Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

Item 3: ID with SR on Water

Systematic Violations of the Right to Water in Gaza

Mr. President,

The systematic destruction and obstruction of Gaza's water and sanitation infrastructure has led to severe water shortages and health crisis. In Gaza, only 10 percent of people have access to safe water.[1]

systematic destruction of water facilities and deliberate obstruction of aid have reduced Gaza's water supply by 94%, leaving residents with less than a third of the emergency minimum, exacerbating a severe health crisis.

We draw the attention of the Special Rapporteur to the fact that water has been systematically weaponized against Palestinians. Israel has damaged or destroyed five water sites every three days since the start of the war[2].

People and children have been forced to drink contaminated water[3], which resulted in approximately 14,000 to 15,000 cases of watery diarrhea.[4]

Mr. President,

We echo the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water in his report to HRC 57 which calls on States to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to water and land**.**

We call on States to make the dream of 12-year-old Khalil come true: His dream is that safe drinking water is available and that there is no sewage on the roads. [5]

[1] https://www.unicef.org/sop/what-we-do/wash-water-sanitation-and-hygiene
[2] Israel using water as weapon of war as Gaza supply plummets by 94%, creating deadly health catastrophe: Oxfa m | Oxfam International
[3]https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/gazans-forced-to-drink-dirty-water-as-israels-onslaught-continues/3123190
[4] https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_-_issue_39b.pdf?ua=1, p. 3.
[5] https://www.unicef.org/stories/gaza-children-face-acute-water-sanitation-crisis