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1. (A) Introduction

1.1 CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organisations (CSOs) and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world. Founded in 1993, we proudly promote marginalised voices, especially from the Global South, and have members in more than 170 countries throughout the world.

1.2 Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO) is a coordination body for the NGO sector in Palestine with the purpose of strengthening Palestinian civil society and contributing to the establishment of the Palestinian state based on the principles of democracy, social justice, rule of law, tolerance, and respect of human rights through networking, building-up the capacity of NGOs, developing information management centers and mainstreaming societal concerns into public policies, plans and programs.

1.3 The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) is a regional network organisation and aims at enhancing and strengthening civil society advocacy on social and economic policy-making processes. Based in Beirut, Lebanon, ANND works in 12 Arab countries with an extended membership of 250 CSOs.

1.4 In this document, CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND examine the Government of Israel's compliance with its international human rights obligations to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for civil society. Specifically, we analyse Israel's fulfillment of the rights to freedom of association, assembly, and expression and unwarranted restrictions on human rights defenders (HRDs) since its previous UPR examination on 29 October 2013. To this end, we assess the Government of Israel's implementation of recommendations received during the 2nd UPR cycle relating to these issues and provide a number of specific, action-orientated follow-up recommendations.

1.5 During the 2nd UPR cycle, Israel received seven recommendations relating to civic space. Of these recommendations, one was accepted and six were noted. An evaluation of a range of legal sources and human rights documentation addressed in subsequent sections of this submission demonstrate that the Government of Israel has not implemented any of the recommendations relating to civil society space. The government has persistently failed to address restrictions on civic space since its last UPR examination and acute implementation gaps were found on the rights to freedom of assembly and expression.

1.6 CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND are particularly concerned by violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by the Government of Israel in 2017 that marks 50 years of occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Worryingly, the Government of Israel has repeatedly failed to implement the vast

majority of recommendations introduced by international human rights bodies to address the unwarranted and systematic violations of fundamental democratic freedoms in Israel and the OPT.

- In Section 2, CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND examine Israel's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards concerning freedom of association.
- In Section 3, CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND examine Israel's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards related to the protection of human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists.
- In Section 4, CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND examine Israel's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards concerning freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information.
- In Section 5, CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND examine Israel's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards related to freedom of assembly.
- In Section 6, CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND make a number of recommendations to address the concerns listed.

2. (B) Freedom of association

2.1 Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Israel is a state party, guarantees freedom of association. Israel has further been the subject of several resolutions and decisions, including by the General Assembly and International Court of Justice (ICJ), urging Israel to promote and protect the rights of freedom of association in the OPT. While the State of Israel does not have a formal, written Constitution, Israel's international human rights obligations are applicable in territories under its effective control, as well as during armed conflict.

2.2 During Israel's examination under the 2nd UPR cycle, no explicit recommendations were made regarding freedom of association. However, the Government of Israel did commit to ensuring that "human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate work in a secure and free environment". As evidenced below, Israel has failed to take adequate measures to effectively realise this recommendation.

2.3 There has been a state of emergency in effect since 1948, which is routinely invoked by the Government of Israel as a tool to silence Palestinian civil society. For instance, on November 2015, the Israeli government banned several CSOs based on regulation 84 (2) (b) of the 1948 emergency law; these organisations

were working primarily on advocacy, media, relief and documentation of human rights violations[1].

2.4 The Israeli Law of Associations (1980) regulates the work of civil society organisations and requires them to register with the Ministry of Justice's Registrar of Amatut (NGOs). Article 3 of the Law on Associations states that if a CSO denies the existence of the State of Israel or its democratic system, it will not be registered[2]. Palestinian civil society organisations in East Jerusalem remain subject to the Israeli Law of Associations, which requires them to register with and report to both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities in order to for them to operate.

