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fidh

Human Rights Council - 30th session

Item 7 - General Debate

Oral statement

Mr. President,

FIDH applauds the wide support provided to Human Rights Council resolution 29/25 on “ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.” Given the failure of domestic investigation and redress mechanisms, the Council's message that accountability will be pursued at the international level deserved broad, unwavering support, which an overwhelming majority of member states provided. In the context of recurring international crimes committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, ongoing illegal settlements in the West Bank, and deliberate attempts to delay reconstruction in Gaza, the Council showed its determination to hold perpetrators to account and to provide victims with redress. For them, this is truly a ray of hope.

The hope that is also embodied by Palestine's acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the opening of a preliminary examination of the situation by the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC, and Palestine's ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC should be promoted by all states. We reiterate our call upon them to cooperate with the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC and contribute to its preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine. We also call on states to effectively initiate proceedings against alleged perpetrators on the basis of their extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Mr. President,

We welcome a landmark decision at the ICC, made public on 16 July 2015, requesting the Prosecutor to reconsider opening an investigation into Israel's 2010 attack on a humanitarian aid flotilla bound for Gaza. This decision marks the first time ICC judges have opposed a Prosecutorial decision not to investigate and argues that the attack may have been sufficiently serious to be investigated and tried at the Court. Requesting further analysis of the gravity and impact of Israel's actions highlights the Court's system of checks and balances, as well as the different forms of recourse available to victims of international crimes committed in relation to the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Thank you for your attention.