



**CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

United Nations Human Rights Council: 27th Session
Oral Intervention: Item 7 – GD (Occupied Palestinian Territory)
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
22 September, 2014

Delivered by: Silvia Caterini

Thank you Mr. President,

CIHRS thanks the Office of the High Commissioner for providing an update to this Council on ensuring respect for international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We would like to voice our full and unqualified support for the Commission of Inquiry established by resolution S-21/1 and for its appointed members. We call on its members to work with all due haste towards ending impunity and ensuring accountability for international crimes committed in the OPT. The future well-being of Palestinian and Israeli citizens urgently depends on ensuring respect for international law by all parties to the conflict.

In this respect, we call on the President of the Palestinian government to immediately issue a Presidential order giving executive approval for the ratification of the Rome Statute, and to send a letter of intent allowing the International Criminal Court to investigate past and ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity in the OPT.

Moreover, we call on countries from around the world to pledge to provide any and all financial assistance to the Palestinian authorities that may be withdrawn by the United States or other countries for actions taken to initiate ICC investigations.

Over the last several months we have witnessed the creation of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza through an excessive and indiscriminate use of force by the Israeli military. We have all watched as illegal settlement expansion and colonization of the West Bank has been accelerated by the occupying power.

We have watched too long. We have seen too much pain and destruction. If the international community does not act with speed and decisiveness to ensure criminals are held to account, violence stemmed, and international law respected- then it is almost certain the long-term viability of both the state of Israel and Palestine will quickly and irreversibly diminish.

Thank you Mr President