

## BADIL's Oral Statement,

UNHRC, 50th, Item #3 (13 June 2022):

### **Israel's Suppression of Palestinian Civil Society (Shrinking Space)**

By ignoring the legal situation of Palestine – a territory and a people experiencing oppression through colonial and apartheid policies, all forms of Palestinian resistance are re-labelled as terrorism.

Shrinking Palestinian civil society space, is based in the distortion of legitimate resistance and terrorism.

This is led by Israel and pro-Israeli organizations and groups through smear and delegitimization campaigns with pressure on the international community to restrict, reduce and terminate funding.

Monopolizing on this distortion, Israel and the international community justify their unjust actions that infringe on the right to freedom of assembly and association as a method of legitimate resistance.

International donors, at the directive of their governments, have incorporated politically conditional funding clauses based on the categorization of Palestinian political parties as terrorist.

Donor agencies justified excluding Palestinian organizations that rejected these conditional clauses from funding.

The result of this action is the Israeli designation of 6 Palestinian organizations as terrorist and illegal entities.

Through the imposition of political conditions, the international donor community is actively and effectively reducing resources and the space in which Palestinian civil society operates.

As such, BADIL calls on the UNHRC, its member states and the mandate holder to take a principled stance against the systematic attacks on Palestinian civil society, including the unjustness of politically conditional funding.