



**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
(EAFORD)**



Approaching the 77th Anniversary of the United Nations - and the 46th year of
EAFORD's Dedication

To Upholding and Promoting the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

OVERVIEW OF EAFORD'S ACTIVITIES IN 2021

Summary Reports of Participation in the 46th, 47th, and 48th Regular Sessions of the UN Human Rights Council & 30th Special Session on the Occupied Palestinian Territory



We began 2021 with the sad loss of our Secretary-General, Dr. Anis Al-Qasem, may he rest in peace. We are determined to continue to fulfil the mandate set by the [Founders of EAFORD](#) despite the continuing COVID-19 restrictions. While approaching the 77th Anniversary of the United Nations, Our organization has been able to contribute through its 45 years of dedicated work to upholding and promoting the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

As we come to the end of another year, in spite of our isolation from one another in this fragile time of the pandemic, our organization will enter its 46th year of dedication in 2022 with renewed vigor to promote universal respect of human rights, and understanding and empathy between peoples and regions across the world.

We look forward to increasing and strengthening the global family of EAFORD's Council members when we meet next time in person. In the meantime, as presented in this summary report, our organization was able to carry out a wide spectrum of activities this year through its advocacy and intervention with many human rights issues of concern, online and in other respects, as we plan for some engaging *in-person* conferences and events in the near future.

48th Session of the UN Human Rights Council 13 September to 01 October 2021

SUMMARY REPORT OF EAFORD'S INTERVENTIONS

EAFORD's Interventions during the 48th Session of the Human Rights Council



implement chapter V and Chapter VI of the Revitalized Agreement, which aimed to establish the transitional justice mechanisms is further entrenching impunity and could undermine the gains made so far. The reconstitution of the Legislative Assembly is welcome but in order to avoid the delay that characterized the implementation of the revitalized agreement, the new parliament should be empowered to ensure independent and timely legislative action. [Link to full written statement](#)



[Migration and Asylum Policies in Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands](#)

This is a written statement on the migration and asylum policies situation in Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands. It covers only a ray of the legal and political situation focusing on the national perspective from an international and human rights law standpoint. EAFORD and NGO signatories to this statement

recommend, among other things, all countries to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), 1990 and the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143).

The right to asylum should be respected and countries like Germany must find ways to combat the rise of far-right extremism. Austria should reconsider its plan of imposing a 1.5% yearly limit on the influx of migrants, facilitate humane policies for family reunification, and comply with the non-refoulement principle by stopping deportation to unsafe locations where refugees may face violence and persecution.

As for the Netherlands, serious efforts should be directed towards the protection of the fundamental human rights of refugees and asylum seekers including stopping the deportation of minors without ensuring their safe reception in the country of origin. Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands should take responsibility for the unlawful acts committed by FRONTEX in the Mediterranean Sea and initiate proper investigations with accountability mechanisms for all perpetrators of human rights violations. [Link to full written statement](#)



[Human Rights Situation in South Sudan](#)

The 9th of July of this year 2021 marked ten years since the Republic gained its independence. We welcome the country's ratification of all international humanitarian law treaties. However, sadly, the people of South Sudan continue to suffer greatly from a civil war that broke out in 2013, which brought about serious human rights abuses with a dysfunctional governmental structure, and a rise in opposition militias across

the country to the detriment of civilians and all vulnerable groups in general. In a country with widespread famine, children are easily targeted to become child soldiers as they are in desperate need of food, support and security. The lack of access to education and medical care further deteriorates the situation.

Given the unfortunate poverty situation nationwide, there is a constant need for aid workers, who themselves are risking their lives on the roads in non-governmental controlled areas. Humanitarian workers have faced multiple attacks in the past years, targeted mainly by militias in the equatorial region of the nation. In complete breach of the Geneva Conventions, there is an urgent need to facilitate access to aid, security and reinforce control on roads.

This written statement focuses on the situation of child soldiers since the beginning of the war and the various attacks on aid workers that have recently occurred. These serious human rights violations warrant the attention of the Human Rights Council. Furthermore, we underscore the rise in attacks since the September 2018 Peace Agreement, followed by a disorganized demilitarization of militias across the country. [Link to full written statement](#)



[A Call to End Impunity in Iraq](#)

This statement aims to bring the desperate call of the Iraqi youth to end impunity in Iraq to the attention of the Human Rights Council. EAFORD and the NGO signatories to this statement hope this allows United Nations members and relevant bodies to support the call by taking actions to bring all perpetrators of human rights violations in Iraq to justice and end impunity in the country.

Iraq fosters a dangerous and widespread lack of accountability due to its corrupt sectarian system of government and dysfunctional judicial system. On a daily basis, citizens are arbitrarily arrested, kidnapped, tortured and extrajudicially executed, and without necessary measures to hold perpetrators accountable, these violations

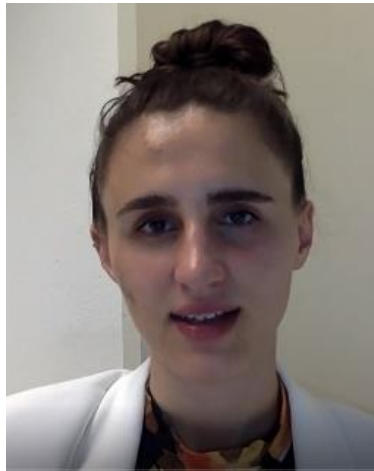
could continue indefinitely. The targeting of journalists, civil society workers and activists has also become common. It is well-documented by NGOs and UN bodies that the perpetrators of these crimes are mainly the government security forces and government-backed militias, especially the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) or as called in Arabic, al-Hashd al-Sha'abi.

The absence of accountability for these crimes motivated the Iraqi youth to launch a campaign with the main purpose of "Ending Impunity in Iraq." On 18th of July 2021, numerous Iraqi youth took to the streets of the main cities in Iraq and around the world in peaceful protest, demanding that all perpetrators of killings and human rights abuses be held accountable and brought to justice. [Link to full written statement](#)

Below the oral statements recorded for the 48th session of the Human Rights Council by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Item 3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Slavery

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Karin Heisen

Thank you, President

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's report on the "Nexus between displacement and contemporary forms of slavery."

Contemporary slavery can only be prevented if States fix the structural factors that cause displaced persons to be vulnerable to exploitation.

We draw attention to the persisting protection gaps, including in developed countries who are party to the Refugee Convention. The Global Slavery Index indicates that 63.6 percent of countries either do not have domestic laws or systems that protect asylum seekers or refugees, or systematically detain, arrest, deport or discriminate against them.

EAFORD and the Geneva International Centre for Justice are gravely concerned by the vulnerability of displaced persons with irregular or uncertain migration status. For instance, Australia, despite being one of the strongest responders to contemporary slavery, subjects asylum seekers coming by boat to indefinite detention in offshore processing sites where they frequently experience inhumane treatment. This leads to a surge of arrivals by plane and bridging visas. In the long term, bridging visas creates a protection gap that increases forced labor and labor exploitation.

Special Rapporteur, how can civil society organizations better pressure States to fill persisting protection gaps for displaced persons?

We urge:

- Member States to improve restrictive domestic laws and regulations regarding displaced persons, including reception conditions,
- States to ratify the Refugee Convention and Stateless Persons Convention,
- And all parties to withdraw all work-related reservations to these Conventions.

Item 3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Marc Gancedo

Thank you, President

We welcome the Working's Group report on arbitrary detention. Last week, the High Commissioner reported that, between 28 July and 26 August 2021, Nicaraguan authorities ordered the closure of around 40 human rights advocacy groups.

The lack of official information and transparency from the Nicaraguan government, who continues obstructing the monitoring work of human rights defenders, is of grave concern. The Interamerican Commission of Human Rights has documented that, since April 2018, at least 1614 people have been arbitrarily detained and arrested under ambiguous criminal concepts based on two laws adopted following the 2018 protests.

Human rights defenders are being subject to inhumane and degrading conditions. They have been denied access to health services, adequate food and drinking water and cases of sexual assault continue to mount. Those who protested against the government have been put into maximum security cells where they are kept in isolation and treated cruelly. Even after release following the amnesty law, human rights defenders continue to be targets of harassment and surveillance from government officials.

EAFORD and GICJ stand by the comments made by the Special Rapporteur in stressing the urgency for special measures to be taken ahead of the general elections scheduled for November, to ensure that detainees are set free. Human rights defenders must be allowed to continue with their monitoring duties and, to that end, must be protected at all costs.

Item 3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Payton Focht

Thank you, President

We thank the Working Group for the report, showing that Iraq has the largest documented number of enforced disappearances; nevertheless, this number does not represent the reality. There are between two hundred thousand and a million disappeared persons since 2003. Many Iraqi people disappeared during the U.S. invasion and occupation. The situation continued when the Iraqi authorities and its militia(s) used the pretext of fighting terrorism to justify the abduction of thousands of innocent civilians for a sectarian agenda. The Iraqi governments denial of the existence of secret detention centers reflects their unwillingness to end the practice of enforced disappearances.

