

Islamic Republic of
I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Mohammad Khazaei,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
under the agenda item**

"Situation in the Middle East"

**before the
United Nations Security Council**

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

As we come together in today's open debate, my delegation once again would like to express its conviction regarding the need and importance of continuing to support all the actions that could lead to the establishment of justice, peace, stability and an end to violence and in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

The Middle East region is witnessing a widespread transformational thunderstorm that has hit across this region. For the time being, the region is witnessing drastic changes and people are aspiring for democracy and opposing dictators supported by some powers in the West.

At the same time the situation in the Middle East region is getting ever more complex. There are more and more threats from terrorism, extremism and foreign intervention which are all impediments to growth, development and stability of the region. In this situation, any miscalculations, making wrong decisions and fuelling the fire will affect the whole region and harm many people, as well as all stakeholders. For this reason, one cannot overstate the risks of overemphasizing on a situation and closing the eyes on another similar situation. This comes too risky when on a given situation there is a deliberate attempt to change the realities on the ground through force and armed conflict and creating a *fait accompli*. It is clear that there has been an inexorable radicalization of approaches, which could lead to an ever-growing spiral of violence. For the Middle East there are still many pieces of puzzle to be put together to have a good and wide picture of it and many themes should be considered in the wider picture. We should see the trend in democratization, development, economic relations, energy market etc. We should see also the extremism, terrorism, ethnic vendetta etc. as well. What is needed perhaps is resetting or a revision of approaches towards the developments in the region. The west must revise its approach about the middle East. There seems to be one only path and one approach ahead of us that could bring peace, stability and prosperity and that is cooperation rather than confrontation, genuine response to the desires of the people rather than forcing them to accept what seems to be an artificial and superficial solution.

On the issue of Palestine, **Mr. President**, the Security Council and world community must spare no efforts to prevent the escalation of tensions and confrontations in the occupied lands of Palestine. Desecration of Muslim holy places and the expansion of illegal settlements continue on an unprecedented scale. The Israeli occupying forces have continued to carry out missile air strikes and artillery bombardment of civilian areas in the Gaza Strip in grave violation of international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in time of war. The occupying power continues to deliberately target and kill Palestinian civilians, continuing its policy of extrajudicial executions. Moreover, no place in Gaza is safe from Israel's relentless aggression, with even playgrounds now becoming targets for Israeli warplanes.

In this connection, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the action taken by Non Aligned Movement to request Switzerland, in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to reconvene at the earliest opportunity a conference of the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention for the purpose of upholding the obligations and responsibilities incumbent upon the high contracting parties in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem.

Mr. President,

Regarding the situation in Syria, it is clear that violence continues on different fronts. We believe that the current crisis should only be resolved through national dialogue and in a peaceful manner. About two weeks ago Mr. Kofi Annan visited Iran for the second time and met Iranian high officials. Our officials assured the Special Envoy of Iran's support for his mission and expressed Iran's deep concern over the regional consequences of any violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We reiterated our readiness to host talks between the Syrian government and opposition parties. There are numerous efforts by certain states to further complicate the situation in Syria by providing financial and arms to armed groups. Sabotage and terror as well as violence against innocent people must be brought to an end. The regional countries should cooperate with one another to resolve the Syrian crisis so that the final result would be to the benefit of Syrian people, the region and the international community.

Mr. President,

The representative of the Zionist criminal regime leveled baseless allegations against my country on the issue of recent terrorist attack in Bulgaria and Iran's peaceful nature of nuclear activities. While condemning any terrorist attack in whatever form and manifestations, with regard to terrorist attack in Bulgaria I should make it clear that we have never and will not engage in such despicable attempt on the lives of innocent people. Such terrorist operation could only be planned and carried out by the same regime whose short history is full of state terrorism operations and assassinations aimed at implicating others for narrow political gains. I could provide many examples showing that this regime killed its own citizens and innocent Jewish people, during the last couple of decades. In order to blame others Iran is a victim of such operations and the assassinations of Iran's nuclear scientists are fresh cases in our mind.

On the nuclear issue I should say that the Israeli regime's clandestine development and unlawful possession of hundreds of nuclear warheads and nuclear weapons arsenal is the only and unique the region as well as international peace and security. Unless the United Nations organs including the Security Council do not take meaningful steps in dealing with such criminal policies and practices, hope for peace and stability in the Middle East would remain a dream to come true.

Thank you, Mr. President
