



**Economic and Social Council**

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**Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories**

**Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/8**

*The Commission on Human Rights,*

*Reaffirming* that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and as elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable instruments,

*Mindful* that Israel is a party to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to Palestinian and all Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions, most recently [resolution 2000/8](#) of 17 April 2000, in which, *inter alia*, it reaffirmed the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories,

*Expressing its concern* regarding the security risks related to the presence of the settlements in the occupied territories,

1. *Welcomes* :

(*a*) The reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 ([E/CN.4/S-5/3](#) and [E/CN.4/2001/30](#)) and calls upon the Government of Israel to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur to allow him fully to discharge his mandate;

(*b*) The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on her visit to the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel, Egypt and Jordan from 8 to 16 November 2000 ([E/CN.4/2001/114](#));

(*c*) The report of the human rights inquiry commission ([E/CN.4/2001/121](#));

2. *Expresses its grave concern* :

(*a*) At the continuing Israeli settlement activities, including the expansion of the settlements, the installation of settlers in the occupied territories, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the confiscation of property, the expulsion of Palestinians and the construction of bypass roads, which change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, since all these actions are illegal, constitute a violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and are a major obstacle to peace;

(*b*) At and strongly condemns all acts of terrorism and violence;

(*c*) At the closures of and within the Palestinian territories which contribute, together with other factors, to the unrest and violence that have been prevailing in the zone for several months;

3. *Urges* the Government of Israel:

(*a*) To comply fully with the previous Commission resolutions on the subject, most recently resolution 2000/8 of 17 April 2000;

(*b*) To take concrete actions to fulfil its obligations and cease completely its policy of expanding the settlements and related activities in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem;

(*c*) To forgo and prevent any new installation of settlers in the occupied territories;

(*d*) To implement the recommendations regarding the settlements made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in her report, including to ensure that the Israeli security forces protect Palestinians from violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers;

4. *Urges* the parties to create the conditions which will allow the resumption of the peace process, building on the full implementation of previous agreements and the progress that was made on all major issues during the last negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, in order to find a just and lasting peace based on Security Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) of 22 November 1967 and [338 \(1973\)](#) of 22 October 1973 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, the need for every State in the area to be able to live in security, and the principle of land for peace;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-eighth session.

*61st meeting*

*18 April 2001*

[Adopted by a roll-call vote of 50 votes to 1,  
with 1 abstention.]