



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 63rd Session

Item 4: General debate on human rights situations that require the Council's attention

22 September 2026

Delivered by Markus Hofer

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance, speaking on behalf of its Evangelical members in the Middle East, expresses grave concern over escalating Israeli settler violence and military operations in the occupied West Bank, which are contributing to dispossession and displacement of Palestinians, including Christians.

We are particularly concerned about Taybeh, the West Bank's last predominantly Christian village. Residents have reported repeated settler incursions, intimidation, property damage, fires, and attempts to take control of privately owned land. In May, settlers reportedly established a new outpost near the village. In August, residents continued to report attacks on homes and property and obstruction of access to their land.

Settlers have intensified efforts to seize land—first by establishing tents, then by constructing houses, and ultimately by expanding settlements. Credible reports that Israeli authorities and military forces provide vehicles, drones, and weapons to settlers are deeply troubling. These annexation plans are detrimental for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Mr. President, as Christians, we believe that every person has equal dignity and the right to live safely in peace on their land.

We urge Israel to uphold its obligations under international law, protect Palestinian civilians, prevent settler violence, ensure accountability for abuses, and halt settlement expansion and the appropriation of Palestinian land.

Thank you.