Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23), Operazione Colomba (APG23 Nonviolent Peace Corps), COSPE – Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti and Giuristi Democratici,

cordially invite you

to the Parallel Event entitled “Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory - Living in Fear: Daily Abuses and Intimidations in the South Hebron Hills” that will be held online in conjunction with the 48th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council on 27 September from 2 to 3.00 pm.

The Palestinian communities in the area of the South Hebron Hills live in a constant state of fear. The overt and implicit violence they are subjected to, each single day, is as certain as it is unpredictable. Entire families are condemned to live in a coercive environment where both the arbitrary and excessive use of force of Israeli authorities and the abuses of Israeli settlers regularly threaten their very existence and uninterruptedly loom over them. And, hence, a lingering sense of intimidation silently pervades entire communities and penetrates the private sphere, provoking deep wounds that the lenient and discriminatory Israeli law enforcement system willingly leaves unattended.

This regular yet arbitrary violence, and the sense of precariousness and of constant intimidation that come with it, infringe upon the most basic human rights the Palestinian communities should enjoy, like, among others, the right to life and security of person, the right to freedom of movement, the right to health, to education, to a decent standard of life, and ultimately the right to self-determination.

The strategy put in place in the South Hebron hills, particularly reveals and is a blatant example of the ambition of Israel to forcibly and progressively displace the Palestinian communities in order to eventually create the conditions for the de-facto annexation of the area.

In this parallel event, the systematic, silent, and underhanded violations that Palestinians experience in this area will be examined with a particular focus on the deterioration of the human rights situation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The legitimacy of Israel’s expansion and
annexation policy under international law will be confuted and due attention will be given to possible domestic and international remedies. The event will also be a precious opportunity to introduce the nonviolent resistance movement that grassroots organizations and activists from Palestinian communities have initiated in the South Hebron Hills and, ultimately, to create networks between Civil Society Organizations, activists, scholars and institutions with the objective of supporting these practices and upholding the Palestinians inalienable right to self-determination.

Attached, you can find the flyer with the programme of the parallel event.

The Event will be streamed live online:

In **ENGLISH** on https://www.youtube.com/user/cospetv

In **ARABIC** on https://www.facebook.com/youthofsumud/

In **ITALIAN** on https://www.youtube.com/c/apg23

We will very much appreciate your attendance.

Thanks in advance,

Best regards,

Maria Mercedes Rossi

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