



# International Commission to Support Palestinians' Rights (**ICSPR**)

Annual Press Report on:

“The situation of human  
and **Palestinian** rights”



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Original Lang. Arabic

**Annual Press Report on:**

**“The situation of human and Palestinian rights”**

2021 is marked as a terrifying year for the human rights crimes that the occupation has committed.

And on the internal level ,it was the worst ever in terms of violating rights and freedoms.

Based on its follow-up to the situation of the rights of the Palestinian people, and its keenness to be the voice of victims of human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories and the diaspora, the International Commission to Support Palestinians' Rights (ICSPR) is holding this press conference today with your presence, to clearly and publicly point out the state of sharp and unprecedented deterioration on the overall situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories during 2021, and to confirm that according to various indicators, 2021 was the worst in terms of the grave violations that the Palestinians were subjected to.



In addition to the targeting of human rights defenders who condemn the violations committed by the occupation forces and demand accountability for the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court, where the Israeli Minister of War labeled six Palestinian civil society organizations as “terrorist organizations” in October 2021, which was followed by taking actual steps to implement this decision.



The Israeli occupation authorities continued to commit war crimes and crimes

against humanity, represented in the killings, field executions, arbitrary detention, Judaizing the city of Jerusalem, forcible displacement of Palestinians, especially in the neighborhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, colonial settlement expansion, completing the construction of the separation wall and separation barriers, the policy of the siege on the Gaza Strip, which continues for the sixteenth year in a row, and the abuse of Palestinian detainees.

Moreover, the human rights crisis in the Palestinian territories, especially the Gaza Strip, has exacerbated, which involves the weakness of human and peoples rights guaranteed in international conventions, in particular, the deprivation of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian citizen from their rights to return, self-determination, freedom, security, an adequate standard of living and human dignity, for political, social and economic reasons, whether at the internal Palestinian level or the Israeli, especially in light of the continuation of various forms of escalating Israeli violations against Palestinian civilians, as well as the continuation of Palestinian violations, the most serious of which is the continuation of collective punishments imposed on employees and citizens of the Gaza Strip, which led to an unprecedented rise in poverty and unemployment rates.



The state of serious decline in rights and liberties and the weakness of the main official institutions have also contributed to weakening the internal front, and undermining the ability of the Palestinian political system to face external challenges facing our national cause, foremost among which are the violations and practices of the Israeli occupation and its policy based on imposing facts on the ground, have limited the effectiveness and role of the Palestinian Authority with all its components, and the ability of the political system to invest in the broad state of international solidarity that was evident during the occupation's recent attacks on Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip

in favor of the national cause in various international forums, which requires a serious stand before this stage to overcome all its mistakes.

## Section I Violations of the Israeli occupation

ICSPR reminds all that the Palestinian people are still suffering under the Israeli occupation, at a time when their suffering is increasing as a result of the continued crimes, policies and restrictions of the Israeli occupation state within the framework of a systematic policy that denies the rights of the Palestinian people, which took several forms, including:

**First: With regard to the occupation’s targeting of Palestinian civilians:**

- The occupation authorities are still adopting declared policies based on the continued targeting of civilians and Palestinian demonstrators and their property, where the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, which lasted for eleven days and stopped on May 21, 2021, revealed horrific scenes of the Israeli crimes committed against civilians, as the occupation forces deliberately, in a clear, systematic and organized manner, targeted civilians and their property, especially those located in densely populated neighborhoods, with the aim of causing the greatest loss of civilian life, and causing massive material damage to the residential surroundings of these facilities.
- **With regard to the violation of the right to life:** (361) Palestinians were killed by the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including 248 martyrs as a result of the war aggression launched by the occupation forces on the Gaza Strip in May 2021, including 66 children, 39 women and 17 elderly people, in addition to injuring 1950 others and the widespread and systematic destruction of property, infrastructure, economic facilities and various vital sectors.



- **With regard to holding on to martyrs' bodies:** The occupation authorities continued to pursue a policy of holding on to the bodies of Palestinian martyrs, forbidding their families and their relatives from burying them in a proper manner, contrary to all international values and norms, where the Israeli occupation authorities are holding on to more than 89 martyrs in the mortuary and 253 others in cemeteries.
- During last year, crimes of military targeting of property and agricultural lands were repeated in the context of restricting access to the eastern areas of the Gaza Strip, as well as attacking fishermen and farmers. On the other hand, the Israeli military occupation forces continued to commit extrajudicial killings, including daily field executions in the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem, which claimed the lives of dozens of civilians, including women, children and youth, all of whom were executed in cold blood, without posing a real danger to the occupation soldiers.
- With regard to the violations against Palestinian journalists and freedom of journalistic work: In 2021, there was a marked escalation in the occupation's attacks on press freedoms in the occupied Palestinian territories, using excessive force without regard to the principles of discrimination and proportionality, violating all international, human rights and humanitarian covenants that guarantee freedom of journalistic work, where (823) violations against journalists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were recorded, of which 101 violations were in the Gaza Strip during the recent aggression. As for the West Bank, 247 attacks in which the occupation and its settlers used all violations against journalists, including targeting them with live and rubber bullets, sound bombs and poison gas, beating them severely and releasing fierce dogs at them. In addition, more than (116) male and female journalists have been arrested, summoned, detained, housed, banished from Jerusalem or entering Al-Aqsa Mosque.



