



General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 March 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 8

Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 January 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Violation of the Palestinian People's Right to Self-Determination

For 75 years, Occupying Power's (OP) brutal policies and practises have violated the basic human rights and dignity of the Palestinian people. As a result, Palestinians have been deprived of their land, property and businesses, while being forcibly displaced from their homes and subjected to violence, terror and intimidation. The Occupying Power, in line with its discriminatory and racist apartheid policies, has completely negated any right of Palestinians to self-determination under the title of "Jewish state". Moreover, it has taken unprecedented measures and provocations to accelerate the judaisation of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and change its demographic composition by eliminating the Palestinian Christians and Muslims in the Holy City.

Last month, OP forces bombarded the Gaza Strip and massacred hundreds of Palestinians and injured thousands of civilians in a disproportionate war using state-of-the-art weapons in the most cruel and brutal manner. The OP military assault on the Gaza Strip has destroyed thousands of homes, razed entire apartment blocks as well as hospitals, schools and commercial buildings, including those housing journalists, and damaged other vital civilian infrastructure. This is a blatant and systematic violation of human rights, humanitarian law and international law. The current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories is the result of the longstanding denial of the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination, the ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people and their land, the continued desecration of Muslim holy sites, including the al-Aqsa Mosque, and the ongoing terror of the Occupying Power.

Although the right to self-determination is a fundamental and universal right for all peoples under international human rights law, the Palestinian people are repeatedly denied this right. The principle of self-determination is a central tenet of the United Nations (UN) Charter, and the common Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that all peoples have the right to self-determination. Respect for this right is an essential condition for maintaining peaceful and friendly relations between nations. However, the Occupying Power's authorities have failed to allow the realisation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, leading to ongoing insecurity that has affected peace and stability in the region.

Despite promises in the Oslo Accords that the Palestinians would be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination from 4 May 1999, this has not happened. On the contrary, the realisation of this right is further off the agenda than at any time in the recent past. Of particular concern is the continuing OP policy of taking unilateral actions that will ultimately preclude any possibility of a viable Palestinian State. Such actions create facts that will prevent the Palestinian people from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination. We believe that these developments violate international human rights and humanitarian law and, if fully implemented, will preclude the possibility of a just and lasting solution to the conflict based on international law.

The occupying power reserves the right to continue or escalate (if it deems it necessary) incursions, extrajudicial executions, the pursuit of wanted persons and other military activities. The occupation thus continues both legally and in practise, as the Occupying Power retains effective control over the Occupied Palestinian Territory and thus continues to be an occupying power.

The immoral approach of some Western governments to equate victims with perpetrators is reprehensible, unjust and unacceptable. To deny the complete asymmetry of the situation of an occupier and oppressor versus an occupied and oppressed people not only exposes hypocrisy and an extreme lack of moral compass, but is tantamount to complicity in the crimes committed against the Palestinians.

Recognising that the development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equality and self-determination of peoples is one of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, and taking into account the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, and welcoming the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993. We welcome the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993. We welcome the adoption by the United Nations of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993. We welcome the adoption by the United Nations of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993. We welcome the adoption by the United Nations of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, and reaffirm the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognised borders.

Recommendations

While reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to an independent State of Palestine; we call upon the Human Rights Council to:

- Remind all States and the specialised agencies of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realisation of their right to self-determination.
- Call on the international community and the member states of the United Nations to take responsibility and act decisively to end this illegal occupation. Mere sympathy is no longer enough.
- Call on UN member states to fulfil their responsibility to protect the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and take practical steps to confront the occupation and work with the State of Palestine to seek a legal opinion from the International Court of Justice on the occupation and its impact on the exercise of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.
- Find mechanisms to implement its commitments and resolutions to protect the rights of all peoples in the interest of maintaining international peace and security.
- Firm defence of the international rule of law, unequivocal condemnation of all violence and attacks against civilians and unequivocal rejection of any violation of international law.

Regrettably, the international community has so far failed to respond adequately and held accountable those responsible for these serious and grave violations to account. The lack of accountability and the disturbing silence of UN bodies, especially the Security Council, have meant that decades-old UN resolutions remain just words on paper. At the same time, we continue to witness ever more horrific atrocities committed by the Occupying Power against the Palestinian people.

While we recognise the inherent right of self-defence of all Palestinians under international law, we remain convinced that the Palestinian question can only be resolved through an end to the occupation, recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and the holding of a national referendum involving the entire Palestinian people, which requires the full restoration and protection of these rights and leads to the establishment of Palestinian sovereignty over all of the Palestinian territories.