2.5 The Knesset NGO Transparency Law, which was passed in July 2016, obliges nongovernmental organisations to report on their foreign funding, with fines up to approximately 7,000 USD for non-compliance. The law further requires civil society organisations that receive 50% or more of their funding from foreign sources to make this known in all communications and transactions with members of parliament, government officials and in the media when they advertise publicly or whenever they are listed online.

2.6 Israeli authorities continue to wilfully undermine the operating environment of Palestinian civil society groups monitoring and documenting human rights violations. As noted in a joint press statement [3] issued by civil society organisations, the Israeli authorities continue to restrict the movement of human rights defenders who monitor and document human rights violations and prevent lawyers from having access to their clients. These human rights defenders and lawyers are also susceptible to arrests and detention due to the nature of their work. According to PNGO, Eteraf Bajes Hajjaj Rimawi, the Executive Director of Bisan Center for Research and Development, was detained on 21 May 2017 and released 24 hours later. He was previously detained from 15 September 2014 to 6 July 2016[4] without charge[5].

2.7 Civil society organisations are also subjected to harassment and targeted surveillance. Email correspondences from staff are sometimes infiltrated and civil society representatives receive intimidating phone calls which undermines their

[1] http://www.meezaan.org/Public/file/draft%203%20-%20final.pdf
[2] Israel Amatut Law, International Center for Non-Profit Law, http://www.icnl.org/research/library/files/Israel/amutot.pdf
[3] Call for protection of human rights defenders working on issues related to Palestine. PNGO Portal. 12 December 2016. http://pngoportal.org/en/542.html
[4] Administrative detainees Eteraf Rimawi and Suad Rezeiqat freed from Israeli prisons, Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, 6 July 2016, http://samidoun.net/2016/07/administrative-detainees-eteraf-rimawi-and-suad-rezeiqat-freed-from-israeli-prisons/
[5] Palestinian çivil society leader Eteraf Rimawi's administrative detention extended fort he fifth time, Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, 2 February 2016, http://samidoun.net/2016/02/palestinian-civil-society-leader-eteraf-rimawis-administrative-detention-extended-for-fifth-time/

ability to operate effectively. For example, staff members of Palestinian organisations, Al-Haq and Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, have received death threats in response to their activities to promote human rights. On 10 August 2016, a senior staff member of Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights received death threats via email directed at him and his family with a recent photo of his house from close range[6]. In February 2016, the European representative of Al-Haq received phone calls, emails and flowers with death threats after she advocated for European countries to label the packaging of products if they have been produced in Israeli settlements and for Palestine's accession to the ICC[7].

3. (C) Harassment, intimidation and attacks against human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists

3.1 Under the 2nd UPR cycle, the Government of Israel received two recommendations relating to protection of human rights defenders. Discriminatory practices by the Government of Israel were highlighted in the recommendation made by Chile urging the Israeli government to "lift the travel bans imposed on human rights defenders." The government of Israel noted the recommendation and as evidenced, below failed to implement it. The only recommendation accepted by the Government of Israel with regards to civic space was proposed by Austria. It called on the government to "ensure that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate work in a secure and free environment." The Government of Israel has failed to implement this recommendation and continues to arbitrarily arrest and detain human rights defenders.

3.2 Palestinian human rights defenders are routinely detained for indefinite periods under Chapter I, Article B of Military Order 1651, as administrative detainees. If Israeli authorities believe there are "reasonable grounds" to presume that an individual presents a risk to "the security of an area" they can issue an order for arrest of the individual. This directive is frequently used to arrest, detain and silence legitimate Palestinian human rights defenders who mobilise Palestinians against oppressive actions by the Israeli government. In May 2017, there were reportedly over 6000 political prisoners in Israeli prisons of which 490 were administrative detainees who have been denied a fair trial.[8] These include

[6] Al Mezan condemns continued death threats to staff members and calls on the international community to intervene, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, 11 August 2016. http://www.mezan.org/en/post/21475/Al+Mezan+Condemns+Continued+Death+Threats+to+Staff+Members+and+Calls+on+the+International+Community+to+Intervene