We would like to emphasize to the Working Group that Iraqi legislation in force, implementation, and the practices of the authorities are not in compliance with the obligations under the Convention.

EAFORD and Geneva International Center for Justice are concerned that the visit to Iraq still has not happened. We think the visit is crucial as the Iraqi authorities continue to avoid implementing the recommendations from 2016 and 2020. This encompasses searching for the disappeared persons or to investigate their alleged enforced disappearance to ensure that the Convention is fully implemented de jure and de facto.

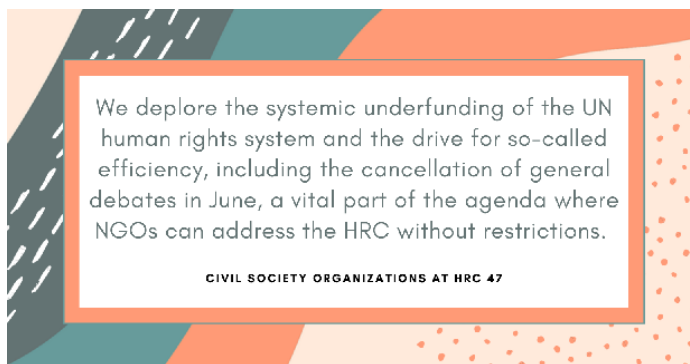
We would like to ask the Working Group, if the Iraqi government continues to delay visitation, what are the next steps?

Item 3: General Debate

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Sarah Tayara



Across Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Iran people live in fear of arbitrary detentions. In Yemen, thousands of civilians have been illegally detained by the government and Houthi militia. Overwhelmed by the lack of hope of being found, they are forced to endure inhumane and degrading treatment by all parties in the conflict.

In Iraq, the situation is exacerbated in the absence of any effective mechanisms, whether domestic or international, to ensure that the perpetrators of these gross injustices are held accountable for their actions.

A decade on from the beginning of the raging conflict in Syria, the authorities have continued to enjoy impunity for violations of human rights. Tens of thousands of civilians remain illegally detained in Syria's 'notorious' prisons and detention centers, and enforced disappearances have been used as a means of instilling fear in the hearts of Syrian civilians in order to deter dissent.

In Iran, there has been a sweeping crackdown on the Ahwazi Arabs. The scale of enforced disappearances in Al-Ahwaz is devastating. Hundreds of Arab detainees are subjected to months of physical, emotional and sexual torture by Iranian authorities.

EAFORD and GICJ call upon the immediate release of all arbitrarily detained civilians and their safe return to their families. It is vital that this pattern of sheer disregard for human life and dignity ceases immediately.



Item 3: High Level Panel

‘The 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: closing gaps between expectations and reality’

Joint Oral Statement of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning



Delivered by: Elisa Gazzotti

Madam President

I speak on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning.

We welcome the High Level Panel Discussion on the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

Ten years ago, our network advocated for the adoption of the Declaration.

The 10th anniversary gives us today the opportunity to reflect on the progress made in implementing human rights education, looking at the same time at the existing gaps between the objectives set in the Declaration and reality.

Specifically, we want to emphasize that the Declaration in Article 7 of the Declaration affirms that States (...) ‘are primarily responsible for HRET’ and Article 14 urges States to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation and follow up of the Declaration, making the necessary resources available.

Looking at the continuous human rights violations today, it is key to prioritize human rights education, to mitigate distorted information, enhance the response to violations and increase access to and protection of rights. For this, we call on States to commit in providing adequate resources for HRE implementation, to ensure a reporting and monitoring mechanism of the Declaration, including through mainstream it in the UPR and SDG 4.7 reporting, to provide adequate space for civil society to carry out their work and safeguard human rights education.

This is key to ensure that the great expectations expressed in the Declaration become a tangible reality for everyone including the most marginalized, oppressed and excluded.

Item 4 GD: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Payton Focht

Thank you, President

The human rights violations in Iraq continue to increase in severity and the most fundamental legal conditions and procedural safeguards are systematically disregarded. The violations could continue indefinitely if the international community does not act.

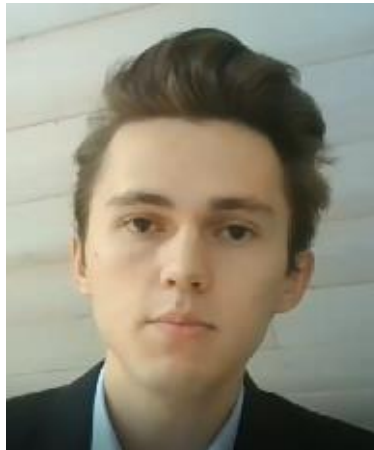
Iraqis are kept in disgusting and dangerous detention for years without due process where they experience ill treatment such as no access to medical treatment and torture, with no notice of the reason or timeframe of detention. Detentions often lead to enforced disappearances or death from poor and inhumane conditions. EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice believe that these add to the growing number of people that are put to death without fair trial by the government.

Militias and other groups operate their own prisons making it difficult for families to track down loved ones which can prolong the detention and the emotional turmoil taken on by families. Enforced disappearances are widespread and systematic in Iraq leaving thousands of people without legitimate protection. Iraqi law does not explicitly criminalize enforced disappearances, nor does it provide for specific procedures for the search or investigation of disappeared or alleged disappeared persons.

We urge the UN to put forth all their efforts to end these human rights abuses. The UN and international communities cannot be spectators to these grave violations any longer.

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes - Belgium

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Marc Gancedo

We welcome the UPR report on Belgium and commend the efforts made by the Belgian government in the previous UPR by accepting 187 of the 232 recommendations made.

Even though we acknowledge the need to take preventive measures in counter-terrorism, these must not be taken at the expense of human rights. Belgium must address the fact that the ethnic profiling stemming from these preventive measures is conducive to racism and Muslim-hatred as it reinforces negative views. Belgium has shown to be unable, and to some extent unwilling, to take further steps to stop xenophobia and racism. Belgium has not adopted a general law banning hatred-inciting organizations deeming it unnecessary whilst hate speech continues spreading. Adding to this problem, Belgium has to this date not ratified the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe.

Furthermore, national security cannot and shall not be used as an excuse to bypass the current ban imposed on ethnic profiling by the Belgian government. In his visit to Belgium, the Special Rapporteur expressed his concern on conflating religious practice with radicalization. Belgium should enhance its transparency so that no doubt arises from the preventive measures taken.

Regarding mobility restrictions and detentions imposed on suspects, the situation has further deteriorated. In October 2017, the Parliament amended the Constitution to increase the maximum duration of pre-charge detention from 24 to 48 hours. Moreover, the limits arbitrarily imposed on freedom of movement for justifiable personal reasons continue to be of grave concern in cases where such measures are unnecessary and disproportionate to the objectives of national security.

We would like to conclude this statement by joining the calls of the international community in demanding Belgium to fully commit to a counter-terrorist strategy driven by human rights by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Only then, will Belgium demonstrate its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes - Denmark

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Karin Heisen

Thank you, President

We commend Denmark for its exemplary commitment to gender equality. Including the lack of consent in the definition of rape aligned the Danish Criminal Code with the principles of the Istanbul Convention.

Despite measures taken, we are disappointed by the widespread impunity for gender-based violence. The Danish Ministry of Justice estimates that each year, 11,800 women are raped.¹ In 2020, 1,041 rapes were reported to police. Only 109 perpetrators were convicted.² How can it be that Denmark, in the past three UPR cycles, has highlighted the steps it takes to combat gender-based violence, yet currently, less than 1% of rapes result in conviction?

Women of colour and migrant women face particular barriers to reporting and accessing justice, which the government denies by citing the measures it has in place or that it has no knowledge of discrimination occurring. Migrant survivors often do not report to police as they fear that their immigration status will be questioned or their immigration permission applications denied.

¹ <https://dkr.dk/Media/637590125192901689/Offerunders%c3%b8gelse%202005-2020.%20Hovedtal.pdf>

² <https://www.statbank.dk/STRAF10>

EAFORD and the Geneva International Centre for Justice call on Denmark to eliminate barriers to reporting, investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence.

We urge the Danish government:

- To strengthen and disaggregate data collection to better understand the nature and scope of gender-based violence;
- Secondly, to improve training of police officers and legal professionals focused on eradicating gender stereotypes and secondary victimisation;
- Thirdly, to step up awareness-raising campaigns and school education to prevent violence;
- And lastly, to increase support for community-based and grassroots activism of black and brown women's groups to ensure that policies are built around the experience of all women in Denmark.

Denmark needs to make justice the norm, not the exception for gender-based crimes.

Item 6 General Debate: Universal Periodic Review

Joint Oral Statement of CCIC on behalf of a Coalition of NGOs



Delivered by: Maria Lilian Espedilla

Thank you, Madam President

CCIG, on behalf of a coalition of 11 NGOs, welcomes the commitment of Member States to the UPR process over the years.

Moving forward to the 4th cycle, the main challenge for the UPR mechanism is to ensure the monitoring and implementation of recommendations at the local level.

Accessibility of UPR Recommendations at the Local Level.

