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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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– English-

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NEED TO ADDRESS THE NATURE OF ISRAEL'S REGIME
TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

In these days, which mark the 41st anniversary of Israel's belligerent occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, it is time to revisit the nature of the Israeli regime, which no longer resembles one of military occupation, traditionally aimed to maintain law and order in a territory following an armed conflict and pending a peace settlement.

As concluded by Professor John Dugard, “this is not the nature of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Since 1967 Israel has imposed its control over Palestine in the manner of a colonizing power under the guise of occupation.” Israel's regime of occupation should rather be seen as part and parcel of a system of institutional discrimination which, in intention and practice, protects Jewish privileges and benefits over the Palestinian people in the OPT, as well as those in Israel and in exile.

This sophisticated racist regime, characterized by a number of legislative measures, military orders and actions on the ground, is appropriating and annexing Palestinian land and property, fragmenting the territory of the occupied Palestinian territory by settling “colonists” in Jewish-only settlements, separating Jews from Palestinians through the creation of reserves and ghettos, and deliberately creating conditions preventing the full development of Palestinians, in particular by denying Palestinians basic human rights and freedoms, including the right to equality, freedom of movement, to leave and to return to their country, to work, education, and to family life and unity.

The result is the dispossession and displacement of a people – the Palestinians - from their land and the denial of their right to self-determination.

In this regard, we welcome the opportunity of the Durban Review Process to examine the root cause of the conflict and the nature of Israel's regime.

Sixty years into the Nakba (Catastrophe) and 60 years of the Declaration of Human Rights, Badil calls on members of the Human Rights Council to pass a resolution recognizing and condemning Israel's regime of colonization and apartheid towards the Palestinian people and commit to put an end to occupation, colonization and apartheid.