



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**  
at the  
**40<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**General Debate under Agenda Item 7**

Geneva, 18 March 2019

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Mr. President,

We remain deeply concerned about the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

We condemn the high increase of the Palestinian fatalities and injuries related to the conflict with Israel and the on-going protests in Gaza. Accountability for the violations of international law must be ensured.

Continued settlement expansion in the West Bank and increased number of demolitions and seizures of Palestinian property, including punitive demolitions are unacceptable and undermine the two-state solution.

We deeply regret the decision of the Israeli government not to renew the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron which played an important role in reducing violence in the city.

We remain deeply concerned about the devastating human rights and humanitarian situation exacerbated by the continued isolation of Gaza and restrictions of the freedom of movement for Palestinians.

Violations of rights and treatment of Palestinian minors remains a concern. However, we welcome certain positive developments in this regard, including the reports of the declining trends in the number of detained minors.

Respect for international law, human rights, rule of law, equality, dignity and guaranteeing accountability is essential for achieving sustainable peace and security in the region. The only lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a two-state solution which takes into account aspiration of both parties to the conflict – peace, security and statehood.

Slovenia supports the right of Palestinian people to self-determination. The viability of the two-state solution which requires a single, democratic and legitimate Palestinian Authority must be maintained.

We urge all parties to resume peace talks and refrain from all actions that could undermine the credibility of the peace process.

Thank you!