

**United Nations Human Rights Council
25th Regular Session, 3-28 March 2014
General Debate under Item 7**

**ICJ Oral Statement in the General Debate under Item 7: Human rights situation in
Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

24 March 2014

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Mr. President,

Almost ten years after the International Court of Justice ruled the construction of the separation wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) to be unlawful, States and international organizations have failed to take effective measures to hold Israel accountable for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law arising from the wall.

As the International Court of Justice held, States must not "recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall" and must not "render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction." Israel, for its part, must dismantle the wall and its associated regime and provide reparation to victims.

At the same time, Palestinian armed groups must renounce all direct or indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian objects. Israel must also cease its own violations of international humanitarian law.

Continuing construction of the wall and expansion and encouragement of settlements in the OPT continues to result in de facto fragmentation and annexation of Palestinian land.

Last year's report by the UN Fact-Finding Mission on settlements gave a bleak assessment of the impact of the settlement policy on the human rights of Palestinians, including through expropriation of land and confiscation and destruction of houses and other properties.

Instead of implementing the recommendations of that report, the government has continued to expand existing settlements, and to encourage the establishment of new ones, including thousands of new units in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

This Council should call on UN member States and the Security Council to address the situation of Israeli settlements as a matter of urgency, with a view to dismantling all settlements in the OPT and ensuring that the Palestinian people are allowed to exercise their right to self determination, including through the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State.

I thank you.

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