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**Human Rights Council**
**Fifty-fifth session**
26 February–5 April 2024
Agenda item 7
**Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

# Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 5 April 2024

## 55/31. Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

*The Human Rights Council*,

*Deeply concerned* at the suffering of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan due to the systematic and continuous violation of their fundamental and human rights by Israel since the Israeli military occupation of 1967,

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

*Recalling also* all relevant General Assembly resolutions, the most recent being resolutions 74/90 of 13 December 2019, 75/99 of 10 December 2020, 76/81 of 9 December 2021, 77/125 of 12 December 2022 and 78/77 of 7 December 2023, in which the Assembly declared that Israel had failed to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and demanded that it withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions 73/98 of 7 December 2018, 74/88 of 13 December 2019, 75/97 of 10 December 2020, 76/82 of 9 December 2021, 77/126 of 12 December 2022 and 78/78 of 7 December 2023,

*Reaffirming once more* the illegality of the decision by Israel of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

*Reaffirming* the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

*Taking note with deep concern* of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,[1] and in this connection deploring the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories and expressing regret at the constant refusal of Israel to cooperate with and to receive the Special Committee,

*Guided* by the relevant provisions of the Charter, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949 (Fourth

[1] A/77/501.



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Geneva Convention) and the relevant provisions of the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 to the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the peace process, which started in Madrid on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and the principle of land for peace, and expressing its concern at the halting of the peace process in the Middle East and its hope that peace talks will be resumed on the basis of the full implementation of resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region,

*Reaffirming also* the previous relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, the most recent being Council resolutions 37/33 of 23 March 2018, 40/21 of 22 March 2019, 43/30 of 22 June 2020, 46/24 of 24 March 2021, 49/30 of 1 April 2022 and 52/33 of 4 April 2023,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council decided, inter alia, that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Deplores* the continuing settlement policies and practices in the occupied Syrian Golan, including the plans announced at the end of 2021 to establish and expand illegal settlements and to double the numbers of the settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan within the coming years, and demands that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all settlement-related plans and activities in the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and emphasizes that the displaced persons of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan must be allowed to return to their homes and to recover their property;

4. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to desist from its repressive measures against them and from all other practices that obstruct the enjoyment of their fundamental rights and their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, some of which are mentioned in the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;[2]

5. *Further calls upon* Israel to allow the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan to visit their families and relatives in the Syrian motherland through the Quneitra checkpoint and under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to rescind its decision to prohibit these visits, as it is in flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

6. *Demands* that Israel stop its repressive measures against the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and release immediately the Syrian detainees in Israeli prisons;

7. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, including the Knesset's decision of 22 November 2010 to hold a referendum before any withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan and East Jerusalem, that seek to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and have no legal effect;

8. *Again calls upon* States Members of the United Nations not to recognize any of the above-mentioned legislative or administrative measures;

9. *Deplores* the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities affecting the human rights of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, including the confiscation of the

[2] Ibid.

private property of Syrians by imposing so-called “Israeli documents” on them, expresses grave concern at the continued illegal exploitation of natural resources[3] and the unlawful mine-laying practices of the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied Syrian Golan, and also expresses deep concern at the non-cooperation of Israel with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

10. *Also deplores* the approval given to commence construction works on a wind turbine project despite its harmful impact on a wide range of human rights of the Syrian population in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to stop immediately all action on the project;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it as widely as possible and to report on this matter to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-eighth session;

12. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the human rights violations in the occupied Syrian Golan at its fifty-eighth session.

*56th meeting*
*5 April 2024*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 to 14, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour*:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam

*Against*:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, United States of America

*Abstaining*:

Albania, Argentina, Cameroon, Romania]

[3] See A/HRC/55/71 and A/HRC/55/72.