



28th Special Session of the HRC  
Geneva, 2018  
Speaker: Giuditta GUALANDI

28th SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
**The deteriorating human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

Oral statement submitted by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice**

Thank you, Mr. President,

IIMA warmly welcomes the decision to convene the 28th special session of the Human Rights Council on the deteriorating human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

What happened in Palestine was a clear human rights violation, which needs a thorough, transparent and objective investigation.

Mr. President this year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and “Member States have pledged to achieve the promotion of the universal respect for and the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms”. Therefore, the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, especially of children and women, remain the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

We firmly believe as Pope Francis affirmed, that “the use of violence never leads to peace. War begets war, and violence begets violence”. Young people of Israel and Palestine are crying for peace and a future of peace.

**For these reasons, IIMA calls on the international community to adopt the draft resolution A/HRC/S-28/L.1 and to redouble efforts “so that dialogue, justice, and peace prevail”.**

Thank you, Mr. President.