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Society Studies Centre (SSC)

Oral Statement presented at the 10th Session of the Human Rights Council

UPR Outcome Report of Israel

Thank you Mr. President for allowing us to address you respected Council.

The Society Studies Centre would like welcome the Council's review for the Israel record in human rights. However, we have great concern that the outcome of the review addressed only the rights of the Israeli people who enjoy the respect of their rights while it ignores the gross violations of human rights in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. Israel has tried to avoid its responsibility as an occupying state towards the violations that are committed around the clock in Gaza and the West Bank and other occupied lands in Syria and Lebanon.

There are a host of issues that need to be highlighted when reviewing the Israel record in human rights. The most prominent violation that is committed by this state is to deny the self-determination for another nation by occupying the Palestinian lands. This has caused undeniable atrocities against civilian population. More than 10 thousand Palestinians are imprisoned including democratically elected members of parliament, and there are reports about cruel treatment and torture behind bars. Thousand children, women, elderly people and innocent civilians have been killed by the Israeli army on our watch. After the review of this state was completed, it has committed a massacre in Gaza in which it killed more than 1300 people, destroyed civilian facilities, bombed UN facilities, killed humanitarian workers and journalists.

Israel has to be reminded and made accountable for what it has committed in Gaza and other parts of Palestine. Its not fair for Israel to destroy the houses, hospitals, schools, and other infrastructure, and make the European Nations and other donors to pay for rebuilding what has been deliberately destroyed.

Israel should immediately stop demolishing the houses, confiscating the lands, building the dividing wall, releasing the prisoners, allowing Palestinians the right of return, stop killing civilians, ending the siege on Gaza and collective punishment before it can be given credit for its record in human rights.