

19 Palestinian and international organizations submit statement to the Human Rights Council

**General Assembly
Human Rights Council
23rd session Item 1 - Organizational and procedural matters
Concluding remarks
14 June 2013**

Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of 19 NGOs¹.

Mr. President,

We express our deepest concern about the way the Council acted on Item 7, or more precisely the way it didn't act. We note with regret a trend toward applying double standards in the decision-making processes in the Council.

While the Council expresses its concern in each of its sessions about the human rights violations committed in the Arab Republic of Syria in the past 2 years, with 4 special sessions convened on the issue in that period, it sometimes remains silent, as it did at this session, on the decennial, continuous war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Israeli colonial power in the occupied Territories of Palestine. This longstanding occupation, and the crimes related to it, justifies the retention of Item 7 on the Agenda of the Council.

We wish also to stress that we dissociate our organisations from the language used by some colleagues during the Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Richard Falk, and the General debate on Item 7 and we deeply regret that personal attacks against him have been allowed to be expressed in the room because this is not only an attempt to attack the integrity of Mr. Falk, but rather of the entire system of the Special Procedures of the Council.

Furthermore, the Council surprisingly failed to address in an effective manner the issue of the non-cooperation of the State of Israel with the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism. OP4 of Decision A/HRC/OM/7/1 states that the Council "*Decides* to consider at the session when the President's final report will be considered, but at the latest at its 23rd session, any steps that may be deemed appropriate in light of the provisions of the UNGA resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and the HRC resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007".

Finally, Mr. President,

We express here our profound dismay noting that a State may not only infringe with impunity the principles of the Charter and defy every UN resolution concerning its occupation policy, but on top of it be awarded for it by being granted the privilege to negotiate its participation in the work of the highest international body for the protection and promotion of Human Rights. By negotiating with, instead of condemning a longstanding colonial power, the UN Human Rights Council is losing its integrity and its credibility.

I thank you for your attention.

¹ American Association of Jurists (AAJ)- BADIL: Resource Center for Palestinian Residency Refugee Rights- Indian Council for South America (CISA)- International Educational Development, Inc. (IED)- International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)- International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)- International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN)- North-South XXI- Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (MRAP)- Union of Arab Jurists- World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

The following non-ECOSOC organisations also share the views expressed in the present statement:
Arab Lawyers Association (UK) – Association of Humanitarians Lawyers - Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem – Geneva International Centre for Justice – Hebron Human Rights Press - Iraqi Commission for Human Rights - Tamkeen-Arab Group – Youth Against Settlements.