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## ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel  
UN Human Rights Council  
53<sup>d</sup> session  
19 June – 14 July 2023

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, and its report, which details the many current pressures on civil society and recommends ways to alleviate them.

The Commission has found that the silencing of civil society voices by Israeli authorities is intrinsically linked to their goal of ensuring and enshrining repression at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people. In its analysis, Amnesty International has found that Israeli authorities' discriminatory and arbitrary use of counterterrorism measures entrenches the system of apartheid against Palestinians. By baselessly designating leading Palestinian civil society organisations as "terrorist groups" and raiding their offices, authorities have exacerbated an already-existing climate of intimidation, delegitimization and repression against those who call for an end to oppression and domination. The deportation of human rights defender Salah Hammouri, following the revocation of his Jerusalem residency, and the ongoing arbitrary imprisonment of aid worker and Prisoner of Conscience Mohammad al-Halabi, are but two recent illustrations of the human toll of this repression.

We urge all duty bearers to fully implement the recommendations of the report. We urge all states to support, not disrupt, the Commission in fulfilling the mandate given to it by this Council. Amnesty International reiterates its longstanding call on Israel to remove all discriminatory and oppressive measures against Palestinians and to dismantle its system of apartheid – the root cause of such oppression. We urge other states to also pressure Israel into compliance with its international legal obligations, including by dismantling this system of oppression and domination.

Thank you, Mr. President.