## Second: The continuation of the Israeli siege crime on the Gaza Strip:

- The Israeli military occupation authorities have continued to impose collective sanctions and restrictions on the Gaza Strip for the 16<sup>th</sup> year in a row, by closing the crossings and preventing the passage of goods and citizens, including Palestinian patients, where nearly 8000 patients were denied travel to receive the necessary treatment in hospitals outside the Gaza Strip, which led to the death of many citizens as a result of impeding their access to hospitals to receive treatment.
- The Israeli siege has made nearly two-thirds of the Palestinian families in the Gaza Strip suffer from food insecurity, and the poverty rate has risen to 75%, 34% of whom are below the poverty line, 24.7% of the members of poor families are children, and the unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip has reached more than 52%, most of them are young people, especially university graduates, at a rate of about 80% of them, and the percentage of food-insecure reached more than 70%. In addition to this, there are multiple crises related to the lack of potable water, crises of the health and education sector, and other vital sectors, in addition to power outages for about 10 hours a day, which greatly affected various other vital sectors.
- In 2021, scenes of persecution, shootings, and arrests of fishermen and farmers in the Gaza Strip were repeated, including the confiscation of their boats at sea.
- In 2021, the Israeli military occupation forces made several incursions into the lands of the Gaza Strip, some of which were accompanied by spraying of chemical pesticides from the air towards agricultural lands, causing severe damage to the citizens' crops.



### **Third: The escalation of arrests, raids, and attacks on detainees in the occupation prisons:**

In 2021, the raids of the villages and cities of the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem have significantly escalated, and resulted in a campaign of arrests that affected thousands of civilians, and dozens of civilians in the Gaza Strip, most of whom were arrested at the crossings that the occupation turned into detention points, where the number of arrests reached nearly (8000) Palestinians.

- The number of Palestinian detainees in the prisons of the occupation during 2021 reached nearly (5000), including (37) female prisoners, while the number of child detainees has reached about (160) children, and the administrative detainees (500), all of them are living under coercive policies and suffer from abuse, repression, torture and neglect with the aim of undermining their dignity, through deliberate physical torture and medical neglect, which has claimed the lives of nearly 229 Palestinian detainees inside Israeli prisons since 1967. That has escalated the pace of medical risks after the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid 19) despite the repeated calls by human rights organizations calling for the need to take all relevant measures to combat the spread of the pandemic, especially with the continuing state of overcrowding and willful neglect in Israeli prisons.

- **The arrest of women:** The number of women who were arrested during 2021 reached (184), while the Israeli occupation authorities continue to detain 37 Palestinian female prisoners in inhuman and cruel conditions of detention, in which they are deprived of their basic rights such as health care, water and food, in addition to being subjected to torture and degrading treatment.
- **The arrest of children:** The Israeli occupation authorities continued their arbitrary policies and perpetrated grave violations against children, including their continued arrest and detention, where the number of children arrested during 2021 reached about (1300), while the occupation state continues to detain about (160) children, in clear violation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the protection of civilians in time of war of 1949.



- **The policy of medical negligence:** 2021 was the year of abuse and oppression of Palestinian detainees, where they suffer from the continuation of the policy of medical negligence, and the escalation of medical risks after the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid 19), especially with the continued overcrowding in Israeli prisons. The number of sick detainees has reached nearly (600), including (4) with cancer, and at least (14) detainees with tumors of varying degrees.
- **Administrative Detention Policy:** In 2021, the occupation authorities issued 1,595 administrative detention orders, the majority of which were issued against former detainees who spent years in the occupation prisons, while the number of administrative detainees in the Israeli occupation prisons reached more than (500) prisoners without charge, some of them have spent more than 10 separate years in Israeli prisons, where nearly 60 detainees went on strike to protest the continued crimes of administrative detention against them.
- **The policy of holding on to the Bodies of deceased detainees:** The Israeli occupation forces are still continuing the policy of holding on to the bodies of martyrs, including the detainees, as they are still holding the bodies of (8) detainees who died inside prisons, namely: Anis Doula, Aziz Ewaisat, Fares Baroud, Nassar Taqatqa, Bassam al-Sayeh, Saadi al-Gharabli, Kamal Abu Waer and Sami al-Amour.
- **The policy of torture of prisoners:** 2021 did not differ from the last ten years in the forms of abuse, such as arrest, psychological and physical torture, and restrictions on detainees in prisons, by confiscating their legal status as prisoners of war, and treating them as violators and perpetrators of illegal and terrorist acts, and depriving them of their basic and human rights stipulated in international conventions and covenants.
- **Detainees sentenced to life imprisonment:** The number of prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment reached (547), and the highest sentence was the prisoner Abdullah Al-Barghouti, who was sentenced to (67) life sentences.
- **Banishing citizens from Jerusalem:** During 2021, there were (591) banishing cases, (357) from Al-Aqsa Mosque (110) from old Jerusalem, (31) from the city of Jerusalem and (11) prevented from entering West Bank cities.





