



46th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 9 – General Debate

Joint oral intervention¹

Date: 19 March 2021

Delivered by: Mr. Issam Younis

Civil society calls for HRC to address Israel's systemic oppression, domination, segregation and fragmentation of the Palestinian people

Since 1948, Israel has instituted a series of discriminatory laws, policies, and practices that form the foundation of its institutionalized regime of systemic oppression, domination, segregation and fragmentation of the indigenous Palestinian people. This colonial project against the entirety of the Palestinian people amounts to the crime of apartheid under the ICC's Rome Statute.

Israel's illegal and discriminatory closure policy and use of military force in the Gaza Strip form part of this campaign and serve as a deliberate attempt to destroy life and divide the Palestinian people. Israel's systematic extrajudicial killing and arbitrary arrest and torture practices undermine the inherent dignity of the person and violate the right to life and liberty of person.

Israel's water domination, selective vaccine application, and movement restrictions that limit food supply, deny adequate healthcare and destroy family life are also manifestations of the discriminatory policies employed throughout its prolonged occupation.

We emphasize that apartheid is prohibited under international law as a peremptory norm and call on the Council and UN Member States to fulfil the duty to cooperate to bring these violations to an end, and to encourage the ICC Prosecutor to investigate Israel's apparent continuous perpetration of the crime against humanity of apartheid, amongst other apparent crimes committed against Palestinians.

¹ Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, and Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling.