



Statement of Ireland

54th session of the Human Rights Council

General Debate, Item 7: The Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories

4 October 2023

Ireland is deeply concerned by the mutually reinforcing negative trends witnessed in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory in recent months: increased civilian casualties, terror attacks perpetrated against both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as settlement construction and expansion, demolitions and evictions.

These trends are exacerbated by provocative rhetoric, the protracted absence of political engagement and the narrowing space afforded to civil society organisations.

Ireland is alarmed by the accelerating rate of settler violence, which alongside demolitions has displaced over 400 Palestinians this year. Israel, as the occupying power, is obliged to provide security for the local population. Ireland stresses the need for concrete steps to hold to account those who have made the lives of such Palestinian communities intolerable and recalls that forcible transfers are prohibited under International Humanitarian Law.

Ireland is alarmed at the shrinking space for civil society in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, and reiterates its call on all duty bearers to ensure that the rights of freedom of opinion and expression and peaceful assembly and association are respected and protected.

[176 words]