



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 928 9401 • FAX: +41 22 928 9003 • E-MAIL: ffmsettlements@ohchr.org

REFERENCE: FFMS / 15

20 September 2012

Excellency,

In my capacity as Chair of the International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory established by the Council by its resolution 19/17, and on behalf of the other two appointed members of the Mission – Ms Asma Jahangir and Ms Unity Dow – I have the honour to inform you that the Fact-Finding Mission has commenced its work, and I would like to provide you with a short update on progress in the discharge of our mandate since our appointment in July 2012.

Ms Jahangir, Ms Dow and I convened in Geneva for a first round of meetings from 27 to 31 August. During that week - with the support of and based on preparatory work provided by the Secretariat appointed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights - the Fact-Finding Mission established its terms of reference and a first outline of its programme of work, and framed its overall methodology.

The Fact-Finding also sought the cooperation of the concerned countries and held meetings with concerned representatives of Permanent Missions and other relevant stakeholders which generally extended their cooperation to the FFM.

In this context, I would like to bring to your attention that the Fact-Finding Mission did not have the chance to meet with the Permanent Mission of Israel in Geneva. In a letter dated 15 August addressed to the Permanent Representative of Israel, I made a request for a meeting, followed by a letter sent on 28 August, reiterating this request. By letter dated 31 August I solicited Israel's cooperation and support and facilitating access to Israel and the West Bank. I wish to highlight that in a further letter sent on 19 September I assured that the Fact-Finding Mission will continue to be available to discuss the implementation of its mandate with the Israeli authorities and would welcome any cooperation the Government of Israel would decide to extend.

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H.E. Ms Laura Dupuy Lasserre
President of the Human Rights Council



In the absence of a response from the Permanent Mission of Israel to my requests, the Fact-Finding Mission is planning to make alternative arrangements to obtain direct and first-hand information relevant to the discharge of its mandate and to travel to the region. Such field visits will allow for direct observation of the situation and facilitate dialogue with relevant State authorities, stakeholders and victims. The Fact-Finding Mission is currently seeking the cooperation of relevant authorities in the region.

The Fact-Finding Mission has also issued a call for written submissions, which has been shared with Member States, distributed to relevant stakeholders - international organizations, national institutions and NGOs - and posted on the web, in order to provide an opportunity to any interested persons or organizations to share information and documentation which may assist it in the implementation of its mandate.

Resolution 19/17 foresees the submission of a report to the Council and the Fact-Finding Mission is therefore planning to report to the Council at its 22nd session in March 2013.

I remain at your disposal to provide further information and address any query that the Council may have with regard to the implementation of the mandate.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration

Christine Chanet
Chair, International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli
Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory