

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION  
OF JERUSALEM**

*“Forced demographic change in Jerusalem – grave breached and a  
threat to peace”*

**Thursday, 1 July 2021**

**10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.**

**Online event**

**CHAIR OF THE  
UN COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE  
INATLIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

**STATEMENT**

Before giving the floor to the moderator and our panellists, let me say a few words about our Committee, followed by remarks from the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Assistant Secretary-General Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations in New York, H.E. Minister Riyad Mansour.

Our Committee, the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was established by the UN General Assembly in 1975 to promote a just and peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and end to the Israeli occupation. The

international conference on the question of Jerusalem, organized jointly with the International Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) every year, is one of the most important events in its programme of work and is designed to remind that the question of Jerusalem is a last status issue and can be resolved on the basis of the two-State solution, as per UN resolutions and international law.

This year, our virtual event is taking place amidst serious developments on the ground, and continued violent incidents in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly between the Israeli security forces, settlers and residents of the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood. These clashes, which started in the holy month of Ramadan, have unfortunately repeatedly broken out in this neighbourhood and seen the use of rubber-bullets, grenades against its Palestinian residents, as well as the invasion of their homes and arbitrary arrests. As we speak, fifteen Palestinian households still face the imminent threat of eviction by the Israeli authorities from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah. The Israeli High Court has scheduled a hearing soon to consider a leave to appeal request by some of the families. Furthermore, thousand right-wing Israeli activists marched last month through the Muslim Quarter in East Jerusalem, chanting hate slogans against Palestinians. And as we discuss the situation in East Jerusalem today, we shall all be reminded that these

same escalations led to the atrocities during the month of May in the Gaza Strip, following indiscriminate Israeli airstrikes on civilian targets.

Excellencies,  
Sirs/Madams,

The continued expansion of settlements in the West Bank and increased intensity of settler-related violence on Palestinian civilians testify of the need for the international community to continue to stand firm on the two-State solution as the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, leading to a long overdue Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Committee will continue to underscore that the Israeli settlements in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, demolitions and seizure of Palestinian structures, eviction threats, particularly in the neighbourhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Batan al Hawa, Silwan in Occupied East Jerusalem all constitute flagrant violations of UN resolutions and international law. They are a major obstacle to the achievement of a two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

I hope that the opportunity of this panel of experts today will help educate our audiences and shed light on the worsening conditions of Palestinian lives in East Jerusalem, the precarity of their legal status and homes as the Israeli Occupation under which they have been living for the past decades continues to resort to an unfair set of domestic laws in order to justify its grave breaches of international law. I wish you all a fruitful discussion.