

Affiliate , International Commission of Jurists - Geneva فرع لجنة الحقوقيين الدولية ، جنيف  
تتمتع الحق بصفة استشارية لدى المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي في الأمم المتحدة  
NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



A L - H A Q

## Request for Side Event and Stand

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<b>Organiser:</b>	Al-Haq
<b>Topic:</b>	Corporate Involvement in Extractive Industries: A Case Study of the Occupation of Palestine
<b>Requested Date:</b>	4 December 2013, 13:00h – 14:30h
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Ms. Elisabeth Koek ( <a href="mailto:lis@alhaq.org">lis@alhaq.org</a> )

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### About Al-Haq

Al-Haq is a Palestinian human rights organisation established in West Bank in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Al-Haq seeks to end violations of the individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator. Al-Haq is the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, Geneva, and has special consultative status with the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council.

### Introduction

The right to self-determination constitutes an essential principle of international law, since its realisation is an indispensable condition for the effective guarantee and observance of individual human rights. Since 1948, UN bodies, including the General Assembly and the Security Council, have reiterated the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, at the same time acknowledging the continuous violation of this right by Israel. In addition, the UN General Assembly has identified the fundamental principle of customary international law concerning ‘permanent sovereignty over natural resources’ as a basic ingredient of the right to self-determination. Through its policies and practices in the OPT, Israel illegally exercises sovereign rights over Palestinian natural resources, aimed at permanently denying Palestinians their right to self-determination. The exploitation of Palestinian natural resources through these policies entrenches the illegal settlement enterprise and contributes to the perpetuation of the conflict.

The connection between the natural resource exploitation under the umbrella of the extractive industry and conflict around the world has been affirmed by the UN Security Council on numerous occasions resulting in Security Council resolutions aimed at addressing the factors that allow the perpetuation of conflict. One of those factors identified is that of the role of transnational corporations.

Over the past three years, Al-Haq has conducted significant research in the area of Palestinian natural resources and how illegal Israeli policies allow for the exploitation of these resources. Governmental policies, however, are only the mechanism through which these resources are allowed to be exploited. It is the complicity of domestic and foreign business enterprises which allow these policies to have practical implications on the rights of the Palestinian people by exploiting and depleting the natural resources affected by these policies.

### **Objectives**

The first objective of the proposed side event is to highlight the role that transnational corporations play in the entrenchment of the settlement enterprise, thereby perpetuating the decades long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Al-Haq will present case studies on three natural resources in particular, land, water and minerals, and how multinational corporations are involved in their exploitation.

The second objective is to have the exploitation of Palestinian natural resources become part of future discussions on the extractive industry as a whole.

### **Participants**

In addition to representatives of Al-Haq presenting its research, Al-Haq will invite additional stakeholders involved in the extractive industry from Africa and South America to share their experiences in challenging the role of multinational corporations in their respective regions. Al-Haq will also invite members of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights to address the work being done on the issue in general and engage in a discussion on how such work incorporates conflict zones resulting from foreign occupation.

### **Stand**

Al-Haq would also like to request space to set up a stand outside of the meeting rooms to display our research materials and engage with the Forum's participants on the issue of corporate involvement in extractive industries.