

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice

55th Session Human Rights Council, 29 February 2024

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.

prepared and Submitted 20 February 2024 by the Islamic Human Rights Commission (UK)



Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) is a not-for-profit campaign, research and advocacy organisation founded and based in the United Kingdom. It was set up in 1997 and works for redress of human rights violations and a better understanding of rights and norms across confessional, ethnic, national, political and other boundaries.

IHRC has consultative status with the UN – ECOSOC.

202 Preston Road

Wembley

HA9 8PA

United Kingdom

Tel: +44 2089044222

Email: info@ihrc.org

Web: <https://www.ihrc.org.uk/ihrc-at-un/>

For direct communication about this report, please contact Jawad Husain jawad@ihrc.org

Speaker: Jawad Husain

We would like to call to your attention the obliteration of Palestinian rights under Israel's genocidal onslaught in Gaza.

Even as the International Court of Justice considers whether the legal definition of genocide has been met, the destruction of lives, homes, infrastructure and the basic means of living continue unabated.

To date over 30,000 civilians have been killed by Israeli bombs and bullets, the majority of them being women and children.

Brick by brick, Israel is dismantling the legal rights of Palestinians under the pretext of self-defence.

By bombing and starving them and destroying essential infrastructure including even hospitals, it is deliberately making it impossible to live in Gaza.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that this is part of a campaign to try and ethnically cleanse Palestinians from the territory.

Unfortunately, it would appear that many states are colluding in this criminal aim with their inaction and active complicity.

In the last two weeks we have seen them bolstering Israel's deliberate attempt to undermine the credibility of UNRWA by accepting unquestioningly Israeli accusations that it is a haven for terrorists.

The same countries have withdrawn funding for UNRWA making it extremely difficult for the agency to carry out its mandate to serve impoverished Palestinians in their hour of greatest need.

And while the world's gaze is fixed on Gaza Israeli troops have intensified their abuses in the West Bank, routinely invading more Palestinian towns and villages, tearing up infrastructure and killing and imprisoning innocent people.

The failure of the international community to protect Palestinians also speaks to the double standards of a world that rushed to the aid of white Europeans in Ukraine when that country was invaded by Russia.

Palestine remains a critical test for the UN. If it is to retain any credibility as the upholder of a rules-based world order in which all countries and peoples are treated equally, it must act immediately to protect the Palestinians.