



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Human Rights Council – 48th Session

ITEM 7

**The allocation of water resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East
Jerusalem – Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**
1 October 2021

Statement by Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI, Attaché

Madam President,
Madam High-Commissioner,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the High-Commissioner for her report.

Indeed, addressing the issue of the allocation of water resources is essential to improving living conditions, reducing inequalities, promoting respect for human rights, as well as safeguarding the environment.

The rights to water and sanitation are fundamental for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights, in particular the right to health as current highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, water, as an “object indispensable to the survival of the civilian population”, and its distribution are granted special protection under international humanitarian law.

We therefore call on all Parties to ensure equal and affordable access to safe water and sanitation, in compliance with their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law.

Thank you.