

Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
Rania Madi
geneva@badil.org

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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.

Indigenous Palestinian People are living under an Israeli system of apartheid, occupation and colonisation

1. BADIL welcomes the opportunity to celebrate and discuss the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.
2. As stated by the Panel, the declaration consists of four pillars: (i) Protection of existence; (ii) Protection and promotion of identity; (iii) Equality and non- discrimination; and (iv) Right to effective participation.
3. In the case of the indigenous Palestinian population all four pillars are threatened. The indigenous Palestinian people are forced to live under an Israeli system of apartheid, occupation and colonization which extends from Israel Proper to the occupied Palestinian territory.
4. This combination of apartheid, occupation and colonization does not only discriminate against the Palestinian people; it furthermore undermines their identity and threatens their existence by a policy of population transfer.
5. Today, more than seven million indigenous Palestinians are forcible displaced persons and are therefore victims of the Israeli policy of population transfer.
6. We urge the Panel to look into the matter of the indigenous Palestinian people.