



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-fifth session

September–October 2020 (TBC)

Agenda item 7

**Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, 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.

[23 August 2020]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

## **General Debate, Item 7: Human Rights in OPT**

ODVV deeply regrets the bitter reality that over decades, Israel has proven to fail to meet its obligations as the occupying power in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). We regret Israel's continuous disregard of UN numerous resolution and report recommendations on protection of human rights in OPT and the UN repeated calls on Israel to comply with international law.

It is unfortunate that Israel has maintained a pattern of violation of international law through the annexation of East Jerusalem, the location of the Separation Wall in the occupied territory, the building of Israeli settlements and widespread structural violations of Palestinian human rights, including all civil political and economic, social and cultural rights.

ODVV is also alarmed by the recent announcements of Israel political leaders on unilateral annexations of large areas of the West bank, which according to Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, "crystalize a 21st century apartheid". The decision would undoubtedly lead to deterioration of situation of human rights in OPT, leading to more human rights violations in terms of "forced evictions and displacement, land confiscation and alienation, settler violence, the appropriation of natural resources, and the imposition of a two-tiered system of unequal political, social and economic rights based on ethnicity."

Considering the recent alarming developments in the OPT, ODVV urges Special Rapporteur on OPT to utilize all possible tools at his disposal to prevent the continuous pattern of violation of all human rights of Palestinians in OPT – including encouraging the UN Secretary General and the High Commissionaire for Human Rights to publicly condemn the decision; requesting the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly to hold special sessions to discuss the decision and joining other Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on International Order and the Special Rapture on Racism in public statement to warn the international community of the catastrophic consequences of Israel's' unilateral decisions.

Also, ODVV requests the international community to do their best to strengthen and maintain item7 in the Human Rights Council, in order to increase the accountability of the occupying power in OPT. Finally, ODVV announces its full support of the Special Rapporteur's recommendation on adoption of sanctions and countermeasures against Israel and preventing settlement products from entering the international marketplace.

