



GROUP OF FRIENDS
IN DEFENSE OF THE
CHARTER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. HÉCTOR CONSTANT ROSALES, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA, DURING THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE REPORT OF “THE UNITED NATIONS INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON INQUIRY ON THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, AND IN ISRAEL”

Geneva, 20 June 2023

Mr. President,

1. Venezuela has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. We thank the COI for its report and reiterate our full support for its mandate.
3. We express grave concern over attempts to undermine the HRC mandated COI. We urge all States to reject such attempts.

Mr. President,

4. For many years, the countries of the Group of Friends have maintained a firm position of solidarity with the Palestinian people and its just cause, and the condemnation of the massive, flagrant and systematic violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law committed by Israel, including increasing restrictions on civic space as an intentional strategy, with the aim of delegitimizing and silencing Palestinian civil society, criminalizing it, and implementing measures aimed at cutting off the sources of its funding.
5. We call on the COI in line with its mandate, to focus in its next reports on the root causes of the situation, including by investigating the 75 years denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the return of Palestinian refugees.

Mr. President,



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6. We remain committed to strengthening our efforts, including active engagement in international initiatives, aimed at ending the Israeli occupation, which constitutes an illegal colonial occupation and apartheid regime.

I thank you, Mr. President.