



Statement of Ireland

50th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel

14 June 2022

Mr Vice-President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Commission of Inquiry for its report submitted to the Council.

Ireland condemns the recent killing of the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the actions of the Israeli police at her funeral. The investigation into her death must be independent, effective and transparent. The work of journalists, alongside human rights defenders and civil society, is key to ensuring accountability and should not be hindered. Ireland calls on both Israeli and Palestinian authorities to ensure their fundamental rights are protected. Ireland condemns all attacks on civilians in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Ireland remains deeply concerned by the continued announcements by Israel of settlement expansions, demolitions and evictions, including at Masafer Yatta. Ireland urges Israel to halt plans for settlements, which are illegal under international law, undermine the viability of a two state solution and present an obstacle to a just and lasting peace.

The heightened tensions in Jerusalem in recent months are concerning, particularly at the Holy Sites. Action must be taken to ensure de-escalation. Ireland reiterates the importance of the preservation of the status quo at the Holy Sites and respect for the custodial role of Jordan.

Ms Pillay,

What specific thematic issues does the Commission intend examine in its next report?

Thank you.