



UN Human Rights Council: Thirty-Sixth Session

Agenda Item 7

Oral Intervention: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies¹

25 September 2017

Delivered by: Nada Awad

Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, ADDAMEER, and Community Action Centre. Since October 2015, the Israeli occupying power has intensified the use of illegal policies of collective punishment against the protected Palestinian population. This includes punitive house demolitions, residency revocations, denial of building permits, and movement restrictions gravely impacted by the Annexation Wall. Through such measures, Israel aims at suppressing Palestinian self-determination through forcible transfer and internal displacement of Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

The year 2017 witnessed an increase in the number of Palestinian children who were arrested, particularly in Jerusalem. This increase can be directly connected to the Al-Aqsa popular uprising, which started in July 2017, and was in response to the occupation's collective punitive measures imposed on all Palestinians, who were prohibited from attending prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque unless they passed through the electronic gates.

Arrested children have been subjected to different forms of psychological and physical torture, which the occupation forces commit with impunity. Some are coerced to become informants; and their families are financially extorted by the imposition of huge fines. The arrest and detainment of children has a devastating impact on their mental health, often leading children to drop out of school.

Israeli violations in occupied Palestine continue unabated while stakeholders from different countries continue to invest in the unlawfulness of the occupation. We stress the importance of accountability and the importance of taking action to end more than 50 years of occupation and to ensure the Palestinian right to self-determination. Supporting a strong database on businesses involved unlawfully in Israeli occupation would constitute much needed and overdue action by this Council.

Thank you Mr President.

¹ The following NGOs also endorse this Oral Intervention: ADDAMEER Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, and Community Action Center of Al-Quds University