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**Human Rights Council 19<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**Item 7**

Madam President, Distinguished Members of the Council,

I speak today on behalf of the Palestinian Council of Human Rights Organizations.

We would firstly like to remind you that Hana Shalabi is today on her 32<sup>nd</sup> day of hunger strike in protest against her inhumane treatment and arbitrary detention. Unlike Khader Adnan, she cannot wait 66 days. She is at acute risk of organ failure and needs the world to take action before it is too late.

Last week the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination declared itself appalled by Israel's policies of apartheid and segregation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Committee condemned the institutionalised nature of the segregation, highlighting a system of Jewish-only roads and infrastructure and two entirely separate legal systems.

The Committee also expressed alarm at the impunity of terrorist settler groups such as Price Tag, which enjoy support from sections of the Israeli political establishment.

However, the deterioration on the ground is nothing new. We are not surprised that the number of settler attacks against Palestinians has increased by over 144 per cent in two years. Or that 90 per cent of Israeli investigations into incidents of settler violence were closed without indictment.

More and more Palestinians are displaced from their land to allow for settlement expansion, as access to water is continually denied. Today, 500,000 Israeli settlers consume approximately six times the amount of water used by a Palestinian population of some 2.5 million.

These abuses form part of a systematic policy of apartheid which has seen the noose tighten around the neck of the Palestinian people. This noose is fashioned from arbitrary detention and the violent suppression of freedom of expression, intertwined with the expansion of settlements, the Annexation wall, and the closure of the Gaza Strip.

Due to the continuous appropriation of land and ever-expanding settlement enterprise, any hopes for a two-state solution are quickly disappearing. Israel's illegal practices constitute an intermediate stage in a long term plan to fully integrate the settler population into the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. If this Council and the international community are truly committed to the two-state solution, then they need to act, and not simply condemn.