

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session, 3 – 28 March 2014**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

(Israel)

Mr. President,

As Israel's UPR proceeds despite delays and obstacles, Amnesty International welcomes the preservation of the integrity of the UPR as a universal mechanism. Now is the time for Israel to take substantive steps towards protecting human rights, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

Amnesty International is concerned that Israel's National Report for UPR omits any reference to the situation of human rights in the OPT, despite the international community's agreement that human rights treaties signed by Israel and the Fourth Geneva Convention apply to the OPT, including the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Israel should seriously engage with all recommendations relating to Israel's conduct in the OPT, as well as those relevant to the territory of Israel itself. While acknowledging states' requirement to provide security to their citizens, security challenges should not serve as an excuse to ignore important recommendations.

In line with many of the recommendations made to Israel during the review, Amnesty International urges Israel to:

- Ensure full accountability for killings of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli forces;
- Halt the construction of Israeli settlements and cease to demolish Palestinian property in the OPT;
- Abandon the practice of administrative detention;
- Lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip, which amounts to collective punishment of the civilian population;