter impunity. Since the beginning of October 2015, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 190 Palestinian most of them children that amount to extrajudicial killings and have injured more than 15.200 Palestinian many who will have to live the rest of their lives with indescribable trauma as well as permanent disabilities.

We deplore the terrorist actions being carried out persistently and with impunity by settlers against Palestinian civilians. The Israeli government fuels the crimes of the settlers through hateful rhetoric and incitement against Palestinians, and are responsible for the ensuing terror, incitement and provocation. In this connection, we must also reiterate that we cannot separate Israeli settler violence from Israel's illegal colonial settlements vastly spread across the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international humanitarian law, as well as international criminal law.

Mr. President,

More than 7000 Palestinians, including around 400 administrative detainees, are held in Israeli prisons in conditions that breach fundamental norms of international law, including torture and denial of the right to a fair trial. We call for their urgent release as they are being arbitrarily held. We call upon Israel to cease all its illegal practices and immediately repeal the recent Israeli law passed to permit the force-feeding of Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike. This forcible act directly violates international law and international norms and is another form of torture and coercion which violates the fundamental rights of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and international law.

We are concerned over continued occupation of the Syrian Golan that has resulted in the violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Syrian population. The OIC condemns the Israeli measures in the Occupied Syrian Golan and demands an end to the illegal occupation of the Syrian land.

For all of its crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.