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ORAL STATEMENT
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

ISRAEL/OPT: ISRAEL MUST DISMANTLE ITS SYSTEM OF APARTHEID

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-ninth regular session
28 February – 1 April 2022

Mr. President,

Sometimes grave crimes under international law saturate news headlines, spurring multilateral responses. But not always. Some such crimes have been so banalized and so bureaucratized that they are ignored or, worse, denied.

Whether apartheid exists is a question of international law – not of politics or diplomatic negotiations. Amnesty International has, like others, [concluded](#) after years of research and analysis that “apartheid” describes the system of oppression and domination that exists in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We thus fully endorse the Special Rapporteur’s recommendation that the international community accept “that apartheid is being practised by Israel”.

Yet, we are witnessing extraordinary efforts to stifle debate on this crucial issue here and beyond. In this session, the Israeli delegation objected to and interrupted the South African delegation when it called on Israel to “halt its Apartheid style” policies. In the texts under negotiation, some states are seeking to block references not only to “apartheid”, but also to “systems of oppression or domination” and “institutional” discrimination. Last year, Israel, without evidence, designated as “terrorist” organizations Palestinian human rights groups that advocate for the rights of Palestinians using the apartheid and other frameworks.

Special Rapporteur Lynk, how can the international community best ensure that Israel dismantle its apartheid laws, policies and practices?

Thank you, Mr. President