



BADIL's Oral Statement

UNHRC Session #54 Item 6

Rights of Return and Self-Determination of the Palestinian People

Mr. Vice President,

Israel has rejected all 15 recommendations calling on it to dismantle its colonial-apartheid and ensure the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and return.

The right of return of Palestinian refugees, such as myself, and IDPs is crucial for exercising self-determination, which is considered as a *jus cogens* norm, and its denial is a serious breach of international law.

Since its creation in 1948, Israel continues to systematically forcibly transfer Palestinians to further its colonial enterprise: to acquire the maximum amount of Palestinian land with the minimum number of Palestinians. Since then, Israel has denied Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons, who constitute 66 percent of the global Palestinian people, their right to reparations, including return, property restitution and compensation.

By imposing racial laws, policies and practices that geographically, legally and politically divide Palestinians inside Mandatory Palestine and in exile, Israel has established and maintained a colonial-apartheid regime that enjoys impunity.

Dismantling the Israeli colonial-apartheid regime is vital for addressing the root causes of the denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and return.

BADIL calls on the UN and its member states to:

1. Take practical measures, in line with their responsibilities as third-party states, to cooperate to bring to an end through lawful means to Israel's serious breach of the denial of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and return and to cease all aid and assistance to Israel that would maintain this illegal situation.
2. Ensure the implementation of the right of Palestinian refugees and IDPs to reparations, including return, property restitution, compensation and guarantees of non-repetition

Thank you.

