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STATEMENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

BY H.E. Mr. ARRMANATHA NASIR,

Permanent Representative of Indonesia

On behalf of the

COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF

THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

OPEN DEBATE

ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST,

INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

New York, 19 January 2022

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, at the outset I would like to congratulate Norway for its able presidency of the Security Council this month. We are grateful this meeting is taking place at ministerial level.

Madam President,

Once more, we would like to call the attention of this Council on the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and highlight the need for a swift and just resolution on the question of Palestine on the basis of international law and the relevant UN resolutions.

On 7 December, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, briefed our Committee on the human rights situation in the OPT, describing it as “disastrous,” with severe violations – including killings, arbitrary detentions including of children, restrictions to fundamental freedoms and discrimination affecting millions of Palestinians.

On 10 November, UN human rights experts expressed alarm at the rising incidents of violence by Israeli settlers towards Palestinians in the OPT alongside rising tensions related to ongoing illegal Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, threatening the contiguity and viability of the Palestinian State.

The Committee remains concerned at the resulting increase in the number of injuries and fatalities, with 6 Palestinians reportedly killed and 1,138 others injured between 19 October 2021 and 14 January 2022. Reports that new rules of engagement for Israeli Security Forces regarding the use of live ammunition in the West Bank could lead to an even larger number of injuries and fatalities among Palestinian civilians are deeply disturbing.

Palestinian families are facing expulsion from homes they have lived in for decades and across generations in the Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods of occupied East Jerusalem. According to OCHA, since October 2021, 232 Palestinian-owned homes and structures have been demolished across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing 283 persons and affecting 5,329 women, children and men.

The Committee calls on Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and

to cease forthwith the demolition and seizure of Palestinian property throughout the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Madam President,

The economic situation in the State of Palestine remains also of grave concern. In November 2021, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process highlighted the urgency to address the continuing economic and fiscal crisis faced by the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian people.

For this reason, the Committee supports the US\$510 million Humanitarian Response Plan launched by the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lynn Hastings, to support 1.6 million of the most vulnerable people in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, during 2022.

At the November 2021 Advisory Commission Meeting, UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini also highlighted the decline of available resources since 2013 despite growing humanitarian needs of the Palestine refugees. The welcome return of the United States as a partner and donor to the Agency, however, has been offset by a reduction of funding from other large donors and the absence of new funding sources. The Committee reiterates its calls to the international community to ensure sufficient and reliable funding for the Agency to deliver its crucial services to over 5.8 million Palestine refugees and to maintain its vital contribution to regional stability.

Madam President,

Palestinians living in Gaza need urgent humanitarian relief and economic assistance allowing them to have a dignified life and a sustainable future. Needs remain acute following the deadly escalation in the Strip last May as hundreds of families remain displaced and thousands of homes and structures require reconstruction and repair. Let me reiterate, however, that Gaza requires not only economic support for reconstruction but a complete lifting of the illegal Israeli blockade, in line with UN Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), and the return of the legitimate Palestinian Government to Gaza. Gaza remains an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 and must be part of an independent, sovereign Palestinian State.

Ultimately, as much as we agree with the need to focus on improving the livelihood of Palestinians, the Committee believes that this cannot genuinely happen without a political horizon ensuring justice and rights, including self-determination, for the Palestinian people, the definitive end of the occupation and the achievement of the independence of the Palestinian state.

Madam President,

Palestinian civil society organizations continue to face restrictions to their freedoms of expression, assembly, and association.

The Bureau of the Committee joined the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Union and other

international human rights organizations in publicly expressing deep concern at Israel's decision of 22 October designating six human rights and humanitarian Palestinian civil society organizations as "terrorist entities". Some of these organizations are long-standing, reliable partners of the Committee, as well as of the United Nations, in advocating for the protection and promotion of the human rights of the Palestinian people.

On 7 December, the Committee organized an event where representatives from Palestinian and Israeli civil society called on Member States to hold Israel accountable for its actions and to continue giving a platform to the voices that the Government of Israel is trying to suppress.

To date, the Israeli Authorities have not made public substantial evidence against these six Palestinian organizations.

We reiterate that civil society organizations must be allowed to work unhindered in the implementation of their mandate.

Madam President,

The Committee calls for the implementation of the provisions contained in resolution 2334 (2016), as well as of all UN resolutions and internationally agreed parameters to justly and sustainably resolve the question of Palestine.

We are grateful to Norway for this ministerial meeting, and further hope that a ministerial meeting of the Middle East Quartet will soon re-launch the peace process.

The current course must be diverted and redressed without delay toward ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, implementing a just solution based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions that ensures two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace and security along the pre-1967 lines and with East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian State.

The Committee stands ready to assist and garner the support needed to advance the process.

Thank you for your attention.
