



General Assembly
Human Rights Council
21st session

Item 7 - Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

General debate

Madam President,

We wish to thank 'Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem' for his collaboration in preparing this statement.

It is now 10 years since Israel began constructing the Wall and 8 years since the International Court of Justice (ICJ) stated authoritatively that the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem, the settlements and the Wall are illegal and constitute serious breaches of International Law. As these serious breaches continue unabated, we wish to draw the Council's attention to two recent developments in occupied East Jerusalem.

First, the planned transfer of Palestinian neighbourhoods located east of the Wall to the authority of the Israeli military affecting more than 90.000 Palestinian Jerusalemites, including the residents of the Shu'fat refugee camp. Since the construction of the Wall, these people have been unable to access public services and institutions in the city centre without crossing an Israeli military checkpoint, although they are residents of Jerusalem. At the same time, public services are not available in their communities, because the Israeli authorities have ceased to perform their responsibilities there. The transfer of these communities to the responsibility of the Israeli military will lead to their formal and final exclusion from Jerusalem. They are at risk of losing their right to access and live in the city as well as their status as 'permanent residents of Jerusalem' as they will no longer be able to prove that their 'centre of life' is located in Jerusalem as required under Israeli law.¹

¹ CCPRJ, More than 90,000 Palestinian Jerusalemites at risk of forcible displacement by Israel. Press Statement - Urgent appeal to international diplomatic and humanitarian actors, <http://civiccoalition-jerusalem.org/press-releases/more-90000-palestinian-jerusalemites-risk-forcible-displacement-israel-urgent-appeal->

Second, Israel's settlement expansion and *de facto* annexation of occupied Palestinian land in and around East Jerusalem is progressing in accordance with Israel's "Jerusalem Regional Master Plan". This plan provides, among others, for construction of extensive new transport infrastructure that will benefit the illegal settlements between Ramallah in the north and Hebron in the south. It will also result in more expropriation and segregation of Palestinian land and communities in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. A Palestinian objection to this plan was rejected recently by the Israeli National Council for Planning and Building.²

In light of the ICJ Advisory Opinion of 2004, MRAP, Badil, ISMUN and the 'Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem' call upon the Human Rights Council:

- to condemn and call upon Israel to cease its illegal policies that change the status and demographic composition of the OPT, including the settlements, the Wall, transfer plans against Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the Jerusalem Regional Master Plan;
- to recommend to the General Assembly to adopt a resolution calling for sanctions against Israel, including a ban on trade with its illegal settlements, until Israel ceases its serious breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and provides reparation for damages;
- to urge all UN Members to adopt sanctions individually or in groups - as part of their obligation to not recognise, aid or assist in maintaining Israel's unlawful annexation of East Jerusalem, the confiscation and exploitation of Palestinian natural resources and forced population transfers: International Law obliges States cooperate to end Israel's violations against the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people³;
- to immediately dispatch the Fact Finding Mission on the consequences of Israeli settlements in the OPT, including in occupied East Jerusalem.

I thank you, Madam President.

24th September 2012

² CCPRJ, Objection to the Jerusalem Regional Master Plan that will Further Restrict Development of Palestinian Neighborhoods, Entrench the Settlements and Alter the City's Demographic Composition, <http://civiccoalition-jerusalem.org/press-releases/objection-jerusalem-regional-master-plan-will-further-restrict-development-palestina>.

³ 42 and 49ff and 54 ILC Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (2001).