



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 – 61st regular session

Item 2: ID on the High Commissioner's report on the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Statement by Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI, First Secretary

26 February 2026, Geneva

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

The Sovereign Order of Malta remains deeply concerned over the human rights situations in the OPTs and thanks the High Commissioner for his report. We echo his call for accountability for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law (IHRL and IHL).

In the West Bank, the increase of settler violence and blockades render our abilities to serve the people in need even more difficult, through our maternity hospital in Betlehem and its mobile clinics.

We reaffirm the need to protect the right to freedom of religion or belief and access to places of worship, ensuring respect of the *status quo* of the Holy Sites.

In Gaza, unimpeded and large-scale humanitarian access must be granted immediately. The Order is ready to provide emergency humanitarian aid once access is granted, as it has done in the past.

We reiterate our firm opposition to any forms of forced displacement of the Palestinian population.

Mr. President,

All Parties must abide by their obligations under international law, in particular IHL and respect of decisions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The Order of Malta calls for peaceful resolution of the conflict, so that the people of Israel and Palestine can live side by side in peace, security, tolerance and a “human rights-compliant manner”.



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Thank you.