

**Palestinian organization with special consultative status since 2006**

**Oral Statement UNHRC Session #53**

**Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the CoI on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in Israel**

Mr President,

Palestinian organizations operate under a regimented system of domination with 3 pillars: forcible transfer, colonization and apartheid. They play a crucial role in the struggle for self-determination, empowering rights-holders, fostering resilience, and resisting Israel's domination.

Israel also seeks to silence Palestinians and suppress any opposition by lobbying the international donor community to impose unacceptable funding conditions on Palestinian organizations. The CoI reported on Israel's criminalization of Palestinian civil society, the pressure and threats against "institutions that give a platform for civil society discourse, actively lobbying donors and implementing measures intended to cut sources of funding to civil society".

Rather than implementing practical measures to hold Israel accountable, the international donor community supports and facilitates Israel's suppression of Palestinian civil society resistance, including through highly restrictive funding conditions. This includes censorship of organizations' language, geographic restrictions and limiting beneficiaries alleageable for projects. Donors also withhold funding from organizations that endorse the BDS movement - a legitimate form of resistance and reject the conditional funding clauses.

By imposing conditional funding, donors contradict their self-espoused principles of neutrality and partnership, and human rights-based approach.

If maintained, these conditions will create a depoliticized, donor-oriented civil society, incapable of addressing Israel's ongoing colonial actions, and unfit to vindicate Palestinian rights.

BADIL calls on states and UN institutions to:

1. Adopt a principled stance against attacks on Palestinian organizations, and promote an understanding of the specific colonial environment in which they operate.
2. Counteract the shrinking spaces for civil society and refrain from imposing conditional funding policies.

We further call on the CoI, in line with its mandate, to address the root causes of the situation, by investigating the 75 years of denial of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and return as well as the ongoing forcible displacement.

Thank you.