

3

**JOINT ORAL STATEMENT BY**  
**NORD-SUD XXI, UNION OF ARAB JURISTS, ARAB LAWYERS UNION,**  
**GENERAL ARAB WOMEN FEDERATION**  
**TO 14TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Item 7 Interactive Dialogue with SR on Palestine**

**14 June 2010**

We reiterate our longstanding concern for the plight of the Palestinian people and the ongoing denial of their basic human rights, especially the human right to self-determination.

We strongly support the independence and integrity of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Palestine, Professor Richard Falk, who continues to document the ongoing massive, widespread and serious violations of human rights perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

This situation is the direct result of a long-standing impunity that the Israeli Authorities have taken advantage of. The international community has, for too long, allowed the occupying power to act as a state above the law. It has thus encouraged Israel to increasingly disregard international law and its international legal obligations, which has resulted in the suffering of innocent civilians.

We join the Special Rapporteur's call for all possible action to be taken to ensure that Israel, the occupying power, ends its violations of Palestinians' human rights and that all those individuals and governments, including the Israeli authorities, be held accountable for their violations of international law or their contributions to such violations.

We recall that all actions taken by the international community or any individual state to ensure respect for human rights--whether they be sanctions, boycotts, prosecutions, international litigation, ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance, or any other necessary forms of support for the Palestinian peoples' struggle for self-determination against a foreign and oppressive occupier--are not only legitimate under international law, but fulfill their responsibility to ensuring international human rights law.

We therefore encourage all States to act with the required urgency and effectiveness that is necessary to secure the human rights that the Palestinian people have been denied for so long.