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Palestinian Civil Society Organisations Call for a Special Session on the Escalating Israeli Attacks against Palestinians on Both Sides of the Green Line

As the Human Rights Council will hold its 30th Special Session on the grave human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory on 27 May 2021, Palestinian civil society organisations¹ called on the international community to support the holding of a Special Session by the UN Human Rights Council to address the Israeli violations against Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line. In particular, Palestinian civil society urges the international community to:

1. Engage in the 30th UN Human Rights Council Special Session and address the escalating Israeli attacks against the Palestinian people, including the root causes of Israeli violations against Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line; and
2. Establish a commission of inquiry to:
 - i. Monitor, document and report on all violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including the escalating attacks against Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line since April 2021;
 - ii. Include and address the root causes of Israel's institutionalized regime of racial domination and oppression over the Palestinian people in line with the 2019 Concluding Observations on Israel by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) which highlighted Israeli policies and practices against Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line are in violation of Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) pertaining to racial segregation and apartheid;
 - iii. Identify individuals responsible for serious crimes; and

¹ Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO); Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), comprising of: Al Haq - Law in the Service of Mankind, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, ADDAMEER Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, DCI - Defense for Children International – Palestine, Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center, Aldameer Association for Human Rights, Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies, Hurryyat - Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights, The Independent Commission for Human Rights (Ombudsman Office) - Observer Member, and Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights - Observer Member; (Fada) - Palestinian Women Against Violence; Teacher Creativity Center; Palestinian Education Coalition; Arab Campaign for Education; AMAN Coalition (Transparency Palestine); Faisal Hussein foundation; Sharek Youth Forum; The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH; Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling; Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"; Arab world democracy and Electoral Monitor (almarsad); General Union of Cultural Centers – Palestine; Filastiniyat Association; and Stars of Hope Society for the Empowerment of Women with Disabilities.

- iv. Collect and preserve evidence related to violations to be used for accountability in relevant judicial bodies and transfer evidence to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Palestinian civil society organisations affirm that the announced-ceasefire does not mean, in any way, an end to Israel's violations against Palestinians. For 73 years, the Palestinian people have endured Israel's systematic, institutionalised and long-established unlawful laws, policies, and practices, embedded in Israel's settler-colonial and apartheid regime. The attacks on the Palestinian people is abetted by decades of failure to address the root causes and lack of accountability. Accordingly, we stress that accountability is key to achieve justice to the Palestinian people.

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