

## **BADIL's Oral Statement - UNHRC 51<sup>st</sup> Session – Item 7 (September 2022)**

The European Union stands to commit violations of international law and serious breaches if it follows through with the Memorandum of Understanding with Israel and Egypt signed in June 2022, to facilitate the import of gas from the occupied Palestinian territory and from territory appropriated by Israel after the Nakba from Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons.

In striking such a deal with Israel, the EU is poised to incriminate itself in international law violations and serious breaches: both generally through its complicity and demonstrable support, and specifically through its involvement and tacit approval of the illegal use of Palestinian natural resources in the occupied territory, amounting to pillage.

The expropriation and illegal exploitation of Palestinian natural resources by Israel should also be understood as a violation that serves to degrade and deny the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination. The EU and its member states have a responsibility not to render aid or assistance in the maintenance of Israeli breaches of international law. Yet the June Memorandum represents precisely these things, with the EU willingly assisting Israeli efforts to derive financial gain from its international crimes. In involving itself in the denial of the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, the EU and its member states will incur direct responsibility.