



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fiftieth session

13 June–8 July 2022

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the  
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Partners For Transparency, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 May 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



## **Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

As the Israeli occupying forces are stepping-up their brutal attacks against the Palestinians, the international community continues to turn a blind eye to these unspeakable violation and make empty promises. Early this year, the Israeli occupation forces committed various violations in the occupied Palestinian territories, which sometimes amounted to war crimes. The physical safety of many civilians has become undermined with the Israeli forces' use of excessive force to disperse demonstrations or raiding civilians. Hard evidence reveals that many Palestinians have been subjected to extrajudicial execution, which is a considered a crime under international law and international humanitarian law. Partners for transparency estimates confirm the killing of more than 51 people from the beginning of 2022 until mid-May of the same year.

In the same context, the Israeli authorities continued to restrict media freedoms. During the first four months of 2022, they committed 120 violations against media freedoms, topped by deliberate and systematic attacks against journalists while carrying out their work and documenting violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces. Moreover, Israel stepped-up its violations to impose severe restrictions on religious freedoms. In Ramadan, the Israeli occupation forces imposed restrictions on Muslim worshippers' access to Al-Aqsa Mosque and established semi-permanent checkpoints to prevent crossings on the roads that lead to the mosque. On many occasions, the Israeli police brutally attacked worshippers in the mosque and used violence and excessive force to disperse the gatherings. However, arbitrary arrests have become an almost daily occurrence as citizens are arrested for peacefully expressing their opinions, participating in demonstrations against Israel's crimes, or any groundless charges.

In light of all these documented violations, Israel continues to deny unabashedly these crimes supporting its argument by media misinformation and distorted facts. Partners for transparency deeply regrets the Human Rights Council's decision not to hold a debate this session under agenda item VII on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, which empowers the occupation authorities to commit escalate violations while enjoying impunity.

### **Extrajudicial Killing**

Extrajudicial killings of Palestinians have recently escalated, amidst increasing statements by officials in the occupation authorities encouraging the commission of further acts of violence and the use of excessive force. On April 8, 2022, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that security forces have full freedom to act and to launch relentless war on what he described as terrorism, empowering, by his official statement, Israeli soldiers to open fire unreluctantly because they are shielded from accountability. In this context, Partners for transparency documented the killing of 51 people from the beginning of 2022 until mid-May of the same year, including 10 Children and 3 women. April 2022 recorded the most number of civilians targeted by extrajudicial killings, as 18 Palestinians were killed.

In April 2022, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) shot a Palestinian woman in the village of Husan, west of Bethlehem. In the same month, a human rights lawyer (M.A.) was also killed by the IOF with a bullet in the chest in the city of Nablus in the West Bank. In May 2022, the IOF killed the child (T. K) in the occupied city of Al-Bireh in the West Bank. All these violent crimes indicate that the Israeli occupation forces continue to unlawfully kill Palestinians everywhere while enjoy legal immunity under the pretext of protecting Israel's national security.

### **Restrictions on religious freedom**

The Israeli occupation government continued to impose restrictions on the religious freedoms of Muslim worshippers in particular during the month of Ramadan. On April 15, 2022, the Israeli occupation forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque using tear gas bombs, sound bombs and

rubber bullets, which resulted in the injury of more than 160 people, including paramedics. In the same regard, hard evidence obtained by Partners for transparency shows that the soldiers of the occupation forces beat women and the elderly and use excessive violence against the worshipers with the aim of breaking their bones and in total disregard of all human rights considerations. For example, in a disturbing video, an Israeli officer has been filmed brutally beating a Palestinian woman with a stick on her hands, while she was screaming and then she fell on ground, apparently in an attempt to prevent her from being filmed.

### **Media freedoms are in the crosshairs**

Media workers are increasingly exposed to the risk of injury, death, detention or kidnapping as they do their job reporting violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces, which continues to pursue journalists and harass them relentlessly. Partners for transparency documented the occurrence of more than 120 violations of media freedoms during the first four months of 2022.

On May 11, 2022, journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was shot dead by the occupation forces while covering the Israeli forces' storming of Jenin camp, and journalist Ali al-Samudi was shot in the back. This human rights crime represents a persistent pattern of the Israeli occupation forces' targeting of journalists with the aim of blurring the facts and covering up the human rights violations they commit against the Palestinian people.

### **Practicing disinformation to cover up violations**

Partners for transparency has monitored the false and misleading claims published by Israeli-affiliated webpages to cover up the violations it is committing. The best example showing such misinformation is the Israeli police spokesman Wasim Bader publishing on his Twitter account false information during the Israeli occupation forces storming of the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The same scenario was repeated to cover up the extrajudicial killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, as they claiming that Shireen was either shot by Palestinian gunmen or that she was unintentionally killed during an exchange of fire, contrary to the truth that she was targeted and assassinated intentionally. The IDF Spokesman's page tops the pages promoting these lies and misinformation as well as Israel's page in Arabic. In any case, the manipulation of information carried out by the Israeli occupation government on social media constitutes an increasing threat to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people.

### **Arbitrary arrests are almost daily practices**

Arbitrary arrests are considered a regular occurrence in the Palestinian territories. Some of them are random and collective. There is no room to talk about the enforcement of the law in the presence of the Israeli occupation forces, as they forcibly arrest citizens without a legal basis on background of their political opposition and their opinions. So, no one dares to speak up against them, otherwise, he will be subjected to arrest, which is often accompanied by severe torture. As such, a citizen died in January 2022 after being arrested by the Israeli occupation forces and ill-treated on a large scale, in light of full impunity. In April 2022, the occupation forces collectively arrested 400 people, while storming Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan 2022.

### **Recommendations**

- The Human Rights Council should keep item VII on its agenda in future sessions;
- The Israeli occupation forces must stop deliberate targeting of civilians with extrajudicial killing;
- Allowing the exercise of religious freedoms for citizens, especially in Jerusalem;

- Stop targeting media freedoms, in addition to conducting a transparent investigation to hold accountable those involved in the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh;
- The Israeli occupation forces must stop media disinformation to cover up their violations;
- The need to stop arbitrary arrests.

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<https://bit.ly/38gVomw>

Israeli forces kill Palestinian human rights lawyer in West Bank. france24.

April2022<https://bit.ly/3yEpriq>

<https://bit.ly/3xBahtO>

<https://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-59961587>