



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-third session
1–12 May 2023

Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Israel*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a summary of 35 stakeholders' submissions² for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. International Communities Organisation (ICO) recommended that Israel ratify the remaining United Nations human rights treaties and the optional protocols.³

3. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) urged Israel to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and work towards the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons, as a matter of international urgency.⁴

4. Human Rights Watch (HRW) recommended that Israel fully cooperate with United Nations bodies and human rights mechanisms and other international investigators, including by allowing them access to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) to carry out investigations and heeding their recommendations.⁵

B. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. JS2 recommended that Israel enact a law criminalizing torture and ill-treatment immediately and without exceptions.⁶

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



6. Amnesty International (AI) recommended that Israel undertake a review of all laws, regulations, policies and practices that discriminated on racial, ethnic or religious grounds, and repeal or amend them to bring them into line with international human rights law and standards.⁷

7. JS1 recommended that Israel amend anti-discrimination laws to ensure equal treatment and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics.⁸

8. JS1 recommended that Israel amend the Penal Law to define hate speech and hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics among the categories of punishable offenses.⁹

9. Adalah stated that the Basic Law: Israel – The Nation-State of the Jewish People contained no commitment to democratic norms, any guarantee of the right to equality, or a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, ethnicity or any other category for all people living under Israeli sovereignty.¹⁰

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

10. JS1 recommended that Israel enhance efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.¹¹

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

11. Broken Chalk (BC) stated that in Israel socioeconomic inequalities majorly existed along ethnic lines.¹²

12. JS1 stated that hate speech and violence against LGBTI individuals had been rising, with an alarming increase in anti-trans hate.¹³

13. JS9 stated that Israel frequently and systematically failed to collect specific, detailed data on Bedouin citizens, leaving them absent from many relevant surveys, statistical reports and other sources of data.¹⁴

14. JS9 stated that the lack of public transportation for residents of the Bedouin villages (recognized and unrecognized) made it extremely difficult for the residents to reach their workplace, schools, medical centres and public services centres, especially for Bedouin women and girls.¹⁵

15. Just Atonement Inc. (JAI) commended Israel for many of its anti-discrimination policies and laws with respect to its domestic citizens. It recommended that Israel create and empower enforcement agencies to ensure that anti-discriminatory policies were implemented.¹⁶

16. ICO welcomed Israel's adoption of the recommendations made by the inter-ministerial team on eliminating all forms of racism in Israeli society. It urged Israel to continue the development of a database to document complaints of racism.¹⁷

17. ICO urged Israel to take further steps to promote reconciliation between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs by sponsoring dialogue among civil society actors.¹⁸

18. European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) stated that Israel had taken commendable steps to further equality, including through 3 economic plans, which signalled a significant investment into equality between Arab and Jewish communities.¹⁹

19. The Institute for NGO Research (INR) stated that Israel could improve, and, where lacking, establish formal procedures for the collection of data, including on issues relating to discrimination. Those data should be made publicly available.²⁰

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

20. JS2 stated that evidence indicated that agents of the Israeli Security Agency and other state officials systematically subjected Palestinian individuals suspected of involvement in national security crimes to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, unlawful deportation from the Palestinian territories into Israel for the purpose of such treatment and denial of the fundamental right to fair trial. It stated that Israel was unwilling and unable to address those violations itself, and instead was shielding the perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment.²¹

21. JS8 recommended that Israel respect the principle of the absolute prohibition of torture in accordance with article 2 (2) of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, completely remove necessity as a justification for torture, and hold those committing such acts of torture personally responsible and subject to criminal prosecution and appropriate penalties.²²

22. JS2 recommended that interrogations be recorded by audio-visual means and that complainants be given full access to the video footage.²³

23. JS8 recommended that Israel consider the testimonies and statements made as a result of torture inadmissible as evidence in any proceedings.²⁴

24. JS2 recommended that Israel ensure accountability for perpetrators of torture. It stated that investigations into all allegations of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment must be prompt, lasting no longer than 10 months, from the start of the process to the end of the criminal investigation, if warranted.²⁵

25. JS8 stated that Israel systematically transferred Palestinian prisoners and detainees out of the occupied West Bank to prisons and detention centres located inside the Green Line.²⁶

26. JS8 stated that Israeli military commanders consistently issued administrative detention orders to Palestinians for “security reasons” based solely on “secret evidence.” Once the order was issued, the detainee could be held for up to six months with indefinite renewals without ever receiving a charge or trial nor being informed of the evidence against them.²⁷

27. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) stated that Israel utilized administrative detention in a widespread and systematic manner as a key tool to intimidate, silence, and deny Palestinian human rights defenders their liberty.²⁸