#### **Fourth: The crimes of land grabbing and colonial settlement expansion in Jerusalem and the West Bank:**

- 2021 was the worst in terms of settlement expansion, the high frequency of forcible confiscation of land and property in the cities of the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem, which according to civil and international human rights organizations, the occupation has confiscated 45% of the total area of the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem, in a described and full-fledged war crime in accordance with the provisions established under the rules of international humanitarian law, foremost of which is the Geneva Convention of 1949.



- The data indicate a high rate of forcible confiscation of land and property in favor of the implementation of settlement projects and an increase in the demolition of homes and private facilities, including the expansion of settlement outposts. In 2021, the Israeli occupation authorities deposited 113 settlement plans in 62 Israeli settlements to build more than 17,000 settlement units on an area of more than 13,000 dunums of occupied Palestinian land, where the Israeli settlement plans specifically targeted the Israeli settlements in the Jerusalem governorate (inside and outside the Jerusalem municipal boundaries that were drawn illegally and unilaterally in 1967) on an area of more than 6,300 dunums of Palestinian lands, which is the most affected governorate among the Palestinian governorates in terms of lands that will be seized for this purpose, followed by Ramallah governorate with 2,082

dunums of Palestinian lands that will be seized for the purposes of settlement construction, then Bethlehem governorate with an area of 1,582 dunums of Palestinian lands belonging to the villages of Nahalin, Al Walaja, Al Khader, Artas, Beit Sakarya, Kisan, and the cities of Bethlehem and Beit Jala for the purpose of implementing a number of settlement plans in Beitar Illit, Efrat, Neve Daniel and Alon Shevut, located in what is known as the Gush Etzion settlement bloc, in addition to other settlement plans in the settlements of Gillo, Har Homa and Givat Hamatos, north of Bethlehem.

- The Israeli occupation has exploited the classification of lands according to the Oslo Accords (A, B, C) to tighten control over the Palestinians' lands, especially in the classified areas (C), which are completely under the Israeli occupation's control over security, planning and construction, where the Israeli occupation directly exploits 76% of the total area classified C, of which the colonial regional councils' control about 63%. While the areas confiscated for the purposes of military bases and military training sites represent about 18% of the area of the West Bank, in addition to the annexation and expansion wall, which isolated more than 10% of the area of the West Bank, and more than 219 Palestinian communities were affected by the construction of the wall, as the data indicate the presence of about 2,700 isolated facilities between the wall and the Green Line, about 5,300 facilities affected by the wall's construction, in addition to about 35,000 families, not to mention the presence of about 67,000 Palestinians in isolated buildings between the wall and the Green Line, which deprives Palestinians of access to their lands.

### **Fifth: Attacks by Israeli settlers:**



The number of settlers in the West Bank has reached nearly 913,000, and the attacks of Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, guarded by the Israeli occupation army, recorded unprecedented numbers in 2021, especially since these attacks targeted all aspects of life and were not only limited to land and property, but took another curve by committing bloody attacks against Palestinian civilians, where 2021 recorded more than 900

attacks by settler groups, targeting lands, properties, livestock and agricultural wealth, and even Palestinian civilians, causing heavy losses, and the attacks were distributed among the different governorates, where the governorates of Nablus, Jerusalem and Hebron witnessed the most attacks, respectively, with 233, 194 and 170 attacks, including attacks on civilians and storming archaeological, historical and religious sites.

### **Sixth: The policy of forced displacement and demolition of Palestinian civilian homes:**

In 2021, the Israeli occupation demolished and destroyed hundreds of buildings and issued orders to demolish and stop construction for hundreds of others owned by the Palestinians, where the occupation authorities put obstacles and impediments to the issuance of building permits to the Palestinians, while the percentage of demolished homes during 2021 reached about 300 Palestinian homes in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, mostly concentrated in the governorates of Jerusalem, Tubas and Hebron, with 89, 73 and 39 homes/houses respectively.