Widespread dissemination of recommendations among local civil society is still lacking and the involvement of the media is too limited. *Further efforts are needed to enhance the role of communication experts in raising awareness of the UPR and the human rights issues that it raises.*

The language in which the recommendations are framed is not always accessible for non-experts in the human rights field. As a result, the UPR risks to remain accessible only to a few advocacy professionals within the Government and the Civil Society.

Awareness Raising and Capacity Building for Local Actors

In order to boost a better implementation, there is a need to empower not only advocacy professionals, but all those who deal directly with human rights challenges providing related services, like education and victims assistance.

We recommend to implement targeted capacity building initiatives to widen the pool of actors reached and ensure that human rights monitoring is a prerogative of civil society as a whole.

National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow Up (NMRFs)

Despite some positive results, much remains to be done to make the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow Up a widespread and effective practice. *We call upon all Member States to set up or improve these mechanisms in order to enhance implementation efforts of government institutions in consultation with Civil Society.*

ITEM 7 General Debate: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Sarah Tayara

Thank you, Madam President

We are deeply concerned about the state of almost 5 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, all of whom are forced to endure Israel's constant exploitation of their natural resources. Water is being used as a weapon of war and Palestinians limited access to their water sources in the West bank has become a symbol of

Israel's systematic human rights violations, as well as a reflection of the lack of any meaningful control Palestinians have over their daily lives.

Israel's strategic colonial expansion into Palestinian areas such as Sheikh Jarrah have aimed specifically at wiping out Palestinian presence. Israel has shown the utmost disrespect to the rights of Palestinians, even daring to launch attacks on them in places of worship such as Masjid Al Aqsa without any remorse.

Following the escape of six Palestinian prisoners from the Gilboa Prison, Israel has launched a ruthless campaign of collective punishment against the thousands of remaining Palestinian prisoners and their families.

We call upon the international community to put an end to the Palestinian suffering and to Israel's illegal and oppressive policies. The time to finally break the perpetual cycle of Palestinian pain and Israel's impunity is long overdue. The time has come to ensure that Israel should no longer get away with acting above the law.

Agenda Item 9: Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Payton Focht

Thank you, President

EAFORD and Geneva International Center for Justice thank the Working Group for their report. In February 2021, Texas, USA, experienced a record cold winter storm leaving thousands of people with “rolling blackouts” and hundreds dead. This disproportionately effected POC communities that had already been struggling due to Covid-19. Utility companies prioritized powering the downtown areas that include critical service, which also benefited wealthier neighborhoods. Lower-income families typically live farther outside of the city centers and were less likely to be given power. While the storm affected everyone in Texas, people of color in lower-income areas did not have the same means to acquire food, to work, to make repairs, etc. It will take these communities, already struggling disproportionately from Covid-19, to recover. In addition, the increased demand due to extreme weather will likely increase the cost of electricity and other utilities. This will have a greater impact a lower-income communities and no financial relief.

Gregg Abbot, Governor of Texas stated that the new reform would fix the problems of the winter, yet Summer 2021 proved otherwise. With power grids that could still not withstand the demand, Texas residence were asked

to reduce electricity usage mid- heat wave. Laborers are disproportionately people of color, and they are the group that disproportionately suffers from heat related deaths or harm.

EAFORD and GICJ urge the United States and the international community to recognize the right to a healthy environment and include the participation of people of African descent in policy making. What has happened in Texas in the last year is embarrassing and we urge the U.S. to make changes in policy and socially to ensure that preventable deaths are prevented and the POC community is protected.

Agenda Item 9: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Racism

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Karin Heisen

Thank you, President

We strongly support the Special Rapporteur and her report on racial discrimination and the use of digital technologies in border and immigration enforcement.

These technologies are informed by racially biased data and derived from a history of racist tools used to oppress people of color. Biometric data and database sharing have their roots in the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism. Enslaved Black individuals were branded. Japanese Americans were interned using census data. Today, these historical tools are digitized.

If we don't actively design and use technologies in an anti-racist manner, the cycle of structural and institutional violence continues.

EAFORD and the Geneva International Centre for Justice call for centering people of color in knowledge production and migrants themselves in the design of border control technologies. In addition, experts on racism need to be involved.

We call for a moratorium on the sale and use of all surveillance technologies until they prove to be nondiscriminatory. A robust human rights framework must be set up. We strongly advocate for the Durban Declaration and Program of Action and encourage all States to fully implement it.

Member States, are you doing all in your power to implement anti-racist measures? In this interactive dialogue last year, the Special Rapporteur was unable to name a single good State practice where marginalized communities were involved in the designing of nondiscriminatory technology.

Agenda Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Payton Focht

Thank you, President

We continue to witness the rise in racism, racial discrimination, and other forms of intolerance. In light of this, we recall that finding and addressing the root causes of racial discrimination is imperative in the fight to end racial discrimination and other forms of racial intolerance as mentioned in the DDPA.

We also take note that there has been a failure to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action fully and effectively, especially considering its strong support and adoption by the General Assembly during the 2001 World Conference against racism. Even more disturbing, we are now witnessing its suppression and undermining, and most recently an escalation of boycott campaigns against the DDPA.

To counteract this opposition that only further escalates growing hatred and stagnates progress, EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice strongly advocate for the visibility and accessibility of the DDPA to educate the international community and population at large. Thus, we call for distribution of the DDPA in all official UN languages and request for allocation in the UN budget to engage all relevant actors in an outreach programme and produce informative publications for media campaigns and UN information centers.

Finally, we continue to recall the request by the General Assembly to develop a multi-year programme of activities.

Agenda Item 10: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Mutua K. Kobia

We are deeply concerned about the slow pace of the transitional justice programme. The Government of South Sudan continues to delay the implementation of Chapter V of the Revitalized Agreement to ensure justice and closure for victims. The African Union, a key stakeholder in the establishment of the hybrid courts in South Sudan, has done little to end the propensity for impunity.

Arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and media repression continue unabated in South Sudan. Killings without due process and the use of the death penalty are increasing. There have been as many as 20 extrajudicial executions in Warrap State this year.

The exponential increase in attacks on humanitarian workers and the continued recruitment of child soldiers are also of great concern and we call for an immediate halt to attacks on aid workers and the recruitment of child soldiers. We also call for specialized training for the social adaptation of former child soldiers and the necessary assistance to support such campaigns.

EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice recognize the important role international bodies play and urge the international community to intensify its technical support.

We also recommend technical assistance and capacity building to improve judicial systems and human rights training and education for the security forces.

Agenda Item 10: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the final report of experts on Kasai

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Amie Sillito

Thank you, Madame President

We support the important work of the High Commissioner in the DRC and the team of international experts on the situation in Kasai.

We welcome the collaboration of the Congolese Government with international human rights mechanisms and commend the results achieved in implementing previous recommendations. We are glad to note that there has been progress in opening up democratic space and we encourage the government to continue on this path as freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and inclusive participation in decision making are the basis of sustainable development.

However, EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice remain seriously concerned over the high rates of sexual abuse and gender-based violence, particularly in North Kivu. We are especially concerned about the situation of women and children in the provinces affected by the armed conflict, as women account for 80% and children 19% of victims. We are also concerned about reports detailing human rights violations, including rape and extrajudicial killings, committed by both armed groups and security forces alike.

This Council along with the international community need to provide the necessary tools and capacity-building to the Congolese authorities to enhance their efforts in improving the human rights situation in the country. Civilian's rights must also be protected in conflict-affected areas and all cases of sexual violence but be thoroughly investigated to bring perpetrators to justice and provide support to victims.

47th Regular Session of Human Rights Council



21 June - 13 July 2021
Geneva, Switzerland



SUMMARY REPORT OF EAFORD'S INTERVENTIONS

EAFORD's Interventions during the 47th Session of the Human Rights Council



Written Statements

The International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD) submitted three joint written statements with other NGOs to the 47th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC). The statements covered the following human rights issues:

[The Shocking Realities of the Israeli Occupation of Palestine](#)

Beginning on 10 May 2021, Israeli forces launched an act of aggression against the occupied people of Palestine that was the deadliest since 2014. The horrifying images in the media

of deadly airstrikes exposed once again Israel's blatant disregard for human rights and humanitarian law.

Hundreds of defenseless Palestinian civilians were killed, including 67 children. Thousands of Palestinians were injured and homes destroyed. Over seventy thousand Palestinians were displaced in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. In contrast, thirteen Israelis were killed and 117 wounded.

The disproportionate casualties and damages recorded during the confrontations contradict Israel's claim that it was acting in proportional self-defense.

