

Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

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Oral statement submitted by Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, a non-governmental organization with special consultative status.

BADIL welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

BADIL supports the Special Rapporteur's emphasis on the importance of the right of self-determination as indicated throughout the report as an inalienable right that belongs to the Palestinian people as a whole.

Furthermore, BADIL welcomes the emphasis in the report on apartheid and segregation. The state of Israel is producing a political division among the Palestinian people which is building on the prerequisite of a geographical fragmentation. In 1948 Israel started to tear apart the social fabric of Palestinian society by cutting off relationships between Palestinians on either side of the 1949 Armistice Line. Furthermore, fragmentation is being applied to the territory occupied in 1967 by categorizing the population according to identity cards that severely restrict fundamental human rights and freedoms, in particular freedom of movement within the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. In essence, Israel is partitioning the Palestinian society into categories and sub-categories with corresponding political and legal limitations to each different than to the other: Palestinian citizens of Israel; Palestinian permanent residents of Jerusalem; Palestinians with West Bank ID card; Palestinians with Gaza Strip ID card; and Palestinians living in forced exile without any legal affiliation to their homeland.

In this light, BADIL would like to highlight that only a holistic approach will be able to bring about the long overdue solution: the exercise of the internationally recognized right to self determination of the Palestinian people in combination with the implementation of the right of return for all Palestinian refugees to their homes and places of origin.

BADIL urge the Human Rights Council:

- To investigate the practices and policies of the state of Israel aiming at apartheid and segregation.
- To encourage a holistic human rights based approach, as the way leading to peaceful, just and durable solution for all issues, including the refugee question.
- To support and take practical measures for the implementation of the Palestinian right to self-determination.