

Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the
situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories
occupied since 1967

Agenda Item 7

28th Session of the Human Rights Council

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC member states.

We thank the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Makarim Wibisono for his first report to the Council since his appointment. This report highlights blatant human rights violations by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied State of Palestine. The OIC is deeply disappointed by Israel's non-cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, even after it had given written assurances of cooperation to the former Human Rights Council President.

Last summer, the international community witnessed one of Israel's most brutal criminal military aggressions against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, resulting in the killing of more than 2,256 Palestinian civilians, including 538 children. More than 3,100 children were wounded and around 1,000 of them suffer from a permanent disability. This wave of terror against the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, only partly conveys the horrific reality and devastating impact on the Palestinian people as a result of Israel's previous aggressions and eight-year blockade.

The Special Rapporteur has rightly highlighted in his report that "After 51 days of bombardment, the conditions of life in Gaza have shifted ever closer to the dismal forecast made in 2012 by the United Nations country team, which questioned whether Gaza would be a liveable place by 2020". This horrifying fact indeed requires the urgent attention of the international community.

Regrettably, the picture is equally grim in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where Israel continues its repressive occupation policies, in violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people and grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. These include:

- Israel's excessive use of force which the Special Rapporteur, has described as being "part of an increasing pattern whereby Palestinian civilians...are deliberately shot and injured with rubber-coated steel bullets, or increasingly killed with live ammunition by "trigger-happy" soldiers."

- Israel's colonial and racist policies, demonstrated inter alia by the forcible transfer of Palestinians from their lands to facilitate the establishment and expansion of illegal settlements.

The OIC strongly supports the Special Rapporteur's call, underscoring the need to address the daily violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people and bring those responsible to justice. It is indeed essential to ensure accountability for the systematic human rights and international law violations and crimes by the occupying Power. We strongly believe that accountability is fundamental for ending impunity.

We would be grateful if the Special Rapporteur could highlight measures to be taken to reverse the systematic impunity, enjoyed by the occupying power, Israel.

I thank you