28. JS2 stated that the period of initial detention before judicial review, and subsequent detention periods in pre-trial detention and administrative detention, were disproportionately long, violating detainees’ rights to be brought to trial rapidly.²⁹

29. Front Line Defenders (FLD) recommended that Israel halt the use of administrative detention against human rights defenders and ensure that those detained were immediately and unconditionally released and in the meantime given full and prompt access to their families and lawyers and allowed to receive all necessary medical care in compliance with UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.³⁰

30. Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) recommended that Israel immediately end the use of solitary confinement and administrative detention against Palestinian children and enshrine the prohibition in law.³¹

31. JS8 stated that prisons lacked the minimum standards of adequate living under the administration of the Israeli Prison Services.³²

32. Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) recommended that Israel end torture of prisoners, inhuman conditions of solitary confinement, overpopulation of jails, lack of sanitation and primary healthcare, and absence of medical care in prisons.³³

33. JS8 recommended that Israel return the bodies of the Palestinian prisoners who passed away while in prison and who had not yet been returned to their relatives for proper burial.³⁴

International humanitarian law

34. AI recommended that Israel comply fully with international humanitarian law, in particular the principle of distinction, prohibition of indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, and the requirement to take precautions in attack.³⁵

Human rights and counter-terrorism

35. CIHRS stated that the Combatting Terrorism Law 5776-2016 provided for the extensive use of secret evidence, lowered evidentiary requirements, limited detainees' access to judicial review, created new criminal offenses for any public expression of support or sympathy for a terrorist group, and increased maximum sentences for individuals convicted of security offenses.³⁶

36. AI recommended that Israel repeal or revoke the 2016 Counter-Terrorism Law and the 1945 Defence (Emergency) Regulations, or suspend them until they were brought into conformity with international human rights law, particularly anti-discrimination provisions.³⁷

37. CIHRS recommended that Israel repeal the Anti-Terrorism Law (2016) and revoke immediately the terrorist designations of six Palestinian organizations.³⁸

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

38. JS2 recommended that Israel amend the Evidence Act in a way that any evidence obtained as a result of coercive and illegal means was inadmissible in any court of law, both in relation to confessions and to recriminations of other parties, with no exceptions.³⁹

39. JS2 stated that Israeli military courts fell short of fair trial guarantees as required by international standards and applied in Israeli civilian courts.⁴⁰

40. JS8 stated that following the arrest and transfer of Palestinian detainees for interrogation, lawyers were often denied access to their clients, hindering their ability to provide effective legal services and concealing illegal practices during interrogations including torture and ill-treatment. Israeli military orders prohibited Palestinian detainees from meeting with their lawyers for a period of 60 days.⁴¹

41. JS8 recommended that Israel ensure that detainees were provided all legal and procedural safeguards of a fair trial, including the right to be informed of the reason for their arrest and detention, and access to legal counsel.⁴²

42. Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights (CCCR) recommended that Israel grant entry permits and ease freedom of movement restrictions to enable Palestinians to have unfettered access to courts, administrative compensation mechanisms and legal representatives.⁴³

Fundamental freedoms

43. FLD stated that reprisals and campaigns against Palestinian human rights defenders and organisations had been carried out for years by Israeli authorities targeting those working to promote and protect human rights and documenting international law violations. It stated that those practices had intensified in recent years. Strategies used by Israeli authorities and government-operated non-governmental organizations included delegitimising critical civil society through defamation campaigns, including labelling them as terrorists or anti-Semitic; pressuring and working with social media platforms and institutions to deny or limit space for their discourse and positions; cutting funding sources; hacking phones and conducting surveillance, arbitrary arrests and travel bans.⁴⁴

44. JS3 recommended that Israel urgently cease its systematic and ongoing policies and practices intended to silence Palestinian civil society and human rights defenders.⁴⁵

45. INR was concerned at the involvement by the Government in religion, which extended to nearly every sphere of public life, including marriage, education, and restaurants. It stated that the Government only recognized Orthodox marriages authorized by the Chief Rabbinate. Those seeking a non-Orthodox marriage had to be married outside of the country.⁴⁶

46. ADF International stated that over the reporting period, Christians had reportedly suffered an increase in social hostility at the hands of extremist groups, including as a result of a campaign of vandalism directed against places of worship and other religious sites.⁴⁷

47. ADF International recommended that Israel guarantee full respect for the right to freedom of religion or belief, in law and practice, without discrimination, in accordance with international human rights obligations.⁴⁸

