

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

Israel's National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, who called for the wiping out of a Palestinian village months earlier, has recently made statements openly admitting to Israeli apartheid.

During a TV interview, Ben-Gvir said "The right of me, my wife and kids to travel around the West Bank is more important than that of the Arabs". Directly addressing one of the panelists in the interview, who is a Palestinian citizen of Israel, he said "Sorry, Mohammad, but that's the reality."

Ben-Gvir's remarks, for which he refused to apologize, reflect the enduring reality in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and inside the Green Line. Successive Israeli governments have imposed a system of domination and oppression against Palestinians, denying them their most basic rights including their right to self-determination in order to benefit Israeli Jews.

The existence of apartheid has become increasingly difficult to ignore in light of the Israeli government policies which clearly show an intent to pursue permanent annexation of Palestinian land based on Jewish supremacy.

The Palestinian Center for Human rights (PCHR) calls on Member States of the Council to recognize, condemn, and dismantle Israel's apartheid system and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to include the crime against humanity of apartheid in his investigation into the situation and prosecute relevant perpetrators.

Thank you.