Building on racial and religious discrimination that has been festering for years, on April 19, dozens of young Israeli Jews stalked the streets of Jerusalem, chanting "Death to Arabs" and physically assaulting Palestinians in the city. We regret the absence of accountability and are appalled by the Security Council's inaction with respect to the situation in the OPT, as well as, deplore the ineffectiveness of its three meetings, which failed to make a fair statement serving security and peace. [Link to full written statement](#)

[The 10th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education](#)



The recognition of the contribution of human rights education to build a culture of human rights has been evolving over the years. The World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing) and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011) are key international documents that have contributed to the establishment of human rights education as a key necessity in the efforts to build a culture of human rights. There is a general consensus that the relevance of human rights education goes beyond the sole knowledge of and about

human rights. Rather, Human Rights Education is a transformative process that leads people to become empowered individuals that exercise their rights and act to promote, respect and protect others' rights positively impacting their communities, environment and society in general. [Link to full written statement](#)

[The Continued Human Rights Violations inside Iraqi Prisons](#)



Tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians have been subjected to unfair trials and grave violations during their imprisonment. The use of the worst forms of torture constitutes a flagrant violation of all international rules and standards. The Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights has referred to some of these cases and has raised periodic reports on these issues. However, the Ministry of Justice has more than once refused an investigation committee to enter prisons to verify such complaints. Apart from the poor conditions,

torture, humiliation, and maltreatment, prisoners are allegedly subjected to forced drug-taking, human trafficking, and human organ trade. Many prisoners face terrorism-related charges, with no sufficient evidence. The Anti-Terrorism Law no. 13 is often systematically and strategically misused to legitimize arrests for several purposes including based on discriminatory grounds. [Link to full written statement](#)

Oral statement recorded for the 47th session of the Human Rights Council by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Central African Republic

Agenda Item 10: Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building

09 July 2021

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered By: Buba Ceesay

Thank you, President

We thank the Independent Expert for his update on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in Central African Republic.

We remain deeply concerned with the humanitarian situation in Central African Republic and its further deterioration because of the armed conflict.

We would like to raise the urgent threats from explosive ordinances that have been recently increasing due to intensified conflict particularly in the West of Central African Republic.

Amidst the dire humanitarian situation in the country, more people face new threats, which further exacerbates the plight of humanitarian workers who already face the challenge of accessibility in bringing aid to those desperately in need.

(<https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/car/>)

The number and situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is also of great concern especially towards the stabilization of communities and society at large in the country.

We at the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD) and Geneva International Centre for Justice urgently recommend capacity-building towards strengthening an integrated psychosocial support system, particularly for children but also for internally displaced persons and women who have suffered forms of sexual violence.

We also recommend technical assistance and capacity-building towards enhancing judicial systems as well as human rights training and education for enforcers of law under the government.

30th Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council on the Grave Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
27 May 2021



On 27 May, against a backdrop of inaction at the Security Council, the Human Rights Council met in a Special Session to consider ‘the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.’

In addition to the usual – and entirely appropriate – condemnation of police brutality and Israeli bombing of civilian areas, promisingly, the session also revealed a keen awareness, on the part of UN leaders, States and NGOs, that the Council should focus more attention and energy on addressing the root causes of the conflict.

Opening the debate, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, argued that while Israel has the right to defend its citizens and residents, ‘Palestinians have rights too – the same rights.’ ‘They too have the right to live safely and freely in their homes, with adequate and essential services and opportunities, and with respect for their right to life and physical integrity. The lived reality of the occupation, however, is that they are systematically deprived of [these] fundamental rights.’

To her credit, the High Commissioner focused much of her statement on the root causes of the recent fighting. ‘Two main issues led to the rise in tensions,’ she said. First, ‘the imminent evictions of Palestinian families and

their forced displacement in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in occupied East Jerusalem, to make way for settlers,’ and second, the deployment of Israeli security forces’ at the Al Aqsa compound, ‘restricting access to thousands of worshippers during the last days of Ramadan.’ On several occasions, she reported, the security forces ‘used force against peaceful protesters and worshippers.’



The High Commissioner ended by welcoming the declared ceasefire, while making it clear that ‘unless the root causes of this violence are addressed, it will sadly be [only] a matter of time until the next round of violence commences, with further pain and suffering for civilians on all sides.’ ‘There must be,’ she continued, ‘a genuine and inclusive peace process to address these root causes and bring the occupation to an end. In any such processes and for any resulting agreements, the respect and protection of human rights must be fundamental, including accountability for past human rights violations and abuses. Only when human rights are fully respected and protected can trust start to be built between the various communities and a durable, lasting and just peace be achieved.’

Bachelet’s message was repeated by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, speaking on behalf of the Special Procedures system. Lynk described repeated confrontations over the exercise of religious rights, and the sustained campaign of settler groups to evict Palestinian families from their homes, as being akin to ‘embers that have been smoldering for years and which ignited the latest violence.’

The Special Rapporteur recalled the UN’s repeated demands that Israel comply with its international obligations as the occupying power and cease all settlement activity, arguing that the occupation ‘has become indistinguishable from annexation.’

A former member of the Knesset (Israel’s parliament), and Chairman of the Arab Higher Committee in Israel, Mohammad Barakeh, also drew attention to long-term systematic human rights violations against Palestinians

as being the root cause of the latest conflict. He recounted a history of violations and abuses of Palestinian rights, including different forms of discrimination, confiscation of land, restrictions on job opportunities, and arbitrary arrests. In particular, his intervention focused on the adoption, in 2018, of the 'Nation State Bill,' which, he said, seeks to deny Palestinian their right to self-determination, and serves to institutionalize Israeli State discrimination against the Palestinian people.

Such calls to urgently address the root causes of the conflict, within the framework of a two State solution and an end to the occupation, were repeated by many States, including Pakistan on behalf of the OIC, South Africa on behalf of the African Group, and Sweden on behalf of the Nordic States.

Civil society also urged the international community to look beyond the recent fighting and come to grips with the 'upstream' human rights violations that lie at the root of the crisis.

For example, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights said that the root causes of the violence can no longer be ignored, and highlighted that Palestinians have been forcefully displaced, strategically fragmented, and placed into a system of racial and ethnic domination amounting to apartheid. For its part, Human Rights Watch remarked that 'we have been here before, and tragically, we will be here again, unless three things change,' including an increased focus on root causes. In that regard, Human Rights Watch quoted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who said: 'these horrific events did not arise in isolation. They must be viewed in the context of decades of military occupation [...] and a failure to address the core issues at the heart of the conflict.'

The Outcome Resolution

The resolution adopted at the end of the special session (tabled by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC, and Palestine), in line with calls made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine, Riad Malki, as well as Egypt on behalf of the group of Arab States, focused on the need to investigate violations in the context of the most recent conflict, and to hold those responsible to account. In that regard, the Council decided, with resolution S.30/L.1, 'to urgently establish an ongoing independent, international commission of inquiry [...] to investigate [...] all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021.'

Operative paragraph one of the resolution does also call on the commission of inquiry to investigate the 'underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict, including systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial or religious identity.'

Although Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the OIC during the debate, had 'called on the Council to speak with one voice to ensure respect for basic human rights and dignity of the Palestinian people, the resolution was eventually adopted with 24 in favor, 9 against and 14 abstentions.

Nevertheless, the resolution establishes the first ongoing Commission of Inquiry to address Israel's violations against the Palestinian people on both sides of the Green Line, and the underlying root causes of such systematic and widespread violations, embedded in Israel's settler-colonial and apartheid regime. This resolution is also the first resolution, adopted by the Human Rights Council on Palestine, which calls on Third States to refrain from transferring arms when assessed that these arms would be used to commit serious violations of international law.

Speaking from the Gaza Strip, Issam Younis, Commissioner General of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) noted that "recent events are only a symptom. The problem is that for 73 years, the Palestinian people have endured systematic, institutionalized, and long-established laws, policies, and practices that aim to impose and maintain a settler-colonial regime of racial domination and oppression over Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line." In his statement, he addressed Member States saying: "today you have a choice:

either to vote in favor of the resolution before you, to move us forward, under the shelter of international law, or to withhold your support and choose geopolitical and economic interests."

In favor (24): Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Gabon, Indonesia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

Against (9): Austria, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Germany, Malawi, Marshall Islands, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

Abstentions (14): Bahamas, Brazil, Denmark, Fiji, France, India, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Togo and Ukraine.

EAFORD's Interventions at the 30th Special Session of the HRC

Joint Press release

Geneva, 27 May 2021

International-Lawyers.org, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration (AMHRI), and Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ) welcome the Human Rights Council's decision to convene a Special Session to address the grave human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. We regret that despite registering as soon as the registration portal opened, none of our organizations were authorized to deliver an oral statement. Nevertheless, we are providing this statement of our positions on the situation in Palestine.

Beginning on 10 May 2021, Israeli forces launched an act of aggression against the occupied people of Palestine that was the deadliest since 2014. The horrifying images in the media of deadly airstrikes contributed to exposing Israel's blatant disregard for human rights and humanitarian law. Hundreds of defenseless Palestinian civilians were killed, including 67 children. Thousands of Palestinians were injured and hundreds of Palestinian homes were destroyed. Over sixty thousand Palestinians were displaced in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. In contrast, thirteen Israelis were killed and 117 wounded. The disproportionate casualties and damages recorded during the recent confrontations contradict Israel's claim that it was acting in proportional self-defense.

Israel as an occupying power has the responsibility to ensure the safety of those it occupies and to end its occupation of Palestine. Israel has a legal obligation to respect Palestinians' right to self-determination. Until the Palestinians' right to self-determination is fully realized there can be no equivalence between the act of people struggling for self-determination, and the acts of an unlawful occupying power.