48. ADF International recommended that Israel ensure the effective protection of persons belonging to religious minorities from all forms of violence and harassment, including by investigating and prosecuting acts of violence or vandalism directed against them.⁴⁹

49. Conscience and Peace Tax international (CPTI) stated that conscientious objection to military service had hitherto received too little attention in the UPR of Israel.⁵⁰

50. International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) recommended that Israel recognise in law and practice the right to conscientious objection, including selective objection, in accordance with international law and human rights standards, immediately cease the imprisonment of conscientious objectors, including repeated imprisonment, and provide full reparation to conscientious objectors whose human rights have been violated.⁵¹

51. Scholars at Risk (SAR) noted attacks on higher education and violations of academic freedom, including violence during student protests; raids and similar encroachments by Israeli troops onto campuses; military attacks on universities; wrongful arrests and prosecutions of students; and restrictions on academic travel. It recommended that Israel take concrete steps to ensure the academic freedom of students and scholars within Israel and the OPT.⁵²

Right to marriage and family life

52. Kayan – Feminist Organization (Kayan) stated that two parallel legal systems governed family law. The legal issues of marriage and divorce continued to be under the exclusive jurisdiction of the religious courts, whereas other legal issues pertaining to personal status such as distribution of property, alimony, and child custody were under parallel jurisdiction of both the religious and civil family courts.⁵³

53. Kayan recommended that Israel take steps towards harmonizing its religious laws governing marriage and divorce with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.⁵⁴

54. Kayan recommended that Israel amend its legislation to allow for civil marriages without discrimination on the ground of religion or belief.⁵⁵

55. JS3 stated that the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law, first enacted in 2003 as a Temporary Order, prohibited the granting of residency or citizenship status to Palestinian spouses from the OPT who were married to Palestinians with Israeli citizenship or residency status, thereby denying them their right to family unification, right to family life, and right to equality in marriage and choice of spouse.⁵⁶

56. JS7 stated that Israel had implemented a new practice of punitive residency revocation, revoking residency rights as a punishment for “activities against the State of Israel”.⁵⁷

57. JS4 recommended that Israel repeal all legislation that restricted family unification and deprived Palestinian women of their basic human rights, including custody rights.⁵⁸

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

58. Israel Women’s Network (IWN) stated that Arab and ultra-orthodox Jewish women earned the lowest wages and that most held part-time positions.⁵⁹

59. JS9 stated that the rate of labour force participation of Bedouin women was far lower than the rates of Bedouin men or other Palestinian women in Israel.⁶⁰

60. Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights (Maat) stated that Falasha Jews of African descent usually did low-wage work, such as cleaning and food sector related work.

The total income of people of African descent in Israel was about 35 percent lower than that of Israeli families from other groups.⁶¹

Right to social security

61. IWN stated that national insurance and national healthcare payments should be imposed, and that their corresponding benefits should be granted to all adults irrespective of gender or marital status.⁶²

62. IWN stated that in 2022, an amendment to the Retirement Age Law 5764-2004 had imposed a gradual raise in the retirement age of women, from 62 to 65, over a period of 10 years. The group of women most significantly harmed by the raise in retirement age included women employed in low-paying jobs, who would be required to work at an older age before becoming eligible for a pension.⁶³

Right to an adequate standard of living

63. IWN stated that ultra-orthodox Jews and Arabs suffered from low income and access to jobs.⁶⁴

64. JS9 stated that according to official state data, 73 percent of the Negev/Naqab's Bedouin residents were poor and 80 percent of Bedouin children lived under the poverty line. The statistics did not include Bedouin residents in unrecognized villages, one of the poorest, most marginalized populations in Israel.⁶⁵

65. JS9 stated that over 300,000 Bedouin citizens of Israel lived in the Negev/Naqab, namely in seven government-planned towns, in 11 "recognized villages", and in approximately 35 "unrecognized villages", the latter of which were denied basic infrastructure and services as a matter of state policy. It stated that after recognition, living conditions, and access to essential services and infrastructure also remained very poor, and although government-planned towns were connected to public infrastructure, they were severely under-funded and overcrowded.⁶⁶

66. JS9 stated that tens of thousands of Bedouins lived in homes under demolition orders, usually due to the impossibility of obtaining a building permit due to the lack of planning of their towns and villages.⁶⁷

67. AI recommended that Israel immediately grant legal recognition and status to 35 "unrecognized" villages in the Negev/Naqab, with legal security of tenure to the residents and halt all efforts to forcibly remove the inhabitants of unrecognized villages.⁶⁸

