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Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate, Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab Territories

29 March 2023

Ireland thanks the High Commissioner for his report.

Ireland is deeply concerned by the recent escalation of violence, including settler violence, and the high number of civilian casualties that have resulted from attacks against Israelis and Palestinians. Israel must abide by its obligations to protect civilians, as the occupying power, including investigating incidents of settler violence and holding perpetrators accountable. Ireland rejects and condemns recent inflammatory comments by Israeli government figures that amount to incitement to violence.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by demolitions and evictions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including at Masafer Yatta, which could amount to forcible transfer, an action prohibited under international humanitarian law. Ireland condemns the announcements by the Israeli government of settlement construction and expansion. Ireland urges Israel to cease these activities, which undermine the prospects for a lasting peace based on a two-State Solution.

Ireland is concerned by actions taken against human rights defenders and civil society organisations. Israel and the Palestinian Authority have obligations to protect the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and peaceful assembly and association.

Ireland reiterates its support for the work of the UN Human Rights Office and urges the Israeli authorities to cooperate fully with OHCHR including by ensuring unhindered access of staff.