



**Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights**

**In-person oral statement**

**Item 7: interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on OPT**

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**25 March 2022**

Al Mezan welcomes Special Rapporteur Lynk's report, which concludes that Israeli rule over the occupied Palestinian territory amounts to apartheid, and which recognizes that Israel's occupation and apartheid are at the core of the State's settler-colonial project in historic Palestine.

As rightly noted by the Rapporteur, the key feature of Israel's system of oppression and domination is the strategic fragmentation of Palestinians into different geographic and legal domains, which has resulted in them experiencing apartheid in varied ways.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli apartheid is openly manifested through its illegal closure, aimed at segregating two million Palestinians in an isolated enclave in which they are denied fundamental freedoms and trapping them in a state of protracted humanitarian catastrophe.

This analysis echoes that of numerous Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights groups, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, as well as high profile figures, such as former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu, and, just a few minutes ago, the representatives of South Africa and Namibia. It is now time for the members of this Council and the international community to acknowledge that Israeli authorities are imposing a system of apartheid on the Palestinian people as a whole and take effective measures to ensure Israel retracts and ends all laws, policies, and practices that maintain this regime.