Right to health

68. JS9 stated that there was a lack of health services in Bedouin communities, especially for women and children. Neither emergency medical services nor public transport connected to or accessed the unrecognized villages. Bedouin families often had to travel long distances for specialist care. Those structural barriers, among other factors, were major contributors to the very high infant mortality rate that continued to face the Bedouin in the Negev-Naqab.⁶⁹

Right to education

69. BC stated that Israel must commit to ensuring free compulsory education and equal opportunity for all children.⁷⁰

70. BC stated that, despite all the investments and successes, the Israeli educational sector showed severe issues. Problems in the system were often related to the inequalities of the four-stream educational system, socioeconomic inequalities, and discrimination based on ethnicity.⁷¹

71. BC stated that Israel allocated approximately a 30 percent smaller budget to the Arab school system in population ratio. Differences in school budgets led to inequality of opportunity and quality issues, as Arab schools often had fewer classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and qualified teachers. Those factors also resulted in larger classes, which hindered the learning of students.⁷²

72. JS9 stated that decades of lack of state investment in Arab Bedouin education had taken a heavy toll.⁷³

73. Maat stated that the education system in the Bedouin villages in the Negev impeded integration into the labour force. In addition, the dropout rate from the educational process in the Negev was the highest in Israel.⁷⁴

74. BC stated that Arabs were underrepresented in educational decision-making bodies, as well as in educational planning and supervision positions. This prevented the interests of the Arabic-community to be asserted both at national and local levels.⁷⁵

75. BC stated that Haredi boys, from age 14, often transferred to yeshiva schools which were not supervised by the Israeli Ministry of Education. Those schools followed a specific curriculum focused on religious studies, giving little space to regular school subjects. Haredi students usually underperformed in international exams, compared to other Jewish Israelis. Neither did they attain the Bagrut, preventing them from entering higher education.⁷⁶

Cultural rights

76. ADF International stated that discrimination and undue state interference had been reported with regard to the ownership of religious property and heritage sites. It noted that in August 2021, the Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage Ministry had stated that it only provided for conservation of Jewish cultural and heritage sites, not non-Jewish sites.⁷⁷

Development

77. JS9 stated that so-called state ‘development plans’ had all been deliberately planned to take place on, or near, Bedouin village land. The plans directly induced displacement of the Bedouin. Affected communities, in both recognized and unrecognized villages, were not included as beneficiaries of those plans.⁷⁸

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

78. Kayan stated that the problem of femicide had recently increased among Palestinians in Israel. It noted a pattern of systemic negligence by the Israeli police when it came to addressing violence against Palestinian women.⁷⁹

79. Kayan recommended that Israel develop a properly financed national plan to increase shelters and support services for battered women.⁸⁰

80. JAI stated that gender inequality continued to persist in Israel.⁸¹

81. Women’s Spirit (WS) recommended that Israel promote a law that acknowledged and prevented economic abuse and assisted its victims.⁸²

82. IWN stated that women encountered multiple glass ceilings in the labour market.⁸³

83. IWN stated that despite the Male and Female Workers Equal Pay Law 5756-1996, gender wage gaps remained significant in Israel.⁸⁴

84. IWN stated that access to abortion was limited for women living in Israel without formal status, who were typically burdened by language and cultural differences as well as poverty and fears of deportation. Even if their abortion was approved they were not entitled to coverage of medical costs under the National Insurance Law.⁸⁵

Children

85. JS7 stated that permanent residency was not automatically passed on to children, which led to difficulties in the registration of children with the Jerusalem Center for Socio-Economic Rights. This made it very difficult to access basic education, health and other social services.⁸⁶

Persons with disabilities

86. IMAGINE recommended that Israel promote legislation on content accessibility as well as physical accessibility, making services and activities accessible to people with disabilities.⁸⁷

87. IMAGINE recommended that Israel ensure the rights of people with disabilities for extracurricular and leisure-time activities thus enhancing equality, fighting prejudice and eliminating accessibility barriers.⁸⁸

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

88. JS1 stated trans rights activists and civil society organisations endured increasing attacks from anti-gender groups, which included circulating disinformation, targeted harassment, cyber-bullying and smear campaigns.⁸⁹

89. JS1 recommended that Israel enhance efforts to eliminate implicit and explicit discrimination of transgender and gender diverse individuals in healthcare by training healthcare providers on transgender health care, incorporating transgender health into medical school curriculum.⁹⁰

90. JS1 recommended that Israel take the necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ban conversion practices.⁹¹

91. JS1 recommended that Israel take all necessary measures to amend laws and policies to guarantee the right to legal gender recognition through a simple and accessible administrative procedure, on the basis of self-identification.⁹²

