

## **BADIL, Alhaq , St,Yves and JLAC Joint Oral Intervention**

### **UN Human Rights Council**

39<sup>th</sup> Regular Session

18 September 2018

#### **Situation of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

***Mr. President,***

Seventy years after Israel's military conquest of western Jerusalem and over fifty years after its conquest of the eastern part of the city, Israel continues to deny Palestinians the right to self-determination in occupied East Jerusalem. Israel asserts its exclusive control over the entire city by means of an illegal regime of annexation that maintains a Jewish demographic majority through the illegal settlement of Jewish population, and a web of policies that fragment, isolate and transfer its Palestinian population.

One of these Israeli policies is the systematic aggressive crack-down on Palestinian political, public and civil society institutions in occupied East Jerusalem, impeding their development and enforcing their removal simply because of their vital role in safeguarding the human rights of the city's Palestinian population, and its Palestinian identity. Israel's attack on Palestinian civil society in occupied East Jerusalem includes highly restrictive policies in registration, closing bank accounts and withholding transfers, detention, intimidation, physical attacks against human rights defenders, attacks, raids and closures of offices and peaceful activities, visa restrictions and defamation campaigns.

Israel's systematic and multi-pronged attack on Palestinian institutions in occupied East Jerusalem has severely undermined their ability to operate, resulting in the closure of at least 42 Palestinian public and civil society institutions in Jerusalem since the year 2000.

In light of the current vicious attacks and active destruction of Palestinian civil society by Israel's right-wing government and affiliated lobby groups, we call on the Council to:

- Ensure effective international protection of Palestinian civil society in Jerusalem from the increasingly arbitrary measures
- Urge Israel to repeal its laws and policies which directly target Palestinian civil society and enforce its removal from Jerusalem.
- Create an expert commission to investigate Israel's crack-down on Palestinian civil society and the effects such policies have on the human rights of the city's Palestinian population and the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people

***Thank you.***