

## **IPHRC calls for ending the long-standing Israeli occupation to Palestine, and to hold Israel, the Occupying Power, accountable for its systematic and grave human rights violations against the Palestinian People**

**Jeddah, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018:** While joining the international community in observing the ‘International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people’, IPHRC stressed that the non-realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to self-determination remains one of the biggest failures of the international community to achieve peace and justice in the Middle East. The Commission reiterated its call for ending the decades-long Israeli occupation of Palestine, which is the root cause of all human rights violations against the Palestinian people and urged the international community to intensify its efforts to facilitate a lasting and comprehensive just solution, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

During its 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Session (2-6 December 2018), IPHRC discussed extensively the recent developments concerning the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and expressed grave concern towards the increasing human rights violations committed by Israel the Occupying Power against Palestinians, including massive attacks on peaceful protests in the besieged Gaza strip and air strikes that resulted in dozens of killings and hundreds of wounded. The Commission also dwelt on and condemned the Israeli discriminatory policies such as the adoption of unprecedented laws, including the Segregationist “Nationality Law” that regulate Judaization of Palestinian lands, legitimize demolition of Palestinian houses, allows for stripping off their residency cards in Jerusalem, as well as restricts their ability to access their lands and private properties. This comes in addition to the repetitive human rights abuses and violations; an Israeli norm against Palestinians, such as the use of excessive and unjustified force against civilians, regular physical and psychological abuse of Palestinians at military checkpoints, and depriving the Palestinian prisoners of their basic human rights in Israeli prisons and detention centers.

In light of the massive support extended by the current US administration to Israeli policies, IPHRC also warned against the increasing Israeli attempts to undermine the socio-cultural diversity of occupied Jerusalem, by changing its physical and demographic landscape to enhance its Jewish character at the expense of its Arab Muslim and Christian identity. The Commission stressed the identity of Al-Aqsa Mosque as a uniquely Islamic holy site and recalled all the UNESCO decisions relating to the status of the Old City of Al-Quds and its Walls, which do not recognize any Israeli sovereignty over Al-Quds; squarely condemn the excavations being carried out by Israel in the occupied city; and declares the illegality of any changes caused by the Israeli occupation in the Old City of Al-Quds and its environs.

The Commission also noted with regret the failure of the international community to address these increasing, but well-known and established Israeli violations of basic human rights of the Palestinian people. It called for concrete measures to investigate these repetitive and grave human rights violations by relevant international mechanisms aiming to hold Israel, the Occupying Power, accountable for its widespread, massive and well-documented violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws.

The Commission also urged all stakeholders in the International Community to join the fair and legitimate ongoing movement of boycott, divestment and sanctioning of products from Israeli settlements. The Commission specially urged OIC Member States to continue to build a unified front to promote the legitimate cause of the Palestinian people and to take further concrete measures to implement the various resolutions adopted by OIC Summits and CFMs to provide political, economic, humanitarian and diplomatic support, at all levels, to the Palestinian people in their struggle to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination for the establishment of their own independent, viable and contiguous state, with Al -Quds Al-Shareef as its capital, including their unquestionable right to return to their homes and regain their properties, as stipulated in various UN Resolutions, and guaranteed by International law.

In conclusion, the Commission highly saluted the resilience of the Palestinian people in facing the tyrant Israeli occupation and unabated human rights violations and crimes. It reiterated its full support to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and resolved to continue its efforts to raise awareness about the Israeli human rights violations against Palestinians. At the same time, the Commission urged the Palestinian political leadership and all factions to work on a comprehensive national reconciliation in order to unify their efforts against the Israeli occupation, and solidify efforts to promote and protect the Palestinian legitimate rights.

\*\*\*\*\*

For more information: Please visit IPHRC's website: [www.oic-iphrc.org](http://www.oic-iphrc.org)