92. JS1 stated that LGBTI children and youth endured high rates of discrimination, exclusion, bullying and violence in school environments, with transgender and gender diverse children most severely affected.⁹³

93. JS1 recommended that Israel implement LGBTI-sensitivity training for school staff and students nationwide.⁹⁴

Stateless persons

94. Adalah stated that on 22 July 2022, the Israeli Supreme Court had upheld a 2008 amendment to the Citizenship Law, which gave authority to the Interior Minister, with court approval, to revoke citizenship from citizens of Israel if they were convicted of offenses that constitute a “breach of loyalty” to the state, even if they became stateless.⁹⁵

3. Specific regions or territories

95. JS6 stated that Israel had systematically failed to conduct serious criminal investigations in relation to the violations and crimes committed against the Palestinian people. Israel continued to maintain a criminal investigative system that failed to uphold the international standards requiring thorough, effective, independent, and impartial investigations of suspected perpetrators, including in particular of persons in positions of command, and prosecutions that were commensurate with the gravity of the acts committed.⁹⁶

96. JS3 noted Israel’s unnecessary, disproportionate and excessive use of lethal force and was greatly concerned at the increase in extrajudicial killings.⁹⁷

97. AI stated that Israeli forces had continued to use lethal fire in policing situations, leading to apparently unlawful killings, which had been inadequately investigated by the Israeli authorities, resulting in hardly any convictions and no custodial sentences.⁹⁸

98. JS5 recommended that Israel open a transparent and immediate investigation to hold police personnel accountable for using disproportionate and indiscriminate force against Palestinians in Jerusalem during Ramadan 2021 and Ramadan 2022.⁹⁹

99. JS6 recommended that Israel comply with international human rights law standards on the use of force in law-enforcement operations.¹⁰⁰

100. AI recommended that Israel guarantee prompt, impartial, independent and effective investigations into apparently unlawful killings and serious injuries, possible war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by state officials and actors.¹⁰¹

101. JS3 recommended that Israel immediately stop punishing the families of deceased Palestinian through the withholding of their bodies and offer them the treatment of human dignity to which they were entitled.¹⁰²

102. HRW stated that Israeli authorities had continued to methodically expand settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and to facilitate the transfer of Israeli citizens into the settlements.¹⁰³

103. HRW recommended that Israel cease construction and expansion of settlements, dismantle existing settlements, and bring Israeli citizens inhabiting settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, back within Israel's internationally recognized borders.¹⁰⁴

104. HRW stated that authorities made the obtention of building permits for Palestinians in the roughly 60 percent of the West Bank under full Israeli control (Area C) and in East Jerusalem nearly impossible. This effectively forced Palestinians to leave their homes or to build at the risk of having their unauthorized structures bulldozed. Israeli authorities had also punitively demolished the homes of families of Palestinians suspected of attacking Israelis.¹⁰⁵

105. JS7 stated that Israeli housing procedures utterly failed to meet the needs of the Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem. As a result of the severe housing shortage in East Jerusalem and the discriminatory planning policies by the Municipality, over 20,000 Palestinian homes were built without permit, putting 85,000 Palestinians at risk of home demolition and displacement.¹⁰⁶

106. JS4 stated that house demolitions were usually carried out early in the morning or late at night, which was especially traumatizing for women and children.¹⁰⁷

107. JS3 recommended that Israel cease all house demolitions in the OPT, regardless of any decision of Israeli courts finding otherwise.¹⁰⁸

108. AI recommended that Israel ensure adequate remedies for all those whose homes had been demolished as a result of discriminatory policies.¹⁰⁹

109. JS4 stated that settler violence on agricultural land was becoming more frequent, especially during periods of harvesting.¹¹⁰

110. HRW recommended that Israel ensure adequate steps by law enforcement authorities to investigate and prosecute Israeli settlers who attack Palestinians or their property.¹¹¹

111. AI stated that hundreds of permanent and temporary arbitrary restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement had been maintained by the Israeli army and new obstructions had been built as recently as September 2022, hampering access to healthcare and education.¹¹²

112. JS4 stated that in Hebron, the military had constructed 21 permanent checkpoints. Palestinians passing through these checkpoints were subjected to long and humiliating inspections. This discouraged some women and girls from leaving their homes and participating in public life, including pursuing education, exercising their right to work, or going to the market.¹¹³

113. Maat stated that Palestinian women residing in areas under the actual control of the Israeli authorities continued to face multiple violations, including physical and verbal abuse and sexual harassment.¹¹⁴

114. BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights (BADIL) stated that Palestinian cities were not only becoming increasingly disconnected, but were also facing internal disconnection between different urban areas and villages within the governorates themselves, a result that directly stemmed from the Israeli imposed system of bypass roads and a fractured public transport system on both sides of the Green Line.¹¹⁵

115. Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) stated that growing up amidst military occupation and conflict had had a profound impact on Palestinian children in the West Bank

and Gaza. It had impacted every aspect of their lives, from their safety and development to their psychosocial wellbeing and mental health.¹¹⁶

116. JS4 stated that Palestinians of the Northern Jordan Valley, including Bedouin communities, suffered greatly from lack of water due to Israeli discriminatory water allocation practices and policies. Palestinians had to buy their own available natural water for high prices, had no control over infrastructure, were banned from digging wells, and were denied the use of natural resources, even for their livestock. Settlers made systematic, and often violent, attempts to take over and confiscate natural water resources and destroyed agricultural land and water pipelines used for irrigation by local Palestinian farmers.¹¹⁷

117. JS4 recommended that Israel ensure equitable and safe access to water and natural resources for Palestinian communities living in the Northern Jordan Valley, and halt the practice of confiscating water tanks and the vehicles transporting them.¹¹⁸

118. JS4 stated that in the West Bank, agricultural land was exploited by Israel as a dumping ground for military, industrial, nuclear, and sewage waste, causing serious pollution of air, soil, and water.¹¹⁹

119. Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) stated that across the West Bank, military checkpoints and lockdowns had impeded the movement of medical personnel, limiting medical services and delivering primary healthcare services to Palestinians throughout the OPT.¹²⁰

120. JS7 stated that the educational sector in East Jerusalem was negatively impacted by a shortage of classrooms, a substandard quality of existing facilities and access restrictions for teachers and students, due to Israel's discriminatory policies in that regard. Many Palestinian children attended school in makeshift classrooms without facilities such as libraries, computer labs or sports facilities. The majority of schools were located in former residential buildings that were unsuitable and overcrowded.¹²¹

121. ICHR stated that Israeli troops had raided school compounds, fired tear gas canisters, stun grenades, live ammunition, and rubber-coated steel bullets on students and school buildings, threatened to close down schools, and physically assaulted students and teachers.¹²²

122. INR stated that some schools in East Jerusalem used the Israeli-Arab curriculum. Other schools in East Jerusalem used the Palestinian Authority or UNRWA curricula, which employed textbooks that were replete with incitement, antisemitism, and promotion of enduring conflict, and that barred the teaching of Hebrew.¹²³

123. AI stated that in the course of military offensives on Gaza in May 2021 and August 2022, Israeli artillery and aerial bombardment had resulted in possible war crimes due to either indiscriminate attacks or direct attacks on civilians. These had not been adequately investigated by the Israeli authorities, nor had there been any indication that any thorough and impartial investigations had been planned.¹²⁴

124. JS6 stated that Israel maintained full control over Gaza's crossings and imposed harsh restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons, services, and goods both in and out of the Gaza Strip.¹²⁵

125. JS6 stated that Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip seeking to travel via Israeli-controlled crossings had to first obtain the requisite Israeli-issued exit permit through the complex, arbitrary, and discriminatory permit regime.¹²⁶

126. ICHR stated that extreme shortages had continued to affect medicines and medical missions at major medical centres and hospitals in Gaza, particularly emergency sections, operating rooms, and intensive care units.¹²⁷

127. JS6 stated that Palestinian patients from Gaza struggled to receive adequate medical treatment, especially cancer patients. Many patients were denied from accessing hospitals and medical care outside Gaza due to the Israeli exit system.¹²⁸

128. HRW recommended that Israel end the generalized ban on travel to and from Gaza and permit the free movement of people to and from Gaza, and in particular between Gaza

and the West Bank, and abroad, subject to, at most, individual screenings and physical searches for security purposes.¹²⁹

129. JS6 stated that as a direct consequence of Israel's blockade and closure of the Gaza Strip, Gaza faced a chronic, acute electricity crisis, further aggravating the deterioration of other vital sectors, including education, health, economy, agriculture, water and sanitation, which were heavily dependent on a steady electricity.¹³⁰

130. JS6 stated that in 2022, about 95 percent of Gaza's population did not have access to drinkable water.¹³¹

131. JS4 stated that in the Gaza Strip, 2.1 million Palestinians were confined in a territory with an alarming water shortage. Their only resource of water, a coastal aquifer, was overexploited and polluted.¹³²

132. ODVV stated that there was not enough drinking water in the Gaza Strip and serious damage had been done to the enclave's water supply infrastructure as a result of continued conflicts, while a power shortage crisis had led to increased contamination of groundwater resources.¹³³

133. JS4 recommended that Israel put an end to the humanitarian water crisis in the Gaza Strip caused by severe water pollution, repeated aggressions, and restrictions on the movement of goods, including the material needed for sanitation infrastructure.¹³⁴

134. JS6 stated that Palestinian farmlands near the eastern and northern perimeter of the Gaza Strip were targeted by aerial spraying of chemical herbicides and the opening of water dams aimed at killing crops and destroying agricultural fields, with potentially devastating effects on the environment.¹³⁵

Notes

¹ See A/HRC/38/15, A/HRC/38/15/Add.1, and A/HRC/38/2.

