

51st regular session of the Human Rights Council (12 September – 7 October 2022)

**Items 3&5: Interactive dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
(EMRIP)**

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH)

The systematic Israeli attempts to alter the legal, demographic, and cultural characteristics of Jerusalem infringe on the inalienable social, economic, and cultural rights of the indigenous Palestinian population, who are constantly being pushed out of the occupied City.

The historical and unique status of Jerusalem as a hub for different religions and traditions is an integral part of the rich Palestinian cultural identity. The Israeli government, in collusion with the settler movement, is targeting ancient archaeological and heritage sites in the occupied Palestinian territory, including in occupied East Jerusalem, resulting in their appropriation, damage, or destruction. They are trying to impose a Jewish-only narrative, as a pretext to facilitate the erasure of Palestinian identity and the theft of more Palestinian land and resources through further forced displacement and illegal settlement construction.

As an occupying power, Israel is obligated under international humanitarian law and international human rights law to respect Palestinian cultural rights and protect Jerusalem's historical heritage sites. We urge the expert to closely examine and report on Israel's violations in this regard as we urge the international community to protect the indigenous Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem, and elsewhere across historical Palestine, and stop Israeli colonial activities that aim to erase the indigenous Palestinian identity and narrative, to ensure that their right to self-determination is fulfilled.

Thank you.