The recent atrocities add up to decades of discrimination, intimidation, inhumane treatment, and violence by Israeli authorities against Palestinians in their own land. In East Jerusalem, nearly a thousand Palestinians remain at risk of forced eviction. In Gaza, almost two million Palestinians have been denied the necessities of life for prolonged periods of time and have been subjected to attacks from high-powered military weapons provided to Israel by, among others, European countries and the United States. Israel's attack on Al Aqsa Mosque in

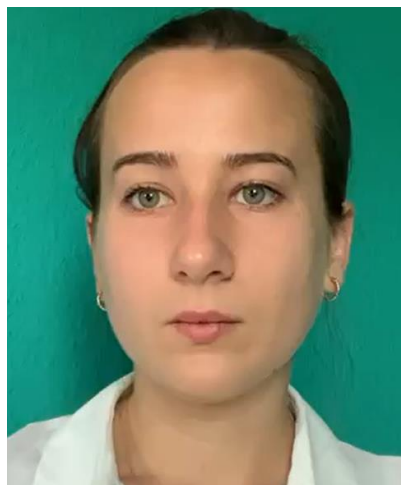
Jerusalem on Friday, 7 May 2021, during Ramadan, and without legitimate security grounds, reflects a callous disregard for the religion of others. Palestinians' fundamental rights are increasingly undermined by the policies of Israeli government, and ethnic cleansing is a reality for Palestinian inhabitants in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. These actions by Israel, taken as a whole, are now widely recognized as constituting the crime of apartheid and amount to the international crime of genocide.

The international community must not remain silent. The international community must uphold the *jus cogens* right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and it has an *erga omnes* obligation to end apartheid and genocide wherever they take place. Israel must stop the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, including the forced evictions of Palestinian families from their homes. Israel must end its policy of apartheid. We urge the Council to encourage the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability for the atrocities committed for years in Palestine, including the determination of whether those acts amount to genocide.

Oral statement recorded for the Special Session by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

30th Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Special Session on the Grave Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem



Delivered by: Clélia Jeandin

Thank you President

We welcome the convening of this special session.

Starting May 10, 2021, Israeli forces have launched the most violent attacks ever observed on Palestine since 2014. For over two weeks, hundreds of defenseless civilians were killed, including 67 children, thousands were injured, hundreds of homes were destroyed, and over 60 thousand Palestinian people were displaced in Gaza, in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. The recent atrocities add up to decades of discrimination, intimidation, and violence demonstrated by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians on their own land. In East Jerusalem, nearly 1'000 Palestinians are at risk of forced eviction.

Despite the appalling violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by Israel, the international community has not taken action. As violence escalates and Palestinians' fundamental rights are increasingly

undermined by the Israeli government's policies, ethnic cleansing is becoming a reality for the Palestinian inhabitants living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD) and Geneva International Centre for Justice (GICJ) strongly condemn Israel's actions and state-sanctioned systematic violence. We are particularly concerned to see that some key international actors continue to defend the state's grave violations. Israel must stop its illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, and the forced evictions of Palestinian families from their homes. Israel must respect the ceasefire and stop its violent and unjustified attacks in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Lastly, we call on the international community to, urgently and impartially, prosecute the inhumane crimes of aggression perpetrated by a ruthless Occupying Power against the defenseless people under occupation.



SUMMARY REPORT OF EAFORD'S INTERVENTIONS



EAFORD's Interventions during the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council

Written Statements



The International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD) submitted eight joint written statements with other NGOs to the 46th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC). The statements covered several specific country situations, issues of concern to the Council, and human rights violations across the globe.

[Coalition Letter to U.N. African Group on Ensuring Effective Accountability for Police Violence in U.S.](#)



The families of victims of police violence and undersigned civil society organizations, among them EAFORD, write to “Ministers of Foreign Affairs of African States” with regard to the follow up to Human Rights Council resolution (A/HRC/43/1) on “the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers.”

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and its outcome documents, (The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action), we urged governments in general, and Permanent Representatives of African States in Geneva in particular, to continue their critical engagement on these issues and ensure that at its 47th session, the Council establishes the abovementioned mechanisms and mandates the requisite resources to actually make a difference in the lives of the millions of people in the United States and around the world who are subject to systemic racism especially in the context of violence by law enforcement. [Link to full written statement](#)

[Public Joint NGO Letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Follow-up to Resolution 43.1](#)



In June 2021, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights was expected to present her final report to the Human Rights Council mandated by [HRC Resolution 43/1](#) addressing systemic racism and police violence.

We wanted to ensure that the Council continues to address these important issues by urging the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to support the demands made by families of victims of police violence, civil society organizations and UN Special Procedures in June 2020.

Previously, victims' families and over 600 organizations have [called](#) on the Council to mandate an independent inquiry into the killings and violent law enforcement responses to protests, including the attacks against protesters and journalists in the United States. The Special Procedures strongly urged the Council to establish a commission of inquiry to "investigate systemic racism in law enforcement in the United States" and a "thematic commission of inquiry or other mechanism empowered to investigate systemic racism in law enforcement globally, especially where it is related to legacies of colonialism and transatlantic slavery."



The letter acknowledges the recent cross-regional joint [statement](#) on countering racism which was led by the U.S. Mission to Geneva but emphasizes that a

robust international accountability mechanism would further support and complement, not undermine, efforts to dismantle systemic racism in the United States, especially in the context of police violence against people of African descent. [Link to full written statement](#)



[Letter to the International Criminal Court to Investigate Imminent Forced Evictions in Sheikh Jarrah](#)

Over 1,500 Palestinians from neighborhoods in Jerusalem faced threat of forced displacement and home demolitions by Israeli authorities. Children made up a large percentage of the families threatened with homelessness.

An Israeli court has ruled in favor of Jewish settlers and given four families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood until 2 May 2021 to leave their homes. In the Silwan neighborhoods of Al Bustan and Batin al Hawa, a total of 21 families faced home demolition on May 11th to make way for an allegedly bible-inspired 'King David Park' tourist

site.

This is part of Israel's larger plan of racist colonial expansion throughout East Jerusalem and the West Bank, forcibly displacing Palestinian families from their land and homes and replacing them with illegal Israeli settlements.

This is an urgent petition calling on the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to investigate imminent forced evictions and displacement in Sheikh Jarrah. [Link to full written statement](#)

[A City under Siege | the Status of Jerusalem](#)



Israel must be stopped from further alienating Jerusalem. Unilaterally declaring Jerusalem as its capital does not change the fact that the status of Jerusalem has yet to be determined under international law. The authors of this statement draw the attention of the Human Rights Council to Israel's ongoing human rights violations in East Jerusalem, which must be recognized as systematic efforts to alter the status, character, demographic and geological structure of Jerusalem.

Despite the numerous UN resolutions calling on states not to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital or to have

diplomatic missions established in Jerusalem, the United States of America ('US') proceeded to do so on 6 December 2017 and 14 May 2018 respectively. [Link to full written statement](#)

The COVID-19 Crisis in Latin American Prisons



Prisons and places of detention, where human beings are forced to live in close quarters, are by their very nature fertile ground for communicable diseases, like COVID-19. Prisons in Latin America, which have historically endured alarming rates of overcrowding, substandard sanitation, and poor or non-existent medical care, were especially vulnerable to the decimating effects of the virus.

The Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Agnes Callamard, did not hesitate to describe COVID-19 as a humanitarian crisis for people living in prison, and urged States to rethink their detention and sentencing policies before they led to collective death sentences.

Most countries organized their policy on three axes: the reduction of overpopulation, the improvement of sanitary and medical conditions, and the restriction of visitations. Though adequate in principle, their execution was often ineffective and presented numerous shortcomings. [Link to full written statement](#)



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[Assessing Access to Water and Sanitation in Iraq](#)



The lack of access to safe and affordable water and sanitation services has significant consequences for people's livelihoods and could have severe effects on people's health. In Iraq, people have been experiencing a water crisis for many years. Civilians face challenges in accessing potable water due to pollution, water scarcity, and high levels of salinity. The water in Iraq is, therefore, not safe or clean enough for daily use.

The right to water and sanitation is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Article 3, which recognizes that everyone has the right to life and Article 25, which identifies that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being. The right to water and sanitation is further grounded in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), particularly Article 11 on the right to adequate standard of living and Article 12 on the right to health. Despite the grounding of the right to water and sanitation in international law, many people in Iraq are not granted these rights. The lack of water and sanitation services and the unhealthy environment are causing health problems and long-term displacements. The Iraqi government must fulfil this right without discrimination, ensuring that the most vulnerable are not left behind. [Link to full written statement](#)

The Right to Truth in the Context of Enforced Disappearances



The United Nations has embodied the right to the truth in various international instruments. On 20 April 2005, the then Commission on Human Rights adopted human rights resolution 2005/66 recognizing the right to truth by consensus. At the 21st session of the Human Rights Council, resolution 21/7 was adopted by consensus reaffirming the right to truth. The inalienable right to the truth is enshrined in the United Nations Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human

Rights through Action to Combat Impunity. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances takes a very clear position on the right to truth.

