

## Norwegian Refugee Council

Human Rights Council

22<sup>nd</sup> Session

Oral Statement

Item 7: General Debate

G. CHARRON

Good afternoon

My name is Guillaume Charron from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. IDMC was established in 1998 by the Norwegian Refugee Council and is the leading international body reporting on internal displacement.

Over the past years forced displacement has significantly increased in Palestine as a result of Israeli policies. These are destruction of homes, forced evictions, settlement construction and expansion in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as hostilities in the Gaza Strip. In January alone, Israeli forces demolished **139** Palestinian structures throughout the West Bank, including **59** homes and **80** other types of structures. These demolitions forcibly displaced **251** Palestinians, including at least **153** children. These worrying figures are almost triple the average number of demolitions per month over the last year.

We welcome the reports that have been presented this session, in particular that of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing and that of the International Fact Finding Mission on the implications of the Israeli settlements. These reports represent a significant progress in documenting the legal, political and economic frameworks which Israel uses to forcibly displace, dispossess and discriminate against Palestinians.

The Council should endorse the Fact Finding Mission report and act decisively towards realisation and implementation of its main recommendations. Third States and private companies should take measures to ensure that their actions do not render them complicit in violations of international law. The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights should be seized of the matter and the High Commissioner for Human Rights should be tasked with reporting back to the Council on the implementation of the recommendations at the next session of the Council.

Failure to take forward the Fact Finding Mission's recommendations will undermine its validity and purpose, and legitimise continued impunity for the violations highlighted by the report.

Thank you.