

**Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan on behalf of the OIC on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the
Promotion and Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while
Countering Terrorism, during Sixth Resumed Session of HRC,
12 December 2007**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

The OIC strongly condemns the heinous terrorist attacks in Algeria that have killed scores of civilians, including 11 UN employees. We convey our deepest sympathies to the Government and people of Algeria, to the injured and to the families of the victims. We urge the international community to strengthen its resolve and refine its strategy to fight global terrorism.

We thank Mr. Martin Scheinin, the Special Rapporteur for his valuable work and comprehensive report.

The fight against terrorism must remain a top priority for the international community. However, terrorism must be combated with utmost responsibility and with respect for international law including international human rights law.

The Special Rapporteur's report aptly draws our attention to the abuse of the war against terror by some countries particularly those in occupation of foreign peoples and territories to achieve illegal political ends. Their actions have, unfortunately, strengthened appeal for extremism and terrorism. The OIC agrees on the need to address the causes or conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism such as prolonged unresolved conflicts, violations of human rights, racial or religious discrimination and socio-economic marginalization. However, international terrorist networks must be resolutely confronted as agents of the most extreme form of human rights violations constituting a security challenge for the world community.

Under the garb of fighting terror, Islamophobia is unfortunately being pursued in some societies. Islam is equated with terrorism. OIC has always urged strong political measures to deal with this trend. The Special Rapporteur has also focused on this growing problem in the context of counter-terrorism. We believe that the various UN bodies dealing with counter-terrorism and protection and promotion of human rights must coordinate their efforts to eradicate Islamophobia particularly in the context of war against terrorism.

Mr. President

The Special Rapporteur has confirmed the adverse human rights consequences of the security barrier/ wall constructed by Israel along and inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) that have negatively affected the Palestinians' right to work, health, housing and education. We hope that the Human Rights Council will strongly echo his call to the Occupying power Israel for an immediate withdrawal of all Israeli settlements from the OPT and to replace the still unfinished barrier with a security infrastructure that is accepted by the Palestinians. The OIC also strongly supports his call that the administration of check-points and all other associated measures in the OPT should not have a disproportionate impact on the enjoyment of human rights including economic social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people.

In his advice to donor countries the Special Rapporteur has indicated the possible fall out of providing technical assistance in countering terrorism at the expense of development assistance. This in his view is tantamount to undermining long term strategy for short term goals. We hope that States will be able to use the valuable recommendations of this report in formulating their counter terrorism strategies.

We support the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that more attention be paid to the right to education as a key right in the enjoyment of several other human rights for a sustainable long term strategy for the prevention of terrorism.

Finally, we hope that the Special Rapporteur in his next report will focus on the treatment of Muslim minorities in implementing counter terrorism strategies and measures.

I thank you Mr. President.