



CHAIR OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
SIXTH SESSION

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JUAN ANTONIO FERNÁNDEZ
PALACIOS, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 7 "HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN PALESTINE AND OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES".

(Check against delivery)

Geneva, 20 September 2007

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to address the Human Rights Council on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. The Movement condemns the prolonged Israeli military occupation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories since 1967 and expresses grave concern over the distressing developments in the recent period.
3. For four decades, Israel has been violating international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law. Moreover, Israel has carried out deliberate and unlawful policies and practices aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and nature of the lands under occupation, as well as annexed territories de facto, particularly through the implementation of its illegal colonial settlement policy and, since 2003, through the illegal construction of a Wall in the West Bank.
4. In addition, Israel continues to impose a humiliating and discriminatory network of checkpoints throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, to impose closures, to seal-off the Gaza Strip, and to carry out intense military raids and incursions in Palestinian population centers, causing extensive loss of life and injury to Palestinian civilians and widespread destruction of property.
5. In the last days the Israeli air force, combined with troops by land and armored vehicles, have burst repeatedly in the Gaza Strip, and killed a considerable number of civilians, under the pretext of antiterrorist operations. NAM condemns the realization of such operations and demands its end.
6. The acts of Israel, the occupying Power, go beyond the use of force against the lives of the Palestinian people. NAM is deeply concerned also at the digging and excavations carried out beneath and around the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, which are blatant violations of the religious and cultural rights of the Palestinian people and Muslims in general.

Mr. President,

7. The Non-Aligned Movement condemns also the Israel's violation of the Syrian Airspace on the 6th of September 2007, and considers it an unjustifiable violation of the international law, aimed at increasing the level of tension in such a volatile region.
8. NAM would also like to highlight the plight and misery of the Palestinian and Arab detainees in the Israeli prisons, including the prisoners from the occupied Syrian Golan, which have been held captive in violation of their civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights. The Movement calls upon the international community to demand Israel for their immediate release.

Mr. President,

9. The Non-Aligned Movement regrets the lost of innocent lives in both Palestinian and Israeli peoples. At the same time, the Movement calls upon the parties to urgently resume peace process negotiations on all tracks on the basis of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, in order to comprehensively resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.
10. As adopted by the Heads of States or Government in the Declaration on Palestine during the XIV Summit in Havana, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirm its strong commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian people to bring an end to Israel's occupation, and consistently reasserted its commitment to a just and peaceful solution of the conflict and to the right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent state of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I thank you.
