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**Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/71/352, A/71/315, A/71/321, A/71/355, A/71/364 and A/71/392) [item 50]**

Jordan: Thank you. I wish to thank the President of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. And I thank the Secretary-General for his reports.

We have listened to the various statements on illegal Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and that Israel continues to ignore international condemnation and to go against the international community and continues to flaunt international legal norms of practices are the main reason for an increase in the violence in occupied Palestinian territories. This continuation of systematic policies prevents us from responding to the aspirations of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples to live in peace and security. The last decades have shown that using for – violence only leads to greater violence and hatred between the two peoples.

We see this daily through the racist, hostile actions of the Israeli settlers and through events that take place every day in the Palestinian occupied territories. It is not too late for Israel to learn the lessons of the past and to respond positively to international calls and to review its own policies so as to translate its will and to prove its will to work towards peace within various international bodies. Israel must adopt serious policies on the ground. Israel must truly believe in the two-state solution as the only way to allow for the Palestinian and Israeli people to live side-by-side in peace and security.

It is no longer acceptable to launch these unfounded pretexts and say that the violence by the Palestinians is undermining the peace process. Here we need to ask for an explanation of the link between the settlements and the violence which continues in occupied territories. We know that these illegal settlements that are extending systematically in the Palestinian territories, they aim at disintegrating these territories and to undermine the creation of a viable Palestinian state. An end to this occupation would allow an end also to the cycle of violence and it would strengthen confidence between Israelis and Palestinians and would lead to a restart of sincere negotiations between the two parties.

The blockade on the Gaza Strip and other provocations, such as the demolition of and confiscation of lands and demolition of houses and the forced displacement of Palestinians, all these exacerbate the situation for Palestinians. The occupying power must assume its entire responsibility for these violations of human rights as well as other violations which fly in the face of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other international humanitarian laws. Unfortunately, the report of the Special Committee continues to mention the refusal of Israel to allow access by the committee to the Palestinian territories to investigate these violations of human rights. We hope that the Israeli authorities will cooperate with the committee and allow it to fully complete its mandate.

Jordan will continue to support efforts to end Israeli colonization of occupied territories and will support the Palestinian people in achieving their rights, including that of a Palestinian state. Therefore, we oppose any attempts to deal with the issues linking with the mosques, whether they are Israeli or Christian. We call for all diplomatic and political and legal means to be used in the Hashemite Kingdom. The last report made by UNESCO confirmed the correct appellations of the al-Aqsa Mosque and called on Israel to reestablish the historical status of the monuments as well as recognized the Waqf Department of Jordan as the proper body to be managing the mosque, and this shows the importance of Jerusalem for all religions and this without a negative impact on Jerusalem's legal status.

The occupying power must respect its commitments on international law and international humanitarian law. Here I wish to reiterate that certain states that support Israel, this is not a positive for Israel or for Palestine if they put up barriers to a beginning of new negotiations which would lead to a Palestinian state being created, one that is independent within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital in virtue of international resolutions and the Arab peace process. We call once again on the international community to assume its responsibilities to call on Israel to make the necessary steps forward in this direction. Coexistence with the Palestinian people is a pre-requisite to end this conflict and to create an independent state of Palestine.

Thank you.