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Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, 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.

[28 May 2021]

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



Israeli crimes against Palestinian Citizens of Israel

Overview

Palestinian Citizens of Israel are subjected to discrimination in almost all areas of life including work opportunities, government resources to education, housing, land, and planning. According to the report of 'the Association for Civil Rights to Protect the Rights of Palestinian Citizens in Israel', racist attitudes and practices towards the Arab community have increased recently.

The "Nationalism Law"¹ approved by the "Knesset" legitimizes the superiority of the Jews in the country over all other groups and minorities, especially Palestinian Citizens of Israel. It makes Israel a national home for Jews only, and establishes the system in Israel as an apartheid system.

This law characterizes Israel as a religious state, and grants privileges only to Jews. It also deepens racial discrimination against Palestinian citizens of Israel and legitimizes exclusion, racism, and inequality among all residents.

Prosecutions and arrests of Palestinian Citizens of Israel

A case which reflects what the one and a half million Palestinian Citizens of Israel face, is that 30,000 Arab citizens live in "Lod" under emergency regulations restricting movement during the day, and prohibiting gatherings, movement and wandering at night, for the second consecutive week. This occurs under the pretext of implementing the law, preventing disturbance of public order and suppressing protests condemning the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people, which began with the Israeli police assault on worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The protests escalated in the Palestinian towns, after the death of a Palestinian youth from "Lod", who was shot by Israeli settlers. After this incident, the shooter, who was recorded by the cameras, was released unconditionally. He was indiscriminately shooting at the Arab youths on purpose, without being under threat of danger to his life or any other settlers' lives, as the Israeli police said.²

Following the incident, the Israeli police sought the assistance of 500 heavily armed settlers to carry out attacks and assaults on Arabs, their property and their homes.

As an indication of discrimination and racism of the Israeli police, it refrains from carrying out any arrests of settler gangs, whose members have persistently attacked Arab towns and villages in coastal cities. These attacks, which recorded by cameras, were carried out against Palestinians citizens and perpetuated in the presence and under the protection of Israeli police officers who did not prevent the attacks. During the month of May, the Israeli prosecution office has submitted 116 indictments against the Palestinians citizens detainees, while no indictment has been submitted against any Israeli settler.

These racist and discriminatory practices of the Israeli police towards Palestinians citizens are accompanied by reckless incitement by the Israeli media. The media continued to portray Palestinians citizens as carrying out attacks, disturbing public order and creating chaos. This happened despite the fact that Israeli settler gangs carried out systematic attacks

¹ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/final-text-of-jewish-nation-state-bill-set-to-become-law/>.

² <https://www.aljazeera.net/%D8%A3%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AB-%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86/2021/5/24/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%B7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%86-%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA>.

against Palestinians and their property. An example of that was the killing of a Palestinian citizen by an Israeli settler, who was released after he was arrested for an investigation.

What Arab cities are witnessing at this stage reflects decades of marginalization, discrimination and restriction policies on Arab citizens to push them to forced migration and replacing them with the Jews.

Crimes within the Arab community

For years, the Israeli police have failed to combat crimes within the Arab community against Palestinians citizens." For several months, Palestinians have been demonstrating in Israel to protest against escalating violence, widespread crime, and the failure of the Israeli police to stop it. These demonstrations are interspersed with confrontations between Palestinians and the Israeli forces, who assault them at times, and arrest them at other times.

Official statistics estimate the spread of more than 600,000 weapons without licenses among Palestinians citizens. This phenomenon contributed to the rampant violence, spreading crime and terrorizing Arab citizens, in light of the failure of the police. All this stimulated the establishment of gangs of organized crime in the Arab towns.³

Recommendations

- Palestinian Return Center calls to put pressure on Israeli government to stop crimes against Palestinians citizens in Israel. PRC call on the United Nations and the Human Rights council to investigate the systematic repression and discrimination in Israel.
- Accountability must be pursued for all crimes committed by the Israeli Government, including the crimes against Palestinian Citizens of Israel
- To put pressure on the Israeli government to release the Palestinians prisoners who were recently arrested and to guarantee the right of worshipers in Al Aqsa Mosque.
- Confront the Israeli actions of discrimination against Palestinians citizens in Israel, stressing that this is a violation of all International covenants and laws.
- Call Israel as an apartheid state, with a separate and discriminatory legal system for Palestinians.

³ <https://themedialine.org/top-stories/violence-organized-crime-on-the-rise-in-arab-community-in-israel/>.