[7] Rights groups say Israel behind death threats campaign, Al-Jazeera, 21 August 2016, http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/rights-groups-israel-death-threats-campaign-160818095638509.html

[8] Statistics May 2017, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, May 2017, http://www.addameer.org/statistics

Palestinian political party members, independent journalists and human rights defenders.[9]

3.3 The 2005 Internment of Unlawful Combatants Law allows the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) to hold prisoners indefinitely based on secret information without charging them or allowing them to stand trial. In March 2016, the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, adopted an amendment that makes it easier for the IOF to assign "unlawful combatant" status by widening the scope of military personnel allowed to assign this status and order temporary detention of persons[10].

3.4 On 26 October 2016, the IOF raided the house of civil society activist, Salah Khawaja, and detained him without access to legal representation. Khawaja is a leading figure in several civil society movements including the Palestinian National Initiative (al Mubadara), the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement and[11] Stop the Wall Campaign. On 5 March 2017, the Ofer military court sentenced Khawaja to 12 months in an Israeli prison after he was charged with making contact with an "agent of an enemy state", - an allegation frequently used against Palestinian human rights defenders who travel to other Arab states[12].

3.5 On 21 May 2017, the IOF detained several Palestinian civil society activists including Abed Al Razeq Faraj, a member of the PNGO Steering Committee and Administrative and Financial Director of Union of Agricultural Work Committee. Faraj has been involved in civil society activism since 1985 and since then has served a total of 18 years in prison., 11 of which have been under administrative detention without trial or charges.

3.6 The Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike in Israeli jails that started on 7 April 2017 underscores the fact that the Israeli authorities have not taken adequate measures to facilitate the release of Palestinian prisoners of conscience or address poor prisons conditions.[13]

3.7 The civil society organisation, MADA Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms, reported in October 2016 that social media was increasingly

[9] Why this Palestinian clown is being held without trial, Time, 6 March 2016, http://time.com/4252272/israel-palestinians-administrative-detention/

[10] The wrongful legislation trend continues: the Knesset adopts a legal amendment making it easier for the military to assign "unlawful combatant" status, Hamoked: Center for defence of the individual, 23 March 2016, http://www.hamoked.org/Document.aspx?dID=Updates1743

[11] Israeli Forces Arrest Prominent Palestinian Activist Salah Khawaja. Addameer: Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association. 27 October 2016.http://www.addameer.org/news/israeli-forces-arrest-prominent-palestinian-activist-salah-khawaja

[12] Palestinian human rights defender Salah Khawaja sentenced to 12 months in Israeli prison, Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, 5 March 2017, http://samidoun.net/2017/03/palestinian-human-rights-defender-salah-khawaja-sentenced-to-12-months-in-israeli-prison/

[13] Palestinian Prisoners' Hunger Strike in Israeli Jails End. Haaretz. 27 May 2017. http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/.premium-1.792174

being used by the IOF to censor and prosecute journalists.[14] As of May 2017, more than two dozen journalists were being held by Israeli authorities without any legal charges.[15] Journalist, Omar Nazzal, was arrested by IOF in April 2016 at the crossing between occupied West Bank and Jordan on his way to a meeting with the European Federation of Journalists in Sarajevo and has been held since then without trial. Prior to his arrest, Nazzal posted a statement on Facebook criticising the closure of several Palestinian media channels by IOF.[16]

4. (D) Freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information

4.1 Under the 2nd UPR cycle, the Government of Israel received two recommendations relating to freedom of expression. Both recommendations were noted by Israel. France recommended that the government of Israel "ensures the respect of freedom of expression and freedom of movement of all and lift the ban on journalists from entering the Palestinian territories." Tunisia recommended that Israel "abrogates all discriminatory laws and practices against some groups of populations under its jurisdiction, in particular in the areas of access to justice, employment, education, health, right to property, freedom of expression and opinion, and freedom of religion and belief." [17] As examined below, the Government of Israel has not implemented any of these recommendations,

4.2 The authorities continue to restrict freedom of expression through the imposition of spurious charges of incitement against persons who are critical of the Israeli government's policies, including in Palestine. Incitement is currently criminalised under article 144D2 of the Israeli Penal Law 5737-1977, which states that if there is a real possibility that the incitement to violence or terror led to acts of violence or terror then the person is liable to five years in prison[18].