The number of facilities that were also targeted, regardless of their type, reached more than 450 facilities, most of which were concentrated in the governorates of Jerusalem, Hebron and Tubas. The Israeli authorities carried out most of the demolitions under the pretext of unauthorized construction (in particular in the occupied city of Jerusalem and areas subject to classification “C”) as well as under the pretext of security reasons, such as demolishing homes belonging to Palestinians whose owners Israel claims to carry out “anti-Israel operations.” As a result, (595) Palestinians were displaced, including (320) children, which represents an increase of 50% compared to last year, and the data indicate that since 2000, about 2,500 buildings have been demolished in East Jerusalem.

- The occupation continues to implement the policy of forced displacement of Jerusalemites, where there are approximately 140,000 Jerusalemites, living outside the so-called "Jerusalem municipality" borders, amid fears that their

residency in the city will be revoked, and there are (100) Palestinian families at risk of forced displacement after the Israeli occupation authorities' decision to demolish dozens of houses in Batten-Alhawa neighborhood in Silwan, with the aim of turning the area into a settlement outpost.

- The data indicate an increase in the frequency of self-demolitions of homes since 2006, when the occupation authorities forced about 460 citizens to demolish their homes with their own hands, under false pretexts. Noting that there are many cases of self-demolition, the residents do not inform the media, human rights institutions and civil society organizations about them under threat from the occupation authorities, and although the Palestinians constitute only 30% of the population in occupied Jerusalem, they pay about 40% of the value of the taxes collected by the occupation municipality, and in return, the municipality spends only 8% on the services it provides to them, within the framework of the policy of racial discrimination practiced by the occupation against them.
- The number of Palestinian facilities confiscated by the Israeli occupation authorities since the beginning of 2021 has reached about (311), either without warning, or by giving the owners a short-term deadline, using many military orders that prevent people from being able to object in advance to the decision.
- The occupation authorities are still placing obstacles to tighten and restrict urban expansion, where the occupation authorities are still preventing Jerusalemites from building and refusing to grant them licenses to build or expand their homes, while ordering the construction of thousands of settlement units, the expansion of existing settlements, and the construction of bypass roads around them and linking them together.



### **Seventh: With regard to the situation of Palestinian refugees:**



- The Palestinian refugees are still suffering a lot, especially in the Gaza Strip and the refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria, where until the moment, general poverty rates still reach 73%, among refugees, especially in Lebanon, and the youth group is considered the most affected group by poverty in the refugee community, where about 74% of adolescents live below the poverty line.

- The unemployment rate among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is 65%, while the rate in Lebanon has reached 76% of the refugee camp community. The unemployment rate among Palestinians from Syria is still alarming, as it reached 71.5%, and about 80% of the labor force among Palestinians in Lebanon works either as freelancers or as wage earners, and that the main source of income for Palestinians in Lebanon is self-employment at 41%, followed by wage work at 37.8%, and UNRWA assistance through the social safety net program at 33.5%.

- In addition, about 78% of Palestinian families in Lebanon suffer from humidity, 62% of homes suffer from water leakage, 52% suffer from poor ventilation and 55.2% from very poor lighting.

### **Eighth: With regard to UNRWA:**

- The right-wing occupation government, with direct support from the United States of America, escalated campaigns targeting UNRWA, as part of its relentless efforts to liquidate and undermine the work of this organization, which is the last witness to the 1948 Nakba and the tragedies that followed. 2021 witnessed the signing of the “Framework Agreement” between the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees "UNRWA"

and the United States of America. This agreement includes stopping UNRWA's assistance to every refugee who participates in any work that the occupation and the United States classified as "terrorism". As well as monitoring the Palestinian curriculum and deleting any content that does not fit the point of view of the occupation, including monitoring and scrutiny of UNRWA employees and all institutions. This was rejected nationally because of the great dangers it poses to the issue of Palestinian refugees, their future, and the Palestinian national struggle as a whole.



- Despite the approval of 164 member states of the United Nations in favor of a decision to extend the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees “UNRWA” until June 30, 2023; However, the financial crisis remains unsolved. This made UNRWA unable to pay the salaries of its employees, as well as taking measures to reduce the volume of services provided to the refugee community. This coincided with the emergency conditions that accompanied the spread of the Coronavirus, and the high indicators of poverty and unemployment, which caused a catastrophic and unprecedented crisis at the level of Palestinian refugees in the areas under the influence of the UNRWA.

