



Statement of Ireland

46th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

24 February 2021

Ireland aligns with the EU statement and thanks the High Commissioner for her report, which includes a clear call for accountability, by all parties.

Ireland supports all efforts to tackle impunity for violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in Gaza.

It is deeply regrettable that Israel has made no progress on investigations into allegations of ill-treatment, and possible torture, in Israeli detention facilities. We urge Israel to comply with its obligations under international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Israel, like every country, has the right to defend its territory. International law, however, clearly defines the circumstances in which force, and in particular lethal force, can be used against civilians. Ireland is particularly concerned by documented deaths and injuries among children. We call on all parties to meet their obligation to protect children in conflict situations.

We call on the State of Palestine to strengthen its accountability mechanisms, using your Office's technical expertise. The de facto authorities in Gaza must also meet their obligations, including by permanently stopping the use of incendiary balloons.

Ireland calls for full cooperation with OHCHR. We particularly urge Israel to resume cooperation with the Office, especially the granting of visas for international staff.

High Commissioner, noting the recent increase in demolitions, what more can be done to ensure accountability, and support the victims in such an environment?