4.3 In March 2017, the so-called Facebook Bill (officially named the Removal of Criminally Offensive Content from the Internet Bill) passed its first reading in the Knesset. If it passes the final reading, this law could criminalise Facebook posts if deemed a threat to public and national security.[19] The bill's vague definition of what constitutes a threat to public and national security will enable the Israeli

[14] Social Media… A New Venue to Censor and Prosecute Journalists, Mada: Center for Development and Media Freedoms, 20 October 2016, http://www.madacenter.org/news.php?lang=1&id=288#
[15] Israel's silencing; Palestinian journalists in 'incitement' offences crackdown, monitors say. Independent. 10 October 2017. http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/israel-palestine-journalist-arrests-incitement-law-facebook-a7354236.html
[16] Israel among world's worst jailors of journalists, The Electronic Intifada, 16 December 2016, https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/israel-among-worlds-worst-jailers-journalists
[17] Database of Recommendations. UPR Info. Retrieved on 15 June 2017.https://www.upr-info.org/database/
[18] Israel Penal Law 5737-1977, International Court of Justice, Retrieved on 28 June 2017, https://www.icj.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Israel-Penal-Law-5737-1977-eng.pdf
[19] Israel's Facebook Bill Could Hamper Free Speech. South African Jewish Report. 9 March 2017. http://www.sajr.co.za/news-and-articles/2017/03/09/israel-s-facebook-bill-could-hamper-free-speech

Government to carry out online censorship and surveillance. Whereas social media is a non-violent means of expressing criticism, if passed, the bill could be used to silence this type of speech and extend civic space restrictions online.[20]

4.4 In addition, the "Preventing Harm to the State of Israel by Means of Boycott" bill criminalises anyone "initiating, promoting or publishing material that could be used as a basis for a boycott against Israeli products of interests". Those deemed by the authorities to have been affected by the boycott would have to be compensated by the "offender." The "offender" would have to pay 30,000NIS (8566USD) without proof of damage. If the offender is foreign, the person would be barred from entering Israel for 10 years and from conducting business in Israel.[21]

4.5 Incitement charges have been used to arrest people exercising their freedom of expression by tbe IOF. The vast majority of people arrested for incitement on social media in 2015 and the first half of 2016 by the IOF were Palestinians[22]. This happened despite reports that Israeli posts on Facebook inciting hatred against Arabs doubled from 2015 from 280,000 posts to 675,000 in 2016.[23]

4.6 On 18 July 2016, journalist Samah Dweik was sentenced to six months in prison on charges of "incitement" under article 144D of the Israeli Penal Law for posting a message and sharing an image on her Facebook page in support of Palestinians who had been killed by the IOF.[24] She was released on 19 September 2016 after serving the six months prison sentence.[25]

4.7 Anas Al Kahteeb was arrested in October 2015 and sentenced to house arrest for 40 days and banned from using the Internet until the end of judicial proceedings against him.[26] He was accused of 'incitement to violence and terrorism' after he posted the following messages - "I'm next in line", "Jerusalem is Arab" and "Long