### **Ninth: With regard to the water crisis:**

During the past year, the unjust Israeli control of approximately 85% of the Palestinian natural resources, especially water continued, where about 97% of the water in the Gaza Strip is unfit for human consumption according to the standards of the World Health Organization; Also, according to the indicators, the majority of Palestinians inside the occupied territories (Gaza Strip, West Bank and Jerusalem) do not have access to safe and potable water. The reason for this is due to the practices of the occupation that controls water resources in an unjust and arbitrary way, in addition to its constant endeavor to drain the water of the Palestinian underground water, in addition to increasing the amount of water extracted by more

than the sustainable capacity of the basin, which amounts to only 50-60 million cubic meters, which led to its pollution with Sea.

Not to mention that the Israeli occupation has deprived the Palestinians of using their right to the waters of the Jordan River since 1967, which is estimated at 250 million cubic meters annually. In addition to imposing restrictions on water desalination equipment and technologies, especially in the Gaza Strip, all this exacerbates the crisis of water suitable for human use.

### **Tenth: The Electricity Crisis:**



The crisis of power outages continued during 2021 in some areas of the West Bank, while the crisis extended in the Gaza Strip and has continued for 16 years, and during the last aggression in May 2021, the hours of cuts reached about 16 continuous hours, as a result of the military occupation's targeting of transformers and feeding lines, closing the Kerem Shalom crossing and preventing the entry of fuel to the only power plant in the Strip, and the catastrophic repercussions of this on the overall human rights situation, and the chapters of the crisis continue to have repercussions on service sectors and citizens in the Gaza Strip.

## Section II

### Internal violations during 2021

٢٠٢١ has witnessed the worst chapters of violations committed by Palestinians, which were accompanied by the continued deliberate deprivation of the Palestinian citizen from exercising his right to choose his representatives, where the end of 2021 witnessed a further serious regression of rights and public freedoms, as the executive authority assault on the judiciary by amending the Judicial Authority Law, to undermine the judicial facility and demolish the constitutional principles protecting the principle of separation of powers and respect for the rule of law, which were emphasized in the Declaration of Independence and the Palestinian Basic Law, which makes the three authorities after the disruption and dissolution of the Legislative Council under the control and guardianship of the executive authority, and the complete absence of the Palestine Liberation Organization with all its components and institutions, which establishes a totalitarian, undemocratic security system that concentrates all powers in the hands of the executive authority without oversight or accountability, contrary to the principles of constitution and the values of integrity, transparency and good governance.

Since the beginning of 2021, with the issuance of the decree to hold general legislative and presidential elections, and the decree releasing public liberties despite its lack of legal value, hope did not take long, until it was abolished, and the security services were unleashed, with political cover, to practice arbitrary arrests on political backgrounds and exercise freedom of opinion and expression, which witnessed the arrest of many political activists, opinion activists, and liberated detainees, including candidates for electoral lists. These





violations culminated in the killing of political activist and candidate on the Freedom and Dignity List Nizar Banat, and the accompanying dangerous decline in the state of rights and freedoms and the assault on them; by denying the right to peaceful assembly, and suppressing freedom of opinion and expression, undermining the freedom of the press and publishing, assaulting participants in it by beating them in the streets, using excessive force, confiscating mobile phones and publishing their contents in violation of the right to privacy, specifically for girls, and violating the freedom of Presswork by attacking journalists and confiscating their journalistic work equipment, in violation of the Basic Law and the regulating legislation, in a grave denial of all rights contained in the basic human rights treaties to which the State of Palestine acceded.

**First: Postponing the General Elections:** The President of the Palestinian Authority has issued a decree to postpone and cancel the Palestinian general elections, one day before the start of the electoral campaign stage. This reflects the authority’s desire to continue the exclusivity approach, which was enshrined through the dissolution of the Legislative Council and the issuance of dozens of unnecessary decree-laws, and dominating the judiciary, the continuation of the Palestinian Authority’s policy of repression through its security services, which showed its slide towards tyranny and authoritarianism as a result of exclusivity in government, the hijacking of state institutions for the benefit of influential individuals, the narrowing of the workspaces of civil society institutions, the confiscation of freedom of opinion, expression, organization and assembly, in a grave violation of the provisions of the Palestinian Basic Law, a coup against the texts of the Declaration of Independence, a violation of Palestinian law and legislation, a denial of international agreements on human rights, and weakening the internal situation in the face of internal and external challenges.

**Second: The assassination of the political activist Nizar Banat:** 2021 witnessed the commission of a heinous crime, represented in the assassination of the activist and political opponent “Nizar Banat” by members of the security services in civilian clothes, and the procrastination continued in the course of holding the killers accountable, such as the refusal to form an independent national committee to investigate, and later threatening the witnesses and the repeated postponements of the court, despite the human rights and patriotic voices calling for justice and compensation for his family, in line with the provisions of the relevant national laws.