In light of the established international law on the right to truth and specifically in relation to the right to truth in the context of enforced disappearances, the lack of action and scrutiny by the international community on the Iraqi government's failure to account for the whereabouts of persons subjected to enforced disappearances since 2003 is inexcusable. [Link to full written statement](#)

The Human Rights Situation of Palestinian Prisoners amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic



As the COVID-19 pandemic plagues the world, those most vulnerable continue to face the brunt of its devastation. Such is the situation for Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is already characterized with a weak health system and inadequate health care, wholly unprepared for COVID-19.

Despite repeated warnings against a COVID-19 outbreak among Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention and the high risk to prisoners in vulnerable groups, the prison authorities of the

occupying power have neglected to take appropriate protections, safeguards, and precautionary measures. Consequently, vulnerable groups face the greatest risks.

Apart from those in vulnerable groups and low-risk offenders, Israel should also release Palestinian political prisoners whose detention is unwarranted, as they are unnecessarily placed at heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 through their imprisonment. [Link to full written statement](#)



EAFORD Participation at the Resumed 46th Session of the HRC

Oral Statements

Agenda Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the oral update by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Clelia Jeandin

Thank you Madam President

We welcome the oral update by the Special Rapporteur. It is regrettable that the human rights situation in Eritrea has not significantly improved and basic institutional systems are still not in place.

We are greatly concerned with arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, sexual violence, and the restrictions on freedom of expression and association among other grave human rights violations. These violations only continue to impede Eritreans of their right to exercise their political and social freedoms and it further regresses any potential for peace. Furthermore, as in the Special Rapporteur's latest report numerous serious human rights violations are committed through and by international operations, for example, trafficking of women and girls.

In light of this situation, we strongly urge the international community and the East African Community to take all necessary measures in accordance with international law towards ending direct or indirect funding of specific groups who threaten the lives of innocent civilians.

Madam President,

There is a great need to address humanitarian and climate disasters that exacerbate the plight of many, especially children who suffer waterborne diseases and other malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

Finally, we would like to ask the Special Rapporteur; going beyond legislation what steps need to be taken to involve women in the decision-making processes particularly in regards to ending gender-based violence against women and girls and especially those in detention.

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with High Commissioner on Occupied Palestinian Territory

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Hannah Mulhern

Thank you, President

We thank the High Commissioner for her report and we wish to also express our deep concern about the absence of accountability for the grave violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We share the concerns of the High Commissioner and believe that the use of lethal and nonlethal force during law enforcement operations against Palestinians is extremely troubling, particularly in instances of civilian demonstrations, where those uninvolved in violence have been indiscriminately attacked. Alarming, too, is the complete unwillingness to investigate and prosecute these acts in Gaza, West Bank and East Jerusalem, as impunity remains pervasive.

The international human rights law violations are also paired with war crimes constituting serious violations of international humanitarian law and international criminal law. Along with the excessive use of force, or the use of torture and ill treatment in detention facilities, demolitions are currently occurring in the Occupied Palestinian Territory at an unprecedented rate. Israeli settlers are still being transferred to Palestinian Territories with settler attacks a frequent and violent occurrence. This is part of a longstanding, widespread, and worsening campaign against the Palestinian population and their livelihoods.

We believe that in light of the High Commissioner's Report, the recent decision establishing jurisdiction at the International Criminal Court is crucial. We are hopeful that the international community, and specifically state parties to the Rome statute, will seize this opportunity and support the court to bring justice to Palestine.

Agenda Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

General Debate

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Mutua Kobia

Thank you Madam President

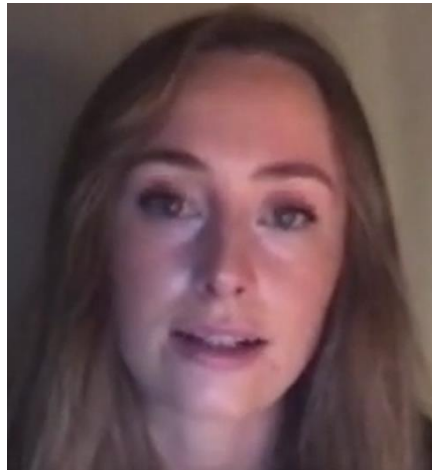
EAFORD and Geneva International Centre for Justice thank the High Commissioner for her reports and oral update; and would like to draw attention to the High Commissioner's report on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in particular on "Accountability for unlawful use of force and other violations of international human rights law". In this regard, we emphasize Palestinian prisoners, especially those placed in solitary confinement and the many who are subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment. We also bring to attention the misuse and abuse of 'administrative detention'. This measure is considered extreme under international law but is being authorized by the Israeli Ministry of Defense and is frequently exploited to detain thousands of Palestinians for lengthy periods of time for their political opinions and engaging in non-violent political activity.

Furthermore, on top of repeated arbitrary arrests and extended detentions we have witnessed Palestinian prisoners being punished for going on “hunger strike”. We recall that under international human rights norms, hunger strike is a civil and political right.

Finally, we remind the Council that Article 12 of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms holds that “states must take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of everyone against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the Declaration.”

Item 3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Hannah Mulhern

Thank you, President

We thank the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, for her report, which provided a much needed and timely commentary on the overall pitfalls in current counter terrorism and preventing violent extremism laws and practices and indeed their impacts on women, girls and the family.

In Iraq, there currently exists a very broad and vague definition of terrorism, with many suspects often held in detention without judicial review for long periods of time and denied access to their families. During the reign of ISIL, many men and their sons were taken by the militias from their homes and forcibly disappeared, leaving women and families not only in emotional distress, but also in extreme legal and financial uncertainty without social welfare benefits while death certificates were made unattainable.

Iraq’s Anti-Terrorism Law ignores the principle of criminal responsibility, in which the offenders themselves should be questioned about the crime they have potentially committed. However, on the contrary, many women have been detained for purportedly covering up for their family members. Related laws would benefit from

placing women's human rights and gender equality at their center. We urge that national action plans include the necessary involvement of civil society organizations, considering the significant and recognized role they play in preventing terrorism and violent extremism.

Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Hannah Mulhern

Thank you, President

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report on death threats and killings of human rights defenders and share her concern over the alarming rate of assassinations, along with both direct and indirect threats as methods to intimidate and silence dissent in many regions of the world.

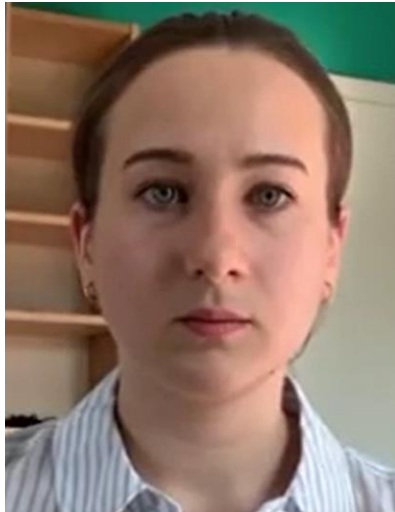
We thank her in particular for her inclusion of the situation in Iraq, where assassination threats, enforced disappearances, kidnappings and arbitrary killings are widespread against all those defending human rights. This is true particularly since the beginning of the October Uprising in 2019, where the Iraqi authorities, along with the Militia groups, have proven to be cruel and vicious in using all types of weapons targeting peaceful protestors.

The number of recorded killings from 2015 to 2019 shows the gravity of the situation in all regions, and we share the Special Rapporteur's unease at the rate of killings in the Latin American Caribbean Region, where all human rights defenders, and in particular environmental human rights defenders, are facing a situation of special risk. In the case of Iraq, there has been brutal attacks against demonstrators, especially in al-Nasiryia where since the start of this session on the 22nd of February, 10 people have been killed and over 150 injured.

We support the Special Rapporteur's recommendations, and call for the Council to investigate all types of violations against human rights defenders to achieve accountability and justice.

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Clélia Jeandin

Thank you, President

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which highlights the different forms of anti-Muslim hatred, and how state and non-state actors contribute to it.

Muslim populations' fundamental rights are too often eroded by the impact of national security "counter-terrorism policies" and by an underlying climate of religious discrimination. Inaction from the State or civil groups inevitably leads to a permissive environment for hate speech, degrading stereotyping, violent attacks, and, as observed in Myanmar, State-sponsored attacks against citizens from Muslim communities.

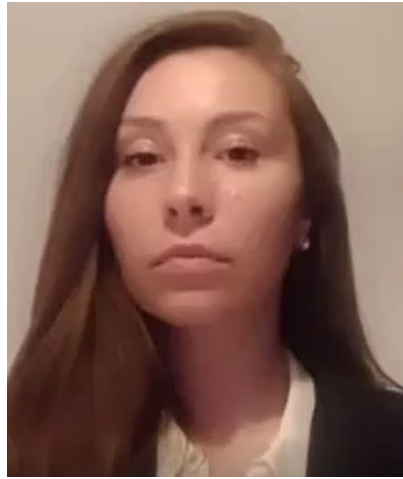
For the Uyghur Muslim minority living in China, mass surveillance and arbitrary detention are being normalized through extreme and disproportionate counter-terrorist policies. In Myanmar, the genocidal campaign against the Rohingya Muslims started with mass atrocities perpetrated against them, which forced thousands to leave the country.

