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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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Statement at the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice

3 March 2023

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

(Long version – shorter version delivered)

Thank you, Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is deeply worried by the recent escalation and rapid deterioration of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. These disturbing developments take us further from a two-State solution based on applicable international law, in particular international humanitarian law and relevant Security Council resolutions, which remain the only viable pathway to a peaceful, stable and secure Middle East.

The increased number of Palestinian civilians killed during the reporting period is very concerning. We share the High Commissioner's concerns about the insufficient respect for international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict as well as the unlawful use of force by Israeli Security Forces, often leading to arbitrary deprivation of life, including extrajudicial executions.

We urge Israel to refrain from any practices of collective punishment which is expressly prohibited by international humanitarian law and incompatible with several provisions of international human rights law.

Moreover, we are troubled by the undue restrictions of freedoms of expression and association, cases of gender-based violence and discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ persons as well as about cases of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment. We also note with deep concern instances of discrimination, intolerance and hate speech motivated by racism or directed against persons belonging to religious communities.

We stress the need for credible investigations into all alleged violations of international law and cooperation with the United Nations, the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, as well as the International Criminal Court, for the implementation of the recommendations made by the High Commissioner in his report. In addition, we urge parties to refrain from retaliatory steps in response to the decision of the General Assembly to seek an Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, and to comply with all relevant General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions.

Liechtenstein firmly opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and calls upon the Palestinian authorities to abolish the death penalty and upon Israel to refrain reintroducing the death penalty for terrorism offences.

I thank you, Mr. President.