

تونس
AFRICA

Egypt

Mr. President,

The African Group would like to seize this opportunity to, once again, reaffirm its continued full support to and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle to realize their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their land and recover their properties, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the principles of international law, UN resolution 194 and all other pertinent and subsequent UN resolutions.

The African group strongly condemns the continuation of the Israeli violations of the human rights of the Palestinian peoples, including closure, targeted assassinations, collective and indiscriminate measures that violate International Law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

The Group would like to express its grave concern over the deterioration of the living conditions of the Palestinian People in the economic, social and health fields, as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of their land, its ongoing policy of deliberate destruction of infrastructure, as well as imposing strict siege and restriction on the movement of goods and persons, and unilateral measures including expansion of the settlements and the construction of the Separation Wall.

The Group is equally concerned at the continuous Israeli policy of arbitrary imprisonment and detention of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially juveniles, women and old men.

This situation is further exacerbated by the Israeli policy announced yesterday to consider Gaza as enemy territory so as to inflict collective punishment on the inhabitants of Gaza in blatant violation of International Humanitarian Law. The Group commends the Secretary General for his prompt and forceful response to this provocative development and encourages the High Commissioner to take similar action.

Mr. President,

The violations of human rights committed by Israel during its extensive military operation against the Palestinians in June 2006 and the massacre of Beit Hanon of 10 November 2006 will never be forgotten.

Israel, the occupying power, has, to date, failed to implement the Council's resolutions S-1/1 of July 6th and S-3/1 of November 2006 and hindered the dispatching of the urgent fact-finding missions specified therein. The group urges the Council to meet its obligations and take concrete measures to compel Israel to comply with the provisions of these resolutions.

The Group believes that it is the responsibility of the President of the Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to take the necessary measures for the speedy implementation of the Council's resolution. It is the view of the group that Equal and impartial attention should be given to all cases of violation of human rights all over the world.

I thank you.