We call on all States to implement concrete measures in order to recognize and tackle the root causes of anti-Muslim hatred. Further, all States facing terrorist threats should consider their obligations towards the safety of Muslim citizens who are also victims of terrorists and of anti-Muslim hatred. We want to stress that all States should respect international standards regarding security and response to terrorism in order to guarantee the transparency of legal procedures and safeguard Muslim minorities' fundamental rights and freedoms.



Item 3: General Debate

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Alexandra Grigorescu

Thank you President

International protection of human rights defenders, who are being constantly threatened and attacked, is a widely needed step in the exercise and observance of human rights.



We are concerned about the dire reality of Latin America, which is the most affected region by threats and killings against human rights defenders. Prevalent impunity makes such pattern of violence very likely to continue. Those particularly vulnerable to attack are human rights defenders working on issues like indigenous peoples, environment or the impacts of business activities. They suffer all kinds of intimidation while governments remain indifferent.

In certain countries, human rights defenders are viewed as “enemies of progress”. Public opinion often turns against them and little to nothing is

done to protect them from attacks by private actors.

In this regard, we condemn the brutal repression unleashed against protestors in Iraq by both security forces and militias. The October 2019 demonstrations, where thousands of Iraqis spoke up against corruption, sectarianism, and human rights violations, were met by a ruthless response from the government. This reaction left hundreds dead and thousands wounded, on top of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances.

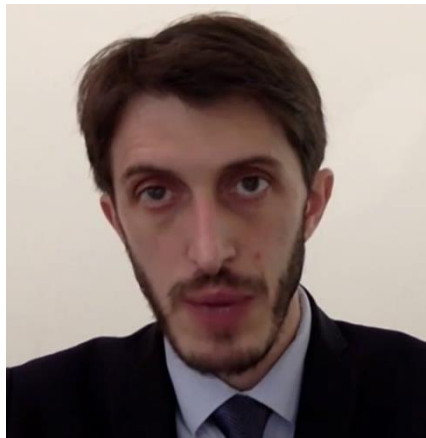
We urge governments to ensure that human rights defenders can continue with their activities in a safe environment by establishing administrative and judicial mechanisms, which can effectively protect them from threats and attacks.



ITEM 3 General Debate

‘Covid-19, Human Rights and Youth’

Joint Oral Statement of the NGO Working on Human Rights Education and Learning



Delivered by: Aziel Goulandris WFUNA

Thank you Madam President

On behalf of 23 organizations of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning.

One year of pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges upon the world. Besides the health crisis, the looming economic downturn has had a dramatic impact on people’s lives and greatly affects the right to education of children and young people, impacting particularly those with fewer opportunities while deepening inequalities.

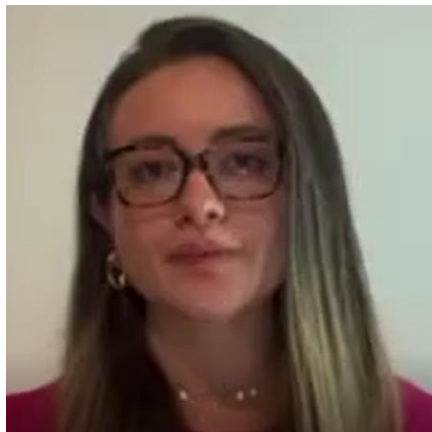
As NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning, we have reaffirmed that human rights and human rights education should not be paused. Referring to the global response, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mrs. Michelle Bachelet emphasized that “Human dignity and rights need to be front and center in that effort not an afterthought.”

We encourage Member States to address the human rights impacts of the pandemic in a concrete way through recommendations during the UPR Working Group sessions and in particular the right to quality of education. Especially in the times of the crisis, member states must have a coherent approach to human rights education.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (UDHRET). On this occasion, our working group would like to highlight its rising relevance, call on member states to meaningfully implement the Plan of Action of the fourth phase of the World Programme as this is a key condition to ensure that human rights are at the core, and not an afterthought in this Covid-19 crisis.

Item 3: ID with Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Laura Calderón Pachón

Thank you, President

We welcome the report of the Special Representative on children and armed conflict, which focuses on the methods to end and prevent grave violations against children as well as strengthening the protection of children affected by armed conflict.

We share the Special Representative's concerns about States' restrictive measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, which has often had an adverse effect on children, hindering them from humanitarian access and safe environments during the crisis and during unrelenting hostilities. States need to adopt transitional justice mechanisms that involve children for accountability and reconciliation purposes, such as in the case of Colombia where the peace process has led to a "Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repitition".

We believe that children must be protected under all circumstances, and even though the pandemic has become an obstacle, States must ensure child protection services. States should guarantee a safe space during conflict and post-conflict situations by implementing the necessary means to defend children and to reintegrate them within society with the best rehabilitation methods. Additionally, States must prosecute perpetrators committing

grave violations against children in order to hold them accountable and seek justice for the victims and their families.

We urge States to aim all efforts in the application of international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law by working with organizations around the globe and United Nations mechanisms to prevent grave violations against children.

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Clélia Jeandin

Thank you, Madam President

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, which highlights the current severity of the human rights violations perpetrated by the authorities.

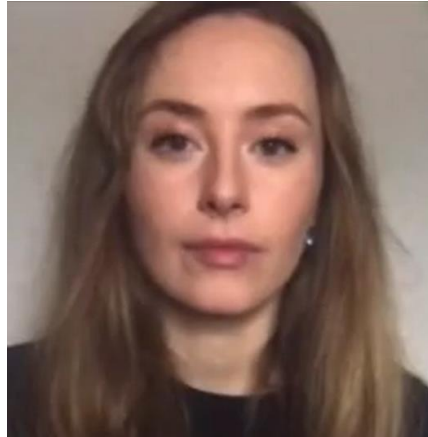
In recent weeks, the world has watched Myanmar, a place of grave human rights atrocities including genocide, going back to military rule due to an abrupt seizure of power and the violent crackdown of peaceful protesters. Since February 1, vulnerable civilians face unprecedented violence as the use of lethal weapons by security forces, and arbitrary detention have become the authorities' primary responses to protests.

In Rakhine State, the crimes perpetrated by the military against the Rohingya minority remain unpunished. The report highlights killings, attacks, and discrimination in access to basic services. Among the 600,000 stateless Rohingya living in Rakhine state, 130,000 of them reportedly live in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and have been unable to return to their homes since 2012.

We urge the Council to pressure the authorities to stop the violent repression of protesters, release all those arbitrarily detained, and cease all the discrimination and attacks committed against the Rohingya minority. We also call on the Council to urge the authorities to cooperate with international organizations and grant access in order to allow humanitarian action to respond adequately. Lastly, we call on states and organizations to sustain dialogue with Myanmar and act positively in order to safeguard civilians' rights.

Item 4 GD: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Hannah Mulhern

Thank you, president

We take this opportunity to highlight the deplorable human rights violations still occurring in Iraq.

As this Council is aware, demonstrations have been ongoing in Iraq since the beginning of the October uprising in 2019. Whilst the intensity of these protests have varied over the past 17 months, the violations have continued nonetheless and the number of deaths and injuries are rising every day.

Despite repeated calls by Iraqi citizens, civil society organizations and UN Bodies, security forces and militia groups continue to use live ammunition against demonstrators and human rights defenders, with at least 10 people killed since the beginning of this Human Rights Council session. This is to be added to the figure of over 700 other protestors and human rights defenders killed since 2019.

Victims are also being kidnapped, forcibly disappeared, electrocuted, their revolutionist tattoos removed with acid, assassinated, and on some occasions, their bodies dismembered. These are stories that must be reported in order to demonstrate the very real and tragic impact on the lives of many Iraqis. These human rights violations also occur outside the context of protests, where human rights defenders are targeted for their online presence, journalism and advocacy.

Impunity for these acts must be tackled and accountability must follow. If we are to continue on this path of willful inaction, there will be unimaginable damage to the people of Iraq and their livelihoods.



Item 4 ID: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Nora Futtner

Thank you, President

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's update on the situation of human rights in Iran.

We would like to highlight the widespread impunity for the violations of human rights, which occurred during the nationwide protests in November of 2019. Iranian security forces opened fire on largely peaceful protesters, killing at least 304 people. During this time, the government shut down the internet in an obvious violation of protesters' freedom of expression, which prevented them from showing the outside world the violence they endured.