[20] Israels' new Facebook bill threatens free speech, IFEX, 18 January 2017, https://www.ifex.org/israel/2017/01/18/facebook_bill/
[21] Boycott Prohibition Law, The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, 9 November 2011, http://www.acri.org.il/en/knesset/boycott-prohibition-law/
[22] Adalah fears Facebook's online incitement deal with Israel will selectively target Palestinian citizens, Adalah, 9 November 2016, http://english.pnn.ps/2017/02/07/index-of-racism-and-incitement-in-israeli-social-media-doubled-in-2016/
[23] Racism and incitement in Israeli social media doubled in 2016, Palestine New Network, 7 February 2017, http://english.pnn.ps/2017/02/07/index-of-racism-and-incitement-in-israeli-social-media-doubled-in-2016/
[24]Palestinian journalist Samah Dewik sentenced to six months an done day in Israeli prison.Samidoun: Pelastinian Prisoner Solidarity Network. 18 July 2016. http://samidoun.net/2016/07/palestinian-journalist-samah-dweik-sentenced-to-six-months-and-one-day-in-israeli-prison/
[25] Israel releases journalist jailed for social media posts, Electornic Intifada, 20 September 2016, https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/charlotte-silver/israel-releases-journalist-jailed-social-media-posts
[26]Israel arrests Palestinian teenager over Facebook posts. Al-Jazeera. 5 November 2015.http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/11/israel-arrests-palestinian-teenager-facebook-posts-151105070221213.html

live the intifada"[27] on his facebook page. Again on 16 October 2015, 18-year-old Shadi Muhaissen from Jerusalem was arrested after posting a photo on Facebook of Palestinian Fadi Alloun, who had been executed on 4 October 2015. He was detained for nine days and then placed under administrative detention for three months. The prosecution claimed that he was a threat to Israel's national security. [28]

4.8 Sentences of incitement for Facebook posts are often contingent upon and make reference to the number of Facebook friends the individual has, as well as the number of "likes" and "shares" the post received.[29] As Israeli law does not explicitly include articles that criminalise Facebook posts and due to the lack of evidence that the posts possibly led to acts of violence and terror, a significant portion of the documented cases of arrest for alleged incitement have been placed under administrative detention. The criteria that the prosecution relies on - numbers of "shares" and "likes"-does not meet basic legal standards and is used as a pretext to silence peaceful dissent against the Israeli occupation.[30]

4.9 In 2016, the civil society organization, MADA the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms, documented 249 instances of media freedom violations by the IOF. These include physical harassment and arrests of Palestinian journalists, and the confiscation and sabotage of media outlets.[31] With its headquarters in Ramallah, MADA operates throughout the Palestinian territories to support Palestinian Media and to promote and defend media freedoms and freedom of expression.[32] In its 2016 report, MADA notes that 12 Palestinian media outlets and printing houses were shut down in 2016. MADA also reports that 41 journalists have been killed by the IOF from 2000 until 2016. On 1 March 2016, 22-year-old media student at Al-Quds University, Omar Sajdieh, was killed by the IOF while on a roof observing the clashes that erupted when the IOF stormed a refugee camp. He was shot in the head and left on the ground for about an hour bleeding. [33]

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[27] Ibid
[28]Daring to Post: Arrests of Palestinians for Alleged Incitement. Addameer: Prisoner Supportand Human Rights Association. 24 August 2016. http://www.addameer.org/publications/daring-post-arrests-palestinians-alleged-incitement
[29] Daring to Post: Arrests of Palestinians for Alleged Incitement. Addameer: Prisoner Supportand Human Rights Association. 24 August 2016. http://www.addameer.org/publications/daring-post-arrests-palestinians-alleged-incitement
[30] ibid
[31] The Violations of Media Freedoms in Palestine. Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms. Retrieved on 15 June 2017. http://www.madacenter.org/images/text_editor/AnnualrepE2016.pdf
[32] About MADA, MADA Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms, Retrieved 27 June 2017, http://www.madacenter.org/about.php?lang=1&id=1
[33]The Violations of Media Freedoms in Palestine. Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms. Retrieved on 15 June 2017. http://www.madacenter.org/images/text_editor/AnnualrepE2016.pdf

5. (E) Freedom of peaceful assembly

5.1 During Israel's examination under the 2nd UPR cycle, the government received no specific recommendation on freedom of assembly despite the fact that Palestinians cannot effectively exercise their freedom of peaceful assembly under Israeli occupation as almost all protests in the OPT are criminalised under Military Order 101. This order criminalises civic activities such as organising and participating in protests, which is contrary to Article 21 of the ICCPR, which Israel is a state party to and and Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to freedom of assembly. Despite the absence of constitutional protections, the right to freedom of assembly has been upheld by the judiciary[34].