² The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

Individual submissions:

Adalah	Adalah, Haifa (Israel);
ADF International	ADF International, Geneva (Switzerland);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom);
BADIL	BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Bethlehem (OPT);
BC	Broken Chalk, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
CCCR	Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights, London (United Kingdom);
CIHRS	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Tunis (Tunisia);
CPTI	Conscience and Peace Tax international, Grand Lancy (Switzerland);
DCIP	Defense for Children International – Palestine, Ramallah (OPT);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
FLD	Front Line Defenders, Dublin (Ireland);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICAN	The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICO	International Communities Organisation, London (United Kingdom);
IMAGINE	IMAGINE, Hertzeliya (Israel);
IFOR	The International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Utrecht (Netherlands);
IHRC	The Islamic Human Rights Commission, London (United Kingdom);
IWN	Israel Women's Network, Tel-Aviv (Israel);
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., New York (United States of America);

Kayan	Kayan – Feminist Organization, Haifa (Israel);
Maat	Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
INR	The Institute for NGO Research, Jerusalem (Israel);
ODVV	The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran);
ICHR	The Independent Commission for Human Rights, Ramallah (OPT);
SAR	Scholars at Risk, New York (United States of America);
WS	Women’s Spirit, Tel-Aviv (Israel).
<i>Joint submissions:</i>	
JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Ma’avarim – Israeli Transgender Community; Gila Project – Transgender for Social Justice; Pride of the Lionesses; The Association for LGBTQ Equality in Israel (Ha’Aguda); Trans Israel NGO; Hoshen – Education & Change; Havruta – Religious Gays; IGY (Israeli LGBTQ Youth); The Civil Litigation Clinic at Haifa University;
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: International Federation for Human Rights; Public Committee against Torture in Israel;
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: Al-Haq; Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy-MIFTAH;
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling; The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH); Al-Haq; The Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights (Hurriyat); Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association; Al Mezan Center for Human Rights; Community Action Center (CAC)/Al-Quds University; The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ);
JS5	Joint submission 5 submitted by: The Community Action Center / Al-Quds University; Al Mezan Center for Human Rights; The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem; Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC);
JS6	Joint submission 6 submitted by: Al Mezan Center for Human Rights; Palestinian Centre for Human Rights; Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling; Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights; Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ); Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH; Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Al-Haq; Bisan Center for Research and Development; Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights “Hurriyat”;
JS7	Joint submission 7 submitted by: The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem’s (CCPRJ); Al-Haq; Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights; Addameer Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association; Women’s Center for Legal Aid Counselling (WCLAC); Palestinian Center for Human Rights; The Community Action Center (Al-Quds University);
JS8	Joint submission 8 submitted by: Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Al-Haq; Addameer Association for Human Rights; Jerusalem Legal Action and Human Rights Center; Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling; Al Mezan Center for Human Rights; The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem; Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights “Hurriyat”; Community Action Center/ Al-Quds University (CAC); Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR); Bisan Center for Research and

Development; The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH;

Joint submission 9 submitted by: Adalah; The Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality.

