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**Human Rights Council 19th Session
Item 7**

**From Condemnation to Action: Call for International Investigation into
Israel's Practices of Apartheid**

Madam President, Distinguished Members of the Council,

I speak on behalf of eleven Palestinian human rights organisations.

We would like to express our grave concern about administrative detainee Hana Shalabi', who is beginning her 33rd day of hunger strike today in protest against her arbitrary detention and inhumane treatment. Unlike Khader Adnan, she cannot wait 66 days. She is at acute risk of organ failure and needs the world to take action before it is too late.

Last week, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination declared itself appalled by Israel's policies of apartheid and institutionalised segregation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Committee also expressed alarm at the impunity of terrorist settler groups such as Price Tag, which enjoy support from sections of the Israeli political establishment.

However, the deterioration on the ground is nothing new. We are not surprised that the number of settler attacks against Palestinians has increased by over 144 per cent in two years. Or that 90 per cent of Israeli investigations into incidents of settler violence were closed without indictment.

More and more Palestinians are displaced from their land to allow for settlement expansion, as access to water is continually denied. Today, half a million Israeli settlers consume six times the amount of water used by 2.5 million Palestinians.

These abuses are part of a systematic practice of apartheid, which has seen the noose grow ever tighter around the neck of the Palestinian people. This noose is fashioned from arbitrary detention and the violent suppression of freedom of

expression, intertwined with settlement expansion, the Annexation Wall, and the closure of the Gaza Strip.

The international community cannot continue to ignore Israel's practices of apartheid, as they are part and parcel of the denial of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. We call upon this Council to recognise that Palestinians in the OPT are subject to practices of apartheid and to establish a fact-finding mission to examine Israel's violations and to indicate how best to ensure respect for international law.

Thank you.

Palestinian Council of Human Rights Organisations

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	<p>Al-Haq Shawan Jabarin General Director</p>		<p>Al Mezan Center for Human Rights Issam Younis General Director</p>
	<p>Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights Najwa Darwish General Director</p>		<p>Defence for Children International Palestine Section Rifat Kassis General Director</p>
	<p>Ensan Center for Human Rights and Democracy Shawqi Issa General Director</p>		<p>Hurryyat - Centre for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights Helmi Al-araj General Director</p>
	<p>Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights Issam Aruri General Director</p>		<p>Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies Iyad Barghouti General Director</p>
	<p>Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling Maha Abu Dayyeh General Director</p>		