

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 52nd Session:

Oral Statement on Item 3

Palestinian human rights defenders and organizations are facing a widely-documented phenomenon of shrinking spaces. Such phenomenon is enabled directly by the false Israeli conflation of legitimate resistance with terrorism, but also discursively by the international donor community through funding constraints. Indeed, politically-conditioned funding clauses are based on the Israeli-induced categorization of Palestinian political parties and organizations as terrorist entities.

In delegitimizing Palestinian resistance, Israel is effectively creating a coercive environment and restricting Palestinian space while simultaneously suppressing the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

Israel suppression of resistance goes beyond mitigating security threats or restoring public order. Any entity or individual that exposes its colonial-apartheid practices and policies is treated as a threat. To stifle dissent and establish a system of domination and control over the Palestinian people, Israel manipulates the counter terrorism framework to target Palestinian organizations and human rights defenders that promote a rights-based approach in pursuit of liberation.

BADIL calls on the Special Rapporteur to:

- 1- Re-emphasize the legitimacy and legality of the Palestinian people's right to resist by all means while they seek their right to self-determination;
- 2- And recognize that the politically conditional funding to Palestinian civil society is an illegal act serving the perpetuation of the Israeli colonial – apartheid domination over the Palestinian people.