**Statement**

**By**

**H.E. Mr. Ali Bahreini**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**Before the 43rd session of the Working Group**

**on the Universal Periodic Review**

**(1st May – 12th May 2023)**

**Review of the Israeli Regime**

**Geneva, 9th May 2023**

Speaking time: 01 minute and 20 seconds

**Mr. President,**

It is with profound concern that we bring to your attention the current situation which has been exacerbated by the criminal acts of Occupying Power in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. International reports have documented and recognized numerous cases of targeted assassinations, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and destruction of property which constitute the systematic and grave violations of international law including human rights and humanitarian law.

The merciless attempts to deprive Palestinian People of their right to life, to self-determination and to their own natural resources are only part of the racist and Apartheid policies and actions of the Occupying Power.

**Mr. President,**

The occupation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories must be lifted, all Palestinian refugees must be able to repatriate to their homeland and the future ruling system of Palestine must be determined by its real and indigenous inhabitants including Muslims, Christians and Jews in a democratic and transparent referendum.

I thank you Mr. President.