5.2 The Police Ordinance (1971) and articles 151-158 of the Penal Law (1977articles 151-158 regulate protests and limit the right to freedom of assembly. An application for a permit must be filed five days prior to the protest to the Israeli police in the following circumstances: when the protest is likely to attract more than 50 people, when it is an open-air protest and when the protest includes a march and/or political speeches.[35] According to the Police Ordinance (1971), protests can be prevented by the police if they have "concerns for the public order". The Israeli Supreme Court has made it clear that a protest permit can only be denied if the concerns for public order are substantiated with concrete, clear and convincing evidence such as plans to incite violence.[36] However, protests are often denied. For example, Israeli authorities refused to grant a permit to the Nakba march, which is an annual march against the creation of Israel, for the first time. The march was planned for early May 2017.[37] Israeli police stated that the permit was denied due to insufficient manpower by the police to secure the protest[38]. Palestinian civil society organisations noted that the permit was denied for political reasons since there had been no reports of violence at the Nakba march in the past.[39]

5.3 Several protests held since Israel's last UPR were met with arbitrary arrest and excessive force, including the use of live ammunition resulting in serious injuries. Palestinians have organised demonstrations opposing illegal settlements, closure

[34] Freedom of Assembly in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Israel. EuroMed Rights. November 2013. http://euromedrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FOA2013_EN_ISRAEL1.pdf
[35] ibid
[36] ibid
[37] Why is Israel afraid of the Nakba March of retun?, Al-Jazeera, 10 April 2017, http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/04/israeli-police-block-palestinian-march-return-170409055747446.html
[38] Police Deny Permit for Annual Nakba March Over Security Concerns. The Times of Israel. 23 March 2017.http://www.timesofisrael.com/police-deny-permit-for-annual-nakba-march-over-security-concerns/
[39] ibid

of the Gaza Strip and in support of Palestinian prisoners' rights. When Palestinian prisoners were on hunger strike to protest against conditions in prisons, demonstrations were organised in solidarity on 22 May 2017.[40] Protests in the cities of Hebron and Ramallah in the West Bank were violently repressed by the IOF who used tear gas and rubber bullets.

5.4 During demonstrations that began on 19 May 2017 demanding an end to the closure of the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers located along Gaza's eastern borders opened fire on peaceful protesters with live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas canisters. The civil society organisation, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, documented two cases of extra-judicial killings and 52 injuries, including eight children, as a result of the excessive use of force by Israeli soldiers from 19 May - 11 June 2017.[41]

5.5 On 15 June 2016, a peaceful sit-in was held demanding the opening of Qurtuba stairs in occupied al-Khalil (Hebron). The stairs were an important passage way between Palestinian neighbourhoods but the IOF closed it off for Palestinians to use it in June 2016 and only allow access to settlers. The peaceful sit-in, which included Palestinian, Israeli and international protesters, was violently broken up by the IOF leaving one Palestinian child injured and four protestors arrested.[42]

5.6 In late April 2016 during a protest against a road closure in KafrQaddum village, a Palestinian town in the northern West Bank, IOF fired rubber-coated metal bullets, stun grenades and used excessive amounts of tear gas resulting in several serious injuries to demonstrators.[43]

5.7 In July 2014, the coordinator of Defence for Children International – Palestine's community mobilization unit, Hashem Khader Abu Maria, was shot dead by IOF while peacefully participating in a weekly protest[44].

6. (F) Recommendations to the Government of Israel

CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND recall the previous Concluding Recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and calls Israel to ensure the full application of the

[40]Palestinian Prisoners' Hunger Strike in Israeli Jails End. Haaretz. 27 May 2017. http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/.premium-1.792174

[41]Israeli forces kill one Palestinian and injure 19. Reliefweb. Report from Al Mezan Center for Human Rights. 11. June 2017.http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israeli-forces-kill-one-palestinian-and-injure-19

[42]Peaceful sit-in protest violently broken up by Israeli forces. Palestine International Solidarity Movement. 16 June 2016. https://palsolidarity.org/2016/06/peaceful-sit-in-protest-violently-broken-up-by-israeli-forces/

[43]Israeliforcesinjures 3 PalestiniansDuringKafrQaddumProtests. Ma'an News Agency. 29 April 2016.https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=771346

[44] Call for protection of human rights defenders working on issues related to Palestine. PNGO Portal. 12 December 2016. http://pngoportal.org/en/542.html

ICCPR in Israel as well as in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. We call for an enabling environment for civil society, in accordance with the rights enshrined in the ICCPR, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and Human Rights Council resolutions 22/6, 27/5 and 27/31.

At a minimum, the following conditions should be guaranteed: freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, the right to operate free from unwarranted state interference, the right to communicate and cooperate, the right to seek and secure funding and the state's duty to protect.

CIVICUS, PNGO and ANND refer to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, which was presented during the 34th HRC calling for an immediate end to occupation as the root cause and obstacle for the self-development of Palestinian society and an enabling environment for civil society. We reiterate the SR's recommendations on the measures be taken by Israel to comply with international law including ending the blockade of Gaza, lifting of all restrictions on imports and exports, and facilitating the rebuilding of its housing and infrastructure, with due consideration to justifiable security considerations, repealing recent legislation which confiscates private Palestinian lands, comply fully with Security Council resolution 2334 concerning the settlements, ending the practice of demolition of Palestinian homes, and enabling the creation of a fair and transparent building permit system that would comply with the right to housing.[45]

6.1 Regarding freedom of association

- Put a stop to all systematic violations restricting the freedom of association of Palestinian CSOs, including their freedom of movement and access to resources and remove all undue restrictions on the ability of civil society organisations to receive international and national funding in line with best practices articulated by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to peaceful assembly and of association.

- Abolish criminal responsibility for participation in the activities of non-registered organisations and lift the ban on the activities of non-registered organisations. The requirement that Palestinian organisations in East

[45] A/HRC/34/L.39 adopted during the 34th HRC Session, Agenda Item 7, United National General Assembly, Retreieved 27 June 2017, https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/B2492214584AEF8A852580EC0052D2E5

Jerusalem should register with both Palestinian and Israeli authorities must be dropped.

- All civil society organisations which have been arbitrarily and unduly sanctioned or deregistered should be immediately reinstated.

6.2 Regarding the protection of human rights defenders

- End the use of the criminal, legal and security tools to obstruct the legitimate work of human rights defenders, including the use of arbitrary arrests and detentions.

- Ensure fair and speedy trials for all human rights defenders charged with an offence.

- Repeal all restrictive legislation targeting human rights defenders.

- All human rights defenders including, journalists and bloggers detained for exercising their right to fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association, assembly should be unconditionally and immediately released.

- Conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment, and intimidation against them and bring perpetrators of such offenses to justice.

- End the practice of administrative detention and ensure that all persons who are currently held in administrative detention are afforded all basic legal safeguards.

6.3 Regarding freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information

- End the use of incitement to restrict freedom of expression and repeal or amend the proposed Internet Bill to ensure it is in line with best practices and international standards in the area of freedom of expression.

- All media outlets unwarrantedly closed should be reinstated.

- Reform defamation legislation in conformity with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

- Ensure that journalists and writers are able to work freely and without fear of retribution for expressing critical opinions or covering topics that the Government may find sensitive.

- Take adequate steps to lift restrictions on freedom of expression and adopt a framework for the protection of journalists from persecution, intimidation and harassment.

- Develop an action plan which will ensure that Internet laws comply with the government's commitment to guarantee freedom of expression and information, so as to facilitate free access to electronic media, liberalise electronic media ownership rules and allow national bloggers, journalists, other Internet users to play a full and active role in promoting and protecting human rights.