**Third: The practice of arbitrary arrests on the basis of opinion:** There was a noticeable increase in violations of freedom of opinion and expression, especially in the West Bank, where the number of arbitrary arrests on the basis of political affiliation and freedom of opinion reached more than (200) cases in the West Bank, while the attacks on journalists amounted to (210) violations, distributed between (201) violations in the West Bank and (9) in the Gaza Strip. The previous data show the existence of an official policy to undermine the freedom of the press, publication and expression of opinion, whether by arresting or attacking journalists and activists, in addition to implicating the judiciary in the West Bank in extending the detention of dozens of citizens and human rights and anti-corruption activists, despite the clear indications that the arrest was against the background of exercising their guaranteed freedoms, especially freedom of opinion and expression, and peaceful assembly. Noting that a number of detainees have reported being beaten and ill-treated, and their right to fair trial guarantees was not respected.

#### **Fourth: Violation of the Right to Peaceful**

**Assembly:** The security services committed a series of violations of the right to peaceful assembly, which constitute a clear violation of the text and spirit of the Basic Law and the Law of Public Meetings, whether by prohibiting peaceful assemblies, or attacks on participants in peaceful assemblies, the most serious of which was in the West Bank on protesters over the killing of political activist Nizar Banat, whose assassination led to the outbreak of a wave of protests in more than one city in the West Bank, calling for accountability for the perpetrators and raising slogans calling for the reform of the political system and the holding of general elections in which the forces and elements of the Palestinian Authority used repressive means and violently beat the protesters with the help of individuals in civilian clothes, in addition to attacking journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders despite their wearing evidence of their profession.



**Fifth: Continuing the crime of collective punishment on the Gaza Strip:** The collective punishment imposed by the presidency and the Palestinian government against the employees and citizens of the Gaza Strip continued, which negatively affected all aspects of life and vital sectors, as well as the employees and their families, where the files of forced and financial retirement, the 2005 security employees, and the adoption of the martyrs of the Israeli aggression after the aggression of 2008-2009 are still pending, and the issues of cutting salaries and the allocations of some families of the martyrs, the wounded and the liberated detainees in the Strip.

**Sixth: The state of emergency continued,** as President Mahmoud Abbas insisted on extending the state of emergency without any legal justification, the latest of which was the announcement of the extension of the state of emergency in the country for thirty days, on December 28, 2021.

**Seventh: Disclaiming humanitarian obligations and violation of the rights of vulnerable groups:** The Palestinian government in Ramallah continues the policy of disclaiming its obligations towards poor families in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, by not disbursing financial allocations to families benefiting from the remittance program.

**Eighth: The policy of using the judiciary as a means to circumvent the jurisdiction of the courts continued,** in the context of restricting the freedoms of citizens, including political and human rights activists. This was due to a series of presidential decrees that intervened in the judicial formation in terms of controlling it, and the manifestations of denial of justice continued during 2021 by refraining from respecting the legal value of court rulings, especially in rulings related to the public service.

**Ninth: Security chaos:** In 2021, the pace of violence and security chaos escalated, especially in the cities of the West Bank, which endangers civil and community peace and the prestige of the law. The violence escalated against the background of family and personal quarrels, which resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of citizens, where the murders amounted to (44) crimes, followed by quarrels that damaged some private properties in different areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially since some of these quarrels involved the use of firearms, as the percentage of quarrels and domestic violence increased by 11.5% since the beginning of 2021.

**Tenth: Violations of the Right to Form Associations:** 2021 witnessed the amendment of the Law of Charitable Societies and Civil Organizations No. (1) of 2000 and its amendments on 03/02/2021, which is a flagrant violation of the Palestinian Basic Law (the Constitution), especially Article (43) and international agreements to which the State of Palestine acceded without reservations, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and international standards related to the fundamental right to freedom of association. In addition, the policy of freezing the accounts of civil and charitable organizations and associations operating in the Gaza Strip continued, depriving thousands of Palestinians from exercising their rights to form and join civil charitable associations.

**Eleventh: With regard to execution cases:** (19) death sentences were issued, including (15) judgments from the Court of First Instance, (7) judgments issued by military courts against civilians, and four judgments from the courts of appeal and cassation. This is in contrast to the obligations attached to the accession of the State of Palestine to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1989, regarding the abolition of the death penalty.



**Twelfth: Imposing taxes and levying:** The Ministry of National Economy continued to implement decisions that demonstrate the existence of a focused approach to maximizing levying and taxes despite the deteriorating economic conditions, on citizens who complain about the increase in the volume of taxes and fees prescribed for transactions, goods and services, and part of them without reference to any of the texts Legal as Article 88 of the Basic Law states: “Public taxes and duties shall be imposed, amended and repealed only by law. No one may be totally or partially exempted, except in circumstances prescribed by law.

