

OIC IPHRC strongly condemns the continued executions of Palestinian children by Israeli occupying forces, squarely rejects the Israeli absurd assertion on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and calls for an immediate end of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, and of all other Arab occupied territories

Jeddah, 5th May 2016: The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) is following with great concern the unremitting Israeli outrageous attacks on the Palestinians on various check points across the occupied territories. These barbaric executions, which are now condemned internationally, are clear acts of war crimes, and are further undermining hopes for a successful peace process in the region.

The year of 2016 witnessed a sharp increase in Israeli human rights violations and violence against the Palestinian people. Since November 2015, more than 313 Palestinians have been killed, and more than 3,000 were injured as a result of Israeli military aggressions against unarmed Palestinians, most of which are children. In addition, Israel continues to build illegal settlements in confiscated Palestinian lands across the internationally recognized Palestinian territories, which dramatically undermine the prospect of the two-states solution.

The city of al-Quds/Jerusalem has also seen increasing attempts of Judaizing through policies of control and isolation from its Palestinian environment. Since the beginning of 2016, there were more than 330 attacks by the occupation forces and extremist settlers against Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, including Al-Aqsa Mosque, in which the Israeli Government continues excavations, and restricts freedom of movement and access of Muslims to worship.

During its 9th Regular Session, IPHRC Working Group on Palestine extensively discussed this current situation in Palestine, including eye witness accounts from some of the Commission members who visited these areas recently. It was retreated with regret that the devastating life style of the Palestinian people under occupation, was untenable and there was need to come up with the concrete solutions by the international community.

IPHRC also discussed the recent Israeli flagrant violation of all relevant international laws, by holding a government session on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the ensuing statements by the Israeli head of government that the “Golan will remain with Israel forever”. IPHRC condemned this escalation which comes as part of the ongoing attempts by the occupying power to consolidate the annexation of the occupied Golan, in total disregard of relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and the principles of international law. IPHRC stressed that these violations should not go unnoticed, and urged the Security Council and the OIC Member States currently sitting in the Council to take the appropriate actions against Israel for its illegal actions in all Arab occupied territories. These actions severely undermine prospects to achieve peace in the region, and deny international protection to the Palestinian and other Arab people under occupation, IPHRC added.

IPHRC has also welcomed the latest UNESCO resolution which rejects the use of “Temple Mount” to refer to Al-Aqsa Mosque and insists that the sanctuary is part of the Islamic heritage of Jerusalem, and will continue to use the name of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al Sharif in all its official documentation.

In addition, IPHRC welcomed the growing movement of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), which proves its legitimacy and wider support, and called for more cooperation among all international actors to stop all illegal economic activities of all corporations involved in occupied territories. The Commission also welcomed the French initiative to hold a meeting later this year to advance the Peace process, and hoped that the initiative would pave the way for a sustained and just peace process. The Commission also 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, and to end Israeli occupation.

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