

**Statement by**

**Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Agenda item 69: The right to self- determination**

**Third Committee of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UNGA**

**New York, 7 November 2007**

**In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset my delegation would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories for his report contained in document A/62/275. As the Special Rapporteur articulated in the said report, the right of Palestinian people to self-determination cannot be disputed. Such a right has been recognized by all United Nations entities as well as by the international community as a whole. However, this undisputable right has been denied and obstructed for nearly 60 years by the occupying power.

The Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council at its third special session expressed its concern at the gross and systematic violations of human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian Territories by the occupying Power, Israel, and calls for urgent international action to put an immediate end to these violations, including those emanating from the series of incessant and repeated Israeli military incursions therein. The resolution succeeded by the Human Rights Council resolution in its first Special Session on 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 which has expressed its grave concern at the breaches by Israel, the occupying Power, of international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the arbitrary arrest of Palestinian ministers, members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and other officials, as well as the

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arbitrary arrest of other civilians. These operations have been done regardless of fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and basic rights of Palestinian people.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Regrettably, despite all these recommendations, Israeli regime not only continues to defy this right, but also perpetuate massive abuse of human rights, extensively reported by various United Nation treaty bodies including Special Rapporteurs mandated by the Human Rights Council. According to the report of the Special Rapporteur, in the past year Israel has violated important norms of international humanitarian law and human rights law by undertaking military action against civilian targets and by creating a humanitarian crisis by means of the closure of Gaza's external borders. Moreover, the construction of the wall moves ahead and settlements continue to expand. Military incursions, accompanied by arrests, continue unabated. House demolitions remain a feature of life in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Finally, the Israeli denial of the right to self-determination, its refusal of withdrawal from all Palestinian territories, and continuation of settlements is indeed a manifested mockery. The fact that Palestinian territories have systematically been occupied by Israeli regime obligates this regime to return to the people of Palestine, their ancestral lands.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman**