



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

U.N. Human Rights Council – 58th regular session

**Item 7 – Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories
General Debate**

Statement by Mr Yannick GALEAZZI, First Secretary

26 March 2024

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

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the High Commissioner for his report and shares his concerns over the human rights situation in the OPTs and the need for justice and accountability. The reports of potential war crimes and crimes against humanity are deeply troubling, violations of IHL and IHRL are unacceptable and perpetrators must be held to account.

The situation in Gaza is untenable, humanitarian access must be granted and electricity and water supplies restored immediately. We also deplore the resumed airstrikes and the recent attack on a UN facility resulting in the death of a staff member.

In the West Bank, our maternity, the Holy Family Hospital, continues its work serving those in need without any distinction. Our poverty alleviation programme in Bethlehem is a lifeline for about 250 families. However, roadblocks and checkpoints render access and free movement extremely difficult. Our mobile clinics still try to reach remote communities whenever possible.

Mr. President,

As an apolitical, neutral and impartial entity, the Sovereign Order of Malta reiterates its call for the return to the ceasefire agreement, with the dignified release of all hostages, unimpeded humanitarian access and protection of aid workers. The international community must work together to put an end to the conflict, with the reconstruction of Gaza and a lasting peace based on a two-State solution.

Thank you.