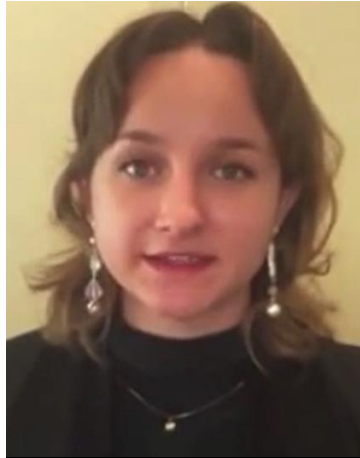
In the aftermath of the event, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard detained approximately 7000 peaceful protesters and subjected many of them to acts of torture while denying them access to lawyers. This habitual practice of arbitrary detainment and harassment of human rights defenders, activists and lawyers, and dual nationals is politically motivated and serves the purpose of punishing individuals who challenge the status quo and discouraging activists from continuing their work.

It is clear that Iran will take any and all steps to crush dissent in the country, whether that be through intimidation and harassment or execution.

We call upon the Council to act against impunity and bring justice to the victims by conducting a thorough and transparent investigation of the violations related to the November 2019 protests, and other related violations. Additionally, we urgently recommend that the Council pressure Iran to release all who are arbitrarily detained, especially the protesters.

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes - Bulgaria

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Nora Futtner

Thank you, President

We want to thank Bulgaria for its participation in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and its commitment to addressing human rights concerns. In this regard, we would like to draw attention to the ongoing discrimination and prejudice against Roma people that exists in Bulgarian society, which was emphasized by many countries in their recommendations. This has become especially apparent in the face of the human rights violations inflicted on the Roma population in Bulgaria during COVID-19.

In March of 2020, the government locked down seven Roma neighborhoods, physically barring residents from leaving with fences and military personnel. Roma neighborhoods in Bulgaria often do not have their own pharmacies or supermarkets, so the forced isolation meant that many were unable to access fundamental necessities.

We note that Bulgaria made a voluntary pledge to the Human Rights Council to strengthen ethnic and religious tolerance. Bulgaria should stand by this pledge by supporting Roma communities, instead of taking discriminatory actions against them.

Additionally, we are very concerned about the issue of domestic violence in Bulgaria, which was raised by dozens of states during the UPR process. We welcome Bulgaria's recent efforts on combatting this issue and adopting measures in-line with the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

However, despite these measures, domestic violence remains a life-threatening issue for Bulgarian women. In the first three months of the pandemic, it was reported that eight women were killed by their partners. It is concerning that the true scope of the issue is unknown as Bulgaria currently has one of the lowest reporting rates of violence against women in the European Union.

We call on the Council to urge Bulgaria to stay vigilant about this issue and ensure that all existing protection and support mechanisms for women are effectively implemented. Bulgaria should also immediately take steps to ratify the Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

ITEM 7 General Debate: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)



Delivered by: Laura Calderón Pachón

Thank you, President

We welcome the High Commissioner's report on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and we share her concern with regard to the Israeli settlements expansion activities and their violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, as well as, the absence of accountability for all the violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Palestinian people are under grave human rights violations including violations of the right to life, physical integrity, discrimination, gender-based violence against women and girls, freedom of movement, arbitrary detentions, torture and ill treatment, as well as, mountains of other abuses well documented... We urge the Council to do all in its mandate to stop these violations and protect the rights of the Palestinian people.

Further, the illegal decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan amounts to a war crime that can possibly involve criminal responsibility of those involved. Additionally, the international community and UN bodies have confirmed the illegality of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan stressing that the settlements lack international legal effect and demanding Israel to rescind forthwith any decision and activity resulting in the annexation of the territories.

We are looking forward to the investigation by the International Criminal Court over war crimes committed. We urge all States cooperation to ensure accountability and justice as we further our collectively goal of restoring the rights of the Palestinian people and their self-determination.

Agenda Item 9: Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Oral Statement of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)



Delivered by: Mr. Mutua K. Kobia

Thank you Madam President

We remain deeply concerned with the continuous rise of racist extremist movements and groups that have been encouraged and perpetuated by hate speech, often committed by people in positions of power including politicians.

At the same time, we are disappointed by the lack of political will to eliminate such a toxic environment that only breeds further hatred and spreads the scourge of racism and racial discrimination. This is especially worrying considering that solutions do exist yet there is no urgency, courage, or strong efforts being made to implement effective solutions. We also take note that racism is embedded in various systems and structures, which escalates its spread across various platforms and creates negative stereotypes as is seen with Islamophobia.

We remind this Council that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) itself recognizes new manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that effect vulnerable groups. At the same time, the DDPA promotes the incorporation of special measures to protect these groups from discrimination.

In conclusion, we strongly urge all states to fully implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and put in place strategies and policies to fight against the evils of racism. Lastly, in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the DDPA we urge all states to publish the Programme of Activities for the International Decade and effectively disseminate publications in UN official languages.

We reaffirm that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which all human rights can be fully realized for all, without any discrimination.

- The Durban Declaration

Letters & Speeches...



[Open Letter to the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty on the Need to Impose a Comprehensive Two-Way Arms Embargo on Israel](#)

We, the undersigned global coalition of leaders –from civil society to academia, art, media, business, politics, indigenous and faith communities, and people of conscience around the world– call upon the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

(ATT) to act decisively to put an end to Israel’s notorious use of arms and military equipment for the commission of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights against Palestinian civilians by immediately imposing a comprehensive two-way arms embargo on Israel.

In the spring of 2021, the world once again watched in horror as Israeli occupying forces attacked defenseless Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and inside Israel. Palestinian civilians peacefully protesting against colonization of their land were assaulted with live fire, rubber-coated steel bullets, sound bombs, tear gas and skunk water. Israel’s deadly military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip was the fourth in a decade. Over 11 days, 248 Palestinians were killed, including 66 children. Thousands were wounded, and the reverberating effects of the use of explosive weapons on hospitals, schools, food security, water, electricity and shelter continue to affect millions.

This systematic brutality, perpetrated throughout the past seven decades of Israel’s colonialism, apartheid, prolonged illegal belligerent occupation, persecution, and closure, is only possible because of the complicity of some governments and corporations around the world.

Symbolic statements of condemnation alone will not put an end to this suffering. In accordance with the relevant rules of the ATT, States Parties have legal obligations to put an end to irresponsible and often complicit trade of conventional arms that undermines international peace and security, facilitates commission of egregious crimes, and threatens the international legal order.

Under Article 6(3) of the ATT, States Parties undertook not to authorize any transfer of conventional arms if they have knowledge at the time of authorization that arms or items would be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva conventions of 1949, attacks directed against civilian objects or civilians protected as such, or other war crimes as defined by international agreements to which they are a Party.

Under Articles 7 and 11, they undertook not to authorize any export of conventional arms, munitions, parts and components that would, *inter alia*, undermine peace and security or be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

It is clear that arms exports to Israel are inconsistent with these obligations. Invariably, Israel has shown that it uses arms to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity, as documented by countless United Nations bodies and civil society organizations worldwide. Military exports to Israel also clearly enabled, facilitated and maintained Israel's decades-long settler-colonial and apartheid regime imposed over the Palestinian people as a whole.

Similarly, arms imports from Israel are wholly inconsistent with obligations under the ATT. Israeli military and industry sources openly boast that their weapons and technologies are "combat proven" – in other words, field-tested on Palestinian civilians "human test subjects". When States import Israeli arms, they are encouraging it to keep bombing Palestinian civilians and persist in its unlawful practices. No one –neither Israel, nor arms manufacturers in ATT States parties– should be allowed to profit from the killing or maiming of Palestinian civilians.

It is thus abundantly clear that imposing a two-way arms embargo on Israel is both a legal and a moral obligation. ATT States Parties must immediately terminate any current, and prohibit any future transfers of conventional arms, munitions, parts and components referred to in Article 2(1), Article 3 or Article 4 of the ATT to Israel, until it ends its illegal belligerent occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory and complies fully with its obligations under international law. Pending such an embargo, all States must immediately suspend all transfers of military equipment, assistance and munitions to Israel.

A failure to take these actions entails a heavy responsibility for the grave suffering of civilians – more deaths, more suffering, as thousands of Palestinian men, women and children continue to bear the brutality of a colonial belligerent occupying force– which would result in discrediting the ATT itself. It also renders States parties complicit in internationally wrongful acts through the aiding or abetting of international crimes. A failure in taking action could also result in invoking the individual criminal responsibility of individuals of these States for aiding and abetting the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity in accordance with Article 25(3)(c) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Justice will remain elusive so long as Israel's unlawful occupation, settler-colonialism, apartheid regime, and persecution and institutionalized oppression of the Palestinian people are allowed to continue, and so long as States continue to be complicit in the occupying Power's crimes by trading weapons with it.

In conclusion, we believe that the ATT can make a difference in the Palestinian civilians' lives. It has the potential, if implemented in good faith, to spare countless protected persons from suffering. If our call to stop leaving the Palestinian people behind when it comes to implementation of the ATT is ignored, the *raison d'être* of the ATT will be shattered. [Joining organizations](#)



[EAFORD's SIDE EVENTS AT UN IN 2021](#)



EAFORD organizes “parallel events” on issues relevant to the work of the Human Rights Council. However, in view of the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council during 2021 and in accordance with information from the United Nations Office at Geneva, side events could not be held in the Palais des Nations in the COVID-19 context.

[UN WEBCAST OF EAFORD's INTERVENTIONS IN 2021](#)



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