



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**
38th session

**Item 7: Situation of human rights in Palestine
and other occupied Arab territories.**

Oral statement

Verify at the hearing

Mr. President,

The United States of America announced last week its withdrawal from the Human Rights Council, denouncing the Council's bias against Israel for including on its agenda a standing item on the human rights situation in Palestine. Nobody is fooled and everybody knows that the withdrawal of the United States of America in reality obeys the will of this great power to destroy step-by-step the only, somewhat democratic, multilateral organization responsible for maintaining peace and security in the world, which is the United Nations, since it no longer has the means to control it.

Nevertheless, let us see whether the official argument presented by this country is acceptable with regard to Palestine.

In a rigorous legal analysis published in 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia established that Israel imposes an apartheid regime on all Palestinians, including those from the occupied territories, Israeli citizens of Palestinian origin, refugees and exiles. This apartheid regime is applied in different ways but systematically articulated at these different levels.

Following strong pressure, this document was quickly removed from the UN site¹, but this does not diminish its relevance. Indeed, this analysis confirms, once again, the well-founded nature of the numerous reports presented to the Human Rights Council and the United Nations General Assembly and, consequently, the maintenance on the Human Rights Council's agenda of a standing item on Palestine.

¹ It can be read on the following sites:

For the French version, <http://www.pourlapalestine.be/le-rapport-de-richard-falk-et-virginia-telley-sur-lapartheid-israelien-publie-en-francais/>

For the English version,

https://electronicintifada.net/sites/default/files/2017-03/un_apartheid_report_15_march_english_final_.pdf

This analysis also places the members of the Human Rights Council and those of the United Nations General Assembly facing their responsibility to act urgently to put an end to this apartheid regime, given that the Security Council is paralysed by the United States of America, Israel's unshakable ally.

Mr President,

I thank you for your attention.

Geneva, 2nd July 2018