

**OIC IPHRC called upon Israel, the occupying power, to ensure protection of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Third Holy Shrine in Islam, and the right of Palestinians to worship in it with no restrictions**

**Jeddah, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015:** The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) followed with great concern the rising Israeli aggressions against Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Third Important Islamic Holy site, including restriction on the right of Palestinians to worship in it. The Commission condemned the assaults by the Israeli settlers on the Mosque, under the protection of Israeli military, as well as disproportionate Israeli aggression against Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and Jerusalem, which resulted in the killing of 95 Palestinians, including 19 children and 3 women beside injuries to over 7000. Besides reported incidents of cold blooded killings, strong allegations have also been made about holding the dead bodies as well as stealing of their organs, which need thorough investigation. The Commission called upon the OIC Member States to intensify their efforts at all levels including at the United Nations Security Council to bring an immediate end to the ongoing hostilities with a view to avoiding further loss of innocent lives.

Recent Israeli aggression also includes increasing harassment of Palestinian population through the use of widespread administrative detentions (over 1500 in October 2015), among which 60% are minors of 12 to 17 years old. On November 8<sup>th</sup> 2015, a video footage revealed an aggressive Israeli security interrogation of 13-year old Ahmad Manasra, who was indicted on October 30<sup>th</sup> by Israel's Jerusalem District Court. IPHRC holds Israeli authorities fully responsible for the latest spate of violence and killings, an obvious outcome of its dehumanizing occupying / settlement policies, in total disregard of its international obligations as an occupying power and called upon the international community to urge Israel to respect the rights of Palestinians by fulfilling its obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian law.

During its 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, IPHRC Working Group on Palestine extensively discussed the Situation in Palestine, and while expressing concern on the ongoing spate of violence and discrimination against Palestinian people, welcomed the growing movement of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), that appears to have the desired economic impact on the occupying power. IPHRC welcomed the submission of information by Palestine to International Criminal Court and expressed support for pursuing the matter with vigor. It also joined the call made by the OIC Secretary General to seek provision of international protection for the Palestinian people. The Commission also decided to establish contacts with the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine to initiate possible joint actions.

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