**Thirteenth: With regard to the right of access to information:** The withholding of information related to the financial revenues and expenditures of the official authorities in the Gaza Strip continued, and this was accompanied by the continued inability of the executive authorities to secure the requirements for a decent living, in addition to the failure to develop a national policy to alleviate poverty and unemployment and develop services provided to citizens, despite the government agencies providing some facilities and exemptions on some fees and taxes.

**Fourteenth: Status of Women and Gender-Based Violence:** In 2021 the phenomenon of gender-based violence continued to escalate against women, in addition to the fact that women’s conditions continued without significant development in terms of their political, economic and social participation, while 22 women were killed during 2021 in the West Bank and Gaza, according to statistics issued by the Women’s Center for Legal and Social Guidance, about 12 women were killed inside the occupied territories, due to the lack of legal legislation as a tool to combat violence against women, which is one of Palestine's obligations after its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979.

**Fifteenth: Conditions and Rights of Youth:**

2021 was the worst year par excellence, especially in light of the continuation of the siege and aggression, the disruption of reconciliation, including the continuation of the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, the postponement of elections and the absence of official policies to protect their rights, which led to the growth of indicators of poverty and unemployment and a decline in indicators of political and social participation, which reinforced the manifestations of despair, frustration, negativity and lack of hope in the future for a large segment of young people and prompted some of them to emigrate through death boats, the price of which was the loss of many lives.

**Sixteenth: Status and Rights of Persons with Disabilities:** According to the data of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, persons with disabilities in Palestine constitute 2.1% of the total population, distributed at 48% in the West Bank and 52% in the Gaza Strip. The suffering of this segment continues due to the crimes of the occupation, as the Israeli occupation forces killed during 2021 (4) persons with disabilities, of whom (3) were killed during the military aggression on the Gaza Strip in May 2021, while another citizen with disabilities was killed at Qalandia checkpoint, also (10) houses of persons with disabilities were exposed to the total and partial destruction.

**Seventeenth: Conditions of Children:** The number of children under 18 until 2021 in the State of Palestine reached about 2.31 million, among them are 1.18 million males, and 1.13 million females. Thus, the percentage of children in Palestine constitutes about 44.2% of the total population (42.0% in the West Bank and 47.5% in the Gaza Strip). During the previous year, the occupation forces committed war crimes against children that led to the death of 77 children in the occupied Palestinian territories, 16 of them in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the rest in the Gaza Strip, while the occupation authorities continue to detain about 160 children deprived of their childhood in its prisons, in addition to their exposure to violations during detention, in violation of the rules of international law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Palestinian children are still paying a price

whose effects are difficult to enumerate due to the continuing crimes of the occupation and the attacks of settlers. Medical studies and research indicate that 45% of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip suffer from malnutrition and anemia, as a result of the poverty of their unemployed families due to the siege and their inability to provide balanced food. In addition to the fact that one-third of the victims of the occupation’s deprivation of the right of patients to travel abroad for treatment are children, and the percentage of children who suffer severe psychological trauma rose due to the crimes of the occupation and the repeated scenes of death resulting from Israeli military operations, and the manifestations of violence directed against children continued, the high rates of child labor, beggary, the absence of official

attention to respond to the needs of the child and the protection of their rights, and the absence of a national policy to protect the rights of the child, including harmonizing Palestinian legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and issuing an executive regulation for the law.



## Conclusion:

ICS.S.P.R. extends its warmest blessings to the peoples of the world and to all countries that have supported the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, and calls to consider the year 2022 as the year of achieving national unity, rebuilding the Palestinian political system according to a new social contract, based on democratic and participatory foundations, and holding presidential, legislative, National Council, and local elections in a way that enhances opportunities for reconsideration of the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary and ensures the protection of human rights. ICS.S.P.R. and on behalf of all those displaced from their homes in refugee camps, imprisoned in the prisons of the Israeli occupation, the sighs of the wounded, and those who dream of self-determination and the building of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and in the name of all those who seek a morning that does not shine with injustice demands the following:



- **ICS.S.P.R.** calls on the United Nations and the international community to carry out its responsibility in enforcing its resolutions that guarantee the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including resolutions that affirm the illegality of occupation, settlements, and sieges, and the illegality of any amendments to the special status of the city of Jerusalem, and work hard to activate the procedures stipulated in Chapter VI and VII of the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure the cessation of colonial control over the Palestinian people and the violation of their basic and inalienable rights.

