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Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC during Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories, Occupied since 1967
23rd Session of the Human Rights Council

I am making these remarks on behalf of the OIC.

The OIC welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. We call upon Israel to comply with its obligations under international law and immediately stop all human rights violations in the occupied State of Palestine.

We condemn Israel's persistent refusal to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur, as well as with other United Nations human rights mechanisms and preventing them from fulfilling their mandates.

The unlawful Israeli annexation and demographic manipulations in East Jerusalem have created fundamental threats to the Palestinian right of self-determination.

According to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the construction of settlements, collective punishments, targeted assassinations, diversion of water, excessive use of force, conditions of detention and imprisonment are all crimes that should be investigated and put to an end.

The OIC is concerned over the negative impacts of prolonged occupation of the State of Palestine which shows no signs of ending. The prolonged state of occupation has facilitated what the Human Rights Council's fact-finding mission on Israeli settlements aptly described as "creeping annexation".

We share the concern of the Special Rapporteur and deeply regret that Israel continues to ignore problems related to the detention of Palestinians prisoners.

The OIC Condemns Israel's consistent and systematic expansion of settlements through subsidies, expropriations, house demolitions and demolition orders, granting permits for homes in settlements and intensifying the exploitation of Palestinian natural resources and displacing 379 Palestinians.

We call up on the relevant Working Group on Business and Human Rights to investigate the activities of businesses that are connected with Israeli settlement activities. The OIC urges them to take appropriate action within their mandate to end any activities in the occupied State of Palestine and ensure appropriate reparation for the affected Palestinians.

The OIC would like to ask the Special Rapporteur on the most adequate modalities for the "Working Group on Business and Human Rights" to fulfill its mandate. We will be grateful if the Special Rapporteur may like to deliberate on re-enforcing the important role and tasks affiliated to the ICRC with regard to the issue of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

I thank you.