

**24th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
9 – 27 September 2013**

Joint NGO Statement

**International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(EAFORD)
Geneva International Center for Justice (GICJ)
EuroMid Observer for Human Rights**

On behalf of EAFORD, GICJ, and EuroMid, Ms. Hanine Hassan delivered an oral statement during the General Debate under agenda item 7. She exposed the human rights violations occurring in Palestine including the alarming increase of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Ms. Hassan concluded that “The timing is ripe for international and European governing bodies to play the role of enforcer and to sanction Israel.”

Words to Action

Thank you Mr. President.

65 years have passed since more than 6 million Palestinians were displaced to make way for the state of Israel and another 800,000 displaced following the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Warnings about the destruction of the Palestinian land, economy and people have accelerated to a crescendo, each year raising the same alarms. Still, action is slow.

Until this day uncountable reports have been issued by various affiliates of the UN and the European Parliament, as well as human rights organizations, deploring Israeli war crimes and violations regarding legalized discrimination against Palestinians, Israeli abuse of water resources, expansion of settlements, the illegality of the siege on Gaza, the demolitions of Palestinian homes and internal displacement, the restrictions of freedoms, and the deplorable conditions of prisoners including the arbitrary arrests of minors.

The overwhelming majority of the UN General Assembly supports the creation of a Palestinian state defined by pre-1967 borders. Additionally the UN’s September 2011 report concluded that a fundamental rolling back of the occupation is now essential. Yet disturbing developments in the Naqab, make it clear that the problem is not only the occupation; it is the ideology behind it, which is the hegemony over Palestine along with a systematic policy of discrimination.

Despite its awareness of the ongoing Human rights violations the European Union has so far served to fund the occupation, although Article 2 of the EU-Israel agreement states respect of human rights as a pre-condition for cooperation. It is time the European Union

and all members of this Council pass from words to action in order to send a clear sign to Israel that it can no longer violate human rights with impunity.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the number of resolutions and statistics that condemned, deplored and rejected the Israeli violations over the past decades have been uncountable. It is time to practice the preaching. The timing is ripe for international and European governing bodies to play the role of enforcer and to sanction Israel. Only then impunity will end and an opportunity for a just peace be created.

Thank you for your attention.

23 September 2013