



Human Rights
Institute

Organization: Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
Item 7: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967
Date: 26 March 2024
Speaker: Joey Doyle

Oral Statement to the 55th Session of the UN Human Rights Council from Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, NGOs in special consultative status

Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT): Halt atrocity crimes and violations against human rights defenders

Mr. President,

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute condemn Israel's ongoing atrocities and war crimes against civilians in Gaza, particularly children.¹

We also denounce Israel's systematic, discriminatory misuse of laws and orders against people throughout the OPT, including human rights lawyers² and defenders criminalized and arbitrarily detained based on secret information, without charges or trials by independent and impartial courts.³ Reports of incommunicado detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, and gender-based violence against defenders and others, including children⁴ are increasing, along with reports of denial of access to lawyers.⁵

Defenders are among those attacked with impunity by illegal Israeli settlers in the OPT.⁶ We also deplore arbitrary detention and attacks against defenders and others by OPT authorities.⁷

We call for urgent measures to secure:

- An immediate ceasefire and a halt to all weapons sales and other assistance contributing to atrocities, war crimes and human rights violations;
- Implementation of the January 2024 provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice without further delay;
- Release of all arbitrarily detained persons, including lawyers, defenders, journalists, humanitarian and health care workers, and hostages;
- Compliance with all international law and standards; and
- Cooperation with UN bodies, all Special Procedures, and the ICC.

Thank you.

¹ Mary Lawlor, There is no moral argument that justifies the sale of weapons to Israel, *The Guardian*, 21 March 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/mar/21/sale-weapons-israel-palestinian-human-rights>; A/HRC/55/72, 1 February 2024, para 45, 46, <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/55/72>.

² IBAHRI concerned about the arbitrary arrest and detention of Palestinian human rights lawyer, 27 February 2024, <https://prod-bo.ibanet.org/IBAHRI-concerned-about-the-arbitrary-arrest-and-detention-of-Palestinian-human-rights-lawyer-Diala-Ayesh>

³ A/HRC/53/59, 10 July 2023, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session53/advance-versions/A_HRC_53_59_AdvanceUneditedVersion.pdf, IBAHRI concerned about the arbitrary arrest and detention of Palestinian human rights lawyer, 27 February 2024, <https://prod-bo.ibanet.org/IBAHRI-concerned-about-the-arbitrary-arrest-and-detention-of-Palestinian-human-rights-lawyer-Diala-Ayesh>; UN experts condemn Israel's arbitrary detention and conviction of Palestinian aid worker, 16 June 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/06/un-experts-condemn-israels-arbitrary-detention-and-conviction-palestinian>; Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, Israel: Remedy violations of international human rights law and ensure full respect for rights of lawyers and human rights defenders, Oral Statement to the 51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council, 30 September 2022, https://www.lrwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/LRWC.Item7_GD_OPT_30Sept2022.F.pdf; UN experts condemn Israel's arbitrary detention and conviction of Palestinian aid worker, 16 June 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/06/un-experts-condemn-israels-arbitrary-detention-and-conviction-palestinian>.

⁴ Israel/oPt: UN experts appalled by reported human rights violations against Palestinian women and girls, 19 February 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/israelopt-un-experts-appalled-reported-human-rights-violations-against?s=08>.

⁵ A/78/545, 20 October 2023, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/children-report-of-the-special-rapporteur-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-palestinian-territories-occupied-since-1967-francesca-albanese-a-78-545/>.

⁶ A/HRC/55/72, 1 February 2024, para 45, 46, <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/55/72>.

⁷ A/HRC/53/59, 10 July 2023, para 11, 12; A/HRC/53/CRP.1, 2 June 2023, Section IV, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session53/A-HRC-53-CRP1.pdf>.