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27 March 2023

**ORAL STATEMENT**  
**Item 7: General Debate**  
**TIME TO RECOGNIZE THAT ISRAEL IS COMMITTING APARTHEID**  
UN Human Rights Council  
52<sup>nd</sup> session  
27 February – 4 April 2023

Mr. Vice-President,

Amnesty International along with other organizations, UN officials and other human rights experts, has assessed that Israel is imposing apartheid on all Palestinians whose rights it controls. Apart from some welcome statements, concrete actions from states remain elusive.

Every day we see new killings, counting by mid-March 2023 over 80 Palestinians, including 17 children, and 13 Israelis, including 3 children. Civilians continue to pay the highest price. Ending impunity is a crucial deterrence against future violations. The first step is recognizing the crime: apartheid.

In 2023 alone, over 400 Palestinians in the occupied territories have been displaced by unlawful home demolitions, and dozens more are at risk of displacement due to state-backed settler violence. Destroyed homes in the Gaza Strip cannot be rebuilt due to the illegal blockade. Inside Israel discrimination is also felt acutely: earlier this month, the village of al-'Araqib was demolished once again.

Yet, the Israeli government approved the constructions of thousands more homes in illegal settlements in the occupied territories. This is racial discrimination.

Amnesty urges members of this Council to renew the UN Database of companies operating in settlements and support the work of the Commission of Inquiry, towards ending impunity for violations of international law. How long before more states recognize that apartheid is what we must oppose in order to improve the human rights situation in Israel and Palestine?

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.