

**Human Rights Council - 56<sup>th</sup> Regular Session – 18 June to 12 July 2024**

**Agenda Item 2** - *Oral Statement in the Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel*

Mr. President,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) commends the report of the Commission and its complementary conference room papers. The Commission concluded that the Israeli authorities, members of the Israel Defense Forces and Palestinian armed groups as well as Palestinian civilians committed serious crimes under international law, including sexual and gender-based violence, in Israel and the Gaza Strip on and since 7 October 2023. The ICJ deplores Israel's obstructions of the Commission's investigations into these events, both in Israel and in the OPT. The ICJ further deplores the complete disregard for relevant UN Security Council's resolutions and orders of the International Court of Justice.

While the arrest warrants requested by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) constitute a significant first step towards accountability for these crimes, it is crucial that the evidence and information collected thus far by the Commission be proactively shared with competent jurisdictions and used for criminal accountability purposes. With respect to this, the ICJ calls on this Council to ensure that sufficient resources be allocated to the Commission, and on individual States to support and give effect to the Commission's recommendations.

Mr. President,

With a view to enhancing criminal accountability further, what would render the Commission's cooperation with the ICC or other competent jurisdictions more effective?

I thank you.