



مركز الميزان لحقوق الإنسان
Al Mezan Center for Human Rights



JOINT ORAL STATEMENT TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM 7, GENERAL DEBATE
FRIDAY, 25 MARCH 2022
VIDEO STATEMENT
SPEAKER: AREL JARUS-HAKAK

Israel's Apartheid in Health

Mr. President,

I am speaking on behalf of Physicians for Human Rights Israel and Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights.

Israel's longstanding occupation of the oPt has severely obstructed the development of the Palestinian health sector. Israel's blockade and closure of Gaza has resulted in a fragmented health care system, with Israel continuing to deny Palestinians access to medical care by restricting freedom of movement through its permit regime. In 2021, 773 Palestinian patients in Gaza reached out to PHRI and Al Mezan after being refused exit permits. PHRI and Al Mezan succeeded in overturning 60% and 39% of the denials, respectively. The organizations' success is a testament to the arbitrariness of the permit refusals.

As the occupying power, Israel is responsible for the health and welfare of the Palestinian population. Israel's laws, policies, and practices have instilled a state of inequality in healthcare provision between Israelis and Palestinians in the oPt. As a result, there has been an ongoing violation of the right to life and health of Palestinians by the Israeli authorities, and systemic disparities which can only be described as apartheid in health.

Accordingly, we call on this Council to recognize and condemn Israel's discriminatory policies against Palestinians, including restrictions on Palestinian patients' access to hospitals and medical care outside Gaza.

Thank you.