- Unfettered access to online information resources should be allowed by removing restrictions on access and use of national and international news websites and social media outlets and the websites of civil society organisations.

- Implement legislative measures regarding access to information and establish mechanisms to facilitate public access in line with best practices.

- Ensure access to information for both Israeli and Palestinian citizens in order to fully promote the exercise of the right to freedom of expression and freedom of opinion.

- Refrain from censoring social and conventional media and ensure that freedom of expression is safeguarded in all forms, including the arts.

6.4 Regarding freedom of assembly

- Fully respect the fundamental freedoms of assembly, association, expression and movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

- All demonstrators, journalists and human rights defenders detained for exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly should be

unconditionally and immediately released. Their cases should be reviewed to prevent further harassment.

- All instances of extra-judicial killing and excessive force committed by IOF while monitoring protests and demonstrations should be immediately and impartially investigated.

6.5 Regarding access to UN Special Procedures mandate holders

- The Government should extend a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedure mandate holders and prioritise official visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 as well as 1) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; 2) Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; 3) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; 4) Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers; 5) Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; 6) Special Rapporteur on the rights to privacy and; 7) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

6.6 Regarding State engagement with civil society

- Implement transparent and inclusive mechanisms of public consultations with civil society organisations on all issues mentioned above and enable more effective involvement of civil society in the preparation of law and policy.

- Systematically consult with civil society and NGOs on the implementation of UPR including by holding periodical comprehensive consultations with a diverse range of civil society sectors.

- Incorporate the results of this UPR into its action plans for the promotion and protection of all human rights, taking into account the proposals of civil society and present a midterm evaluation report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the recommendations of this session.

7. Level of implementation of Recommendations on civic space

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
Theme: D43 Freedom of opinion and expression			
136.144. Ensure the respect of freedom of expression and freedom of movement of all; lift the ban on journalists from entering the Palestinian territories (France); **Source of position:** A/HRC/25/15/Add.1 - Para. 36 & A/HRC/25/2 - Para. 969 (advance unedited version)	Noted	D43 Freedom of opinion and expression D41 Freedom of movement S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions **Affected persons:**	Not fully implemented See sections 4.1 - 4.9
136.55. Abrogate all discriminatory laws and practices against some groups of populations under its jurisdiction, in particular in the areas of access to justice, employment, education, health, right to property, freedom of expression and opinion, and freedom of religion and belief (Tunisia); **Source of position:** A/HRC/25/15/Add.1 - Para. 28 & A/HRC/25/2 - Para. 969 (advance unedited version)	Noted	B31 Equality & non-discrimination A41 Constitutional and legislative framework A42 Institutions & policies - General E31 Right to work D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion B51 Right to an effective remedy E41 Right to health - General D43 Freedom of opinion and expression E51 Right to education - General S03 SDG 3 - health S04 SDG 4 - education S08 SDG 8 - economic growth, employment, decent work S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions **Affected persons:** - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not fully implemented See sections 4.1 - 4.9
Theme: H1 Human rights defenders			
136.80. Ensure that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate work in a secure and free environment (Austria); **Source of position:** A/HRC/25/15/Add.1 - Para. 8 & A/HRC/25/2 - Para. 969 (advance unedited version)	Supported	H1 Human rights defenders **Affected persons:** - human rights defenders	Not fully implemented See sections 3.1 - 3.6
136.215. Adopt measures to ensure the freedom of movement of the Palestinians within the OPT and lift the travel bans imposed on human rights defenders (Chile); **Source of position:** A/HRC/25/2 - Para. 969 (advance unedited version) & A/HRC/25/15/Add.1 (Annex) available at: http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session15/IL/A_HRC_25_15_Add.1_Israel_Annex_E.docx - Para. 1-4 and 9	Noted	D41 Freedom of movement H1 Human rights defenders A42 Institutions & policies - General B11 International humanitarian law S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions **Affected persons:** - human rights defenders - persons affected by armed conflict	Not fully implemented See sections 3.1 - 3.6