Israel has occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, since 1967. The hallmark of a belligerent occupation is its temporary nature, where the belligerent occupant after establishing effective control over the territory thereby substitutes its authority for that of the defeated sovereign and administers the occupied territory provisionally. Moreover, the law of armed conflict prohibits the occupant from exerting collective punishment on the civilian inhabitants. This presentation will discuss how the occupation of Palestine, now exceeding 50 years, features permanent elements, including how Israel exerts social controls over the Palestinian population through mass arrests, administrative detentions, and denial of freedom of movement and collective penalties, all in violation of the law on occupation and prohibition on collective punishment.

About the Presenter
Avidan Y. Cover is Professor of Law at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law and Director of the Institute for Global Security Law & Policy. Cover teaches in the Civil Rights and Human Rights Clinic in the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center, where he supervises students representing clients in civil lawsuits primarily in the areas of civil rights, including freedom of speech, unlawful force, and housing discrimination as well as documenting human rights abuses. He also teaches courses in constitutional law, race and American law, and international humanitarian law. Cover’s scholarship focuses on human rights, civil rights and national security law.

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