

**Oral Statement Item 7 – 36th Session of Human Rights Council**

**25 September**

Dear Mr. President and members of the Council,

 The Palestinian Return Centre would like to highlight that

In 2017, it is 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, a document which endorsed the colonial project that led to the Nakba, the mass displacement of the Palestinian nation.

As such we call on Britain to apologise for the injustice of its actions, which are still affecting Palestinians to this day. Through the Balfour Declaration, Britain helped establish Israel as a settler colonial state. Israel continues to dominate the over 13 million Palestinians thorough an Apartheid regime, colonial policies and military occupation.

For those Palestinians living inside the areas controlled by Israel this means daily human rights violations and oppression. Also for those Palestinians living outside occupied Palestine in refugee camps across the middle east and elsewhere, Israel’s denial of their right to return is a crime costing them immense suffering.

Member states should support the human rights council’s resolution to produce a database of all business enterprises involved in Israeli settlements.

We call on states to impose sanctions on Israel as it is the only legitimate effective action to ensure accountability and justice for its crimes.

Thank you