

1

**Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man: Oral Statement in the Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Gaza, United Nations Human Rights Council, 29th Regular Session, Agenda Item 7**

---

Check against delivery

Mr. President, distinguished Members of the Council,

Al-Haq calls on the Human Rights Council to endorse the findings of the Commission of Inquiry. In particular, we reiterate the Commission's concern that unlawful attacks by the Israeli Occupying Forces are part of larger policy that 'itself violates the laws of war.'

Israeli attacks of last summer were described in the Commission's report as being systematic and widespread and intentionally targeted at the civilian population. These attacks exacerbated pre-existing physical, psychological, social, and economic impacts of the Israeli occupation, under which the Palestinian people are severely deprived of *fundamental rights* and are subject to systematic oppression.

We highlight particularly, the root causes of continued occupation- including Israeli profit derived from domination and control over Palestinian land and natural resources, including natural gas.

Under these circumstances, we dread continued escalation in hostilities with higher numbers of civilian casualties if such Israeli policies and practices are not urgently and effectively challenged.

Mr. President,

Israel is the occupying power in the longest-running military occupation. It must not be allowed to continue implementing such policies as collective punishment and persecution throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Israeli military and political leadership, who drive such policies with impunity, must be held to account.

In light of failed domestic investigations, we echo the Commissioners' support of international justice mechanisms such as the International Criminal Court. We further highlight the need to exhaust all measures of international accountability - including sanctions, divestment, and legal action in national courts worldwide.

Finally, Israel's persistent non-cooperation with UN mechanisms warrants the need for a monitoring body to ensure that the recommendations of this report and previous reports on Israeli violations of international law are genuinely implemented.

I thank you.

Statement delivered by:  
Mona Sabella, Al-Haq