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- **ICS.S.P.R.** calls on the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions, to provide international protection for the Palestinian people, to put an end to the immunity of the occupation state, and to hold perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity accountable before the International Criminal Court.
- **ICS.S.P.R.** calls on the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to expedite the conduct of the ongoing investigations to ensure the effectiveness of the Court in prosecuting the perpetrators of the crimes described in the Rome Statute committed against the Palestinian people.
- **ICS.S.P.R.** calls on the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to transform the decisions of the Arab and Islamic summits into practical measures to support the steadfastness of the Palestinians under occupation, and to support Palestinian and Palestinian rights, including stopping Arab normalization with the Israeli occupation.
- **ICS.S.P.R.** calls on the Palestinian leadership to internationalize the conflict with the occupation state, maximize the popular, diplomatic and legal clash with the occupation state, adopt the boycott movement and impose sanctions, and activate the paths of holding the occupation leaders accountable as war criminals and seek international protection.
- **ICS.S.P.R.** calls for activating campaigns of solidarity with our Palestinian people and boycotting and isolating the Israeli occupation politically, economically, culturally and academically, including keenness to invest the energies of the Palestinian communities in expanding networks of solidarity and boycott and defending the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom, return and self-determination.
- **ICS.S.P.R.** demands the transfer of the political function of the authority to the PLO in a way that ensures the activation of the role of Palestinian diplomacy at the regional, Islamic and international levels in exposing and following up on the crimes and violations of the occupation, and mobilizing Arab and international positions to protect Palestinian rights and end the Israeli occupation.





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- ICSPR holds the head of the executive authority and the government nationally and legally responsible for the serious violations and the continuation of sanctions against the Gaza Strip and the rest of the attacks against citizens/committed by the security services.
- ICSPR calls for activating the principle of accountability and opening serious criminal investigations into all violations of the rights of citizens protected and guaranteed in the Basic Law, to achieve justice and ensure that the killers of activist Nizar Banat are held accountable to ensure that remedies are achieved for the victims.
- **ICSPR** calls on the institutions of the presidency and the Palestinian government to issue an immediate decree to hold the presidential and legislative general elections, and to set their dates no later than the end of this year, and to develop appropriate solutions to ensure that they are held in the city of Jerusalem and the participation of Jerusalemites, and that their conduct is not subject to the approval of the occupation, which restores hope for the young generation, enhances the right to political participation, paves the way for restoring unity and ending division, and establishes a comprehensive national dialogue in a way that rebuilds the Palestine Liberation Organization and the effectiveness of its institutions, and strengthens the internal front in the face of the dangers facing the national cause.
- **ICSPR** calls on the President and the government to stop the collective sanctions on the Gaza Strip, and the policy of discrimination on a geographical basis against the employees of the citizens of the Gaza Strip, and to address the realistic effects that it generates in line with national and international law. It also calls on government agencies in Gaza to actively intervene and work to improve the living and economic conditions of the residents of the Gaza Strip through the implementation of real plans that respond to strengthening the steadfastness of the citizens.



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- **ICSPPR** calls for the need to work to accelerate the reconstruction process and improve the living environment of the residents of the Gaza Strip by opening the crossings.
- **ICSPPR** calls on the competent authorities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to develop an integrated government policy in order to ensure the effectiveness of guarantees of public and personal freedoms in accordance with the principles of international human rights law and to stop any campaigns of political or arbitrary arrests, including the policy of political summons, and to exercise control over the performance of places of detention, investigate violations, hold perpetrators accountable, and work to enhance citizens’ confidence in national complaints tools by giving them a preventive and oversight role in order to ensure that their work is consistent with international standards.
- **ICSPPR** calls on political forces and civil society organizations to play their national and societal role in this dangerous stage that our society is going through, take the required courageous stances, activate their societal presence, take initiatives to protect and promote rights and freedoms, stand in the face of their violation, and assume their responsibilities.
- **ICSPPR** urges the forces and components of our people to build a national strategy to address the threats to the Palestinian cause and rights, reform and activate the institutions of the Palestinian political system, and find a solution to the repercussions of internal violations by developing a national system or program for transitional justice, drawing inspiration from the positives of Arab and international experiences.





**Finally**, ICSPR stresses the need to move forward during 2022 by all parties in order to ensure agreeing on a national program and strategy based on the internationalization of the conflict with the Israeli occupation, maximizing the diplomatic, popular and legal political engagement against the Israeli occupation, and activating the process of accountability of the occupation leaders and isolating the Israeli occupation, strengthening the boycott movement, rebuilding and activating the institutions of the Palestinian political system by restoring Palestinian reconciliation and holding presidential and legislative elections. And until the completion of the above, it calls to neutralize services and the rights of public servants from political rivalries, strengthening people’s steadfastness, and enhancing transparency, accountability and national and community participation, to ensure addressing the policies and crimes of the Israeli occupation.

**ICSPR**