JS9

- 3 ICO, p. 6.
- 4 ICAN, p. 1.
- 5 HRW, p. 9.
- 6 JS2, para. 49.
- 7 AI, para. 30.
- 8 JS1, p. 2.
- 9 Ibid., p. 9.
- 10 Adalah, paras. 3 and 6.
- 11 JS1, p. 2. See also AI, para. 14; INR, paras. 23–24; Maat, p. 2.
- 12 BC, para. 31.
- 13 JS1, para. 26.
- 14 JS9, para. 33.
- 15 Ibid., para. 40.
- 16 JAI, paras. 2 and 20.
- 17 ICO, p. 1.
- 18 Ibid., p. 5.
- 19 ECLJ, para. 11.
- 20 INR, para. 31.
- 21 JS2, paras. 8 and 10. See also JS8, para. 11.
- 22 JS8, p. 5.
- 23 JS2, para. 45.
- 24 JS8, p. 5.
- 25 JS2, para. 48.
- 26 JS8, para. 35.
- 27 Ibid., para. 36.
- 28 CIHRS, p. 6.
- 29 JS2, para. 25.
- 30 FLD, p. 7.
- 31 DCIP, para. 44. See also IHRC, p. 4.
- 32 JS8, para. 20.
- 33 ODVV, para. 32.
- 34 JS8, p. 7.
- 35 AI, para. 43.
- 36 CIHRS, p. 4.
- 37 AI, para. 48. See also FLD, p. 7.
- 38 CIHRS, p. 8.
- 39 JS2, para. 47.
- 40 Ibid., para. 21.
- 41 JS8, para. 31. See also JS2, para. 26.
- 42 JS8, p. 11.
- 43 CCCR, para. 41.
- 44 FLD, para. 2. See also ICO, pp. 1–2; CIHRS, pp. 2–3.
- 45 JS3, paras. 80 and 86. See also FLD, pp. 6–7; CIHRS, p. 8.
- 46 INR, paras. 14–15.
- 47 ADF International, para. 12.
- 48 Ibid., para. 26(a).
- 49 Ibid. para. 26(e).
- 50 CPTI, para. 2. See also IFOR, p. 2.
- 51 IFOR, p. 7. See also CPTI, para. 2; AI, para. 49.
- 52 SAR, paras. 11 and 38.
- 53 Kayan, p. 2.
- 54 Ibid., p. 7.
- 55 Ibid., p. 7.
- 56 JS3, para. 29. See also JS4, para. 4.
- 57 JS7, para. 24.
- 58 JS4, p. 3.
- 59 IWN, p. 1.
- 60 JS9, para. 43.

- 61 Maat, p. 3.
62 IWN, p. 3.
63 Ibid., p. 3.
64 Ibid., p. 1.
65 JS9, para. 36.
66 Ibid., para. 8.
67 Ibid., para. 13.
68 AI, para. 37.
69 JS9, para. 39.
70 BC., para. 11.
71 Ibid., para. 8.
72 Ibid., para. 21.
73 JS9, para. 37.
74 Maat, p. 7.
75 BC, para. 18.
76 Ibid., paras. 36–37.
77 ADF International, para. 10.
78 JS9, para. 23.
79 Kayan, p. 5.
80 Ibid., p. 7.
81 JAI, para. 6.
82 WS, para 26.
83 IWN, p. 1.
84 Ibid., p. 2.
85 Ibid., p. 4.
86 JS7, para. 25.
87 IMAGINE, para. 17.
88 Ibid., para. 19.
89 JS1, para. 30.
90 Ibid., p. 4.
91 Ibid., para. 18.
92 Ibid., p. 8.
93 JS1, para. 20.
94 Ibid., p. 7.
95 Adalah, para. 15.
96 JS6, para. 9.
97 JS3, paras. 60–62. See also JS6, para. 8; Adalah, para. 21.
98 AI, para. 7.
99 JS5, p. 8.
100 JS6, para. 25(iv). See also HRW, p. 7.
101 AI, para. 40. See also JS3, para. 75; JS6, para. 25(vi).
102 JS3, para. 76.
103 HRW, p. 2. See also AI, para. 24–25.
104 HRW, p. 3. See also JS3, paras. 20 and 54; JS5, p. 5; AI, para. 34.
105 HRW, p. 7. See also JS4, para. 26.
106 JS7, para. 34.
107 JS4, para. 29.
108 JS3, para. 77.
109 AI, para. 36.
110 JS4, para. 39.
111 HRW, p. 7.
112 AI, para. 5.
113 JS4, paras. 19 and 23.
114 Maat, p. 6.
115 BADIL, p. 4.
116 IHRC, p. 3.
117 JS4, paras. 8 and 10–12.
118 Ibid., p. 5.
119 Ibid., para. 39.
120 ICHR, p. 5.
121 JS7, paras. 18–19.
122 ICHR, p. 6.

- ¹²³ INR, para. 28.
¹²⁴ AI, para. 8. See also JS6, paras. 2 and 6.
¹²⁵ JS6, para. 16.
¹²⁶ Ibid., para. 21.
¹²⁷ IHRC, p. 6.
¹²⁸ JS6, paras. 22–23.
¹²⁹ HRW, p. 5.
¹³⁰ JS6, para. 15.
¹³¹ Ibid., para. 15.
¹³² JS4, para. 13.
¹³³ ODVV, para. 21.
¹³⁴ JS4, p. 5.
¹³⁵ JS6, para. 20.
-