

Statement by the Bangladesh Delegation at the Seventh Session of the  
Human Rights Council on the Situation in Occupied Palestinian Territories,  
6 March 2008

Mr. President,

My Delegation associates itself with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC Group and Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

Over the past ten days or so, Gaza has been in the news for the usual tragic incidents of civilian deaths and ~~massive~~ <sup>massive</sup> destructions. At least 100 Palestinians <sup>civilians</sup> have been killed by Israeli bombardments in the past week only. Many more are injured. These ~~heinous~~ <sup>ruthless</sup> acts by Israel defy all civilized human behavior. ~~On a similar incident couple of weeks ago, Special Rapporteur John Dugard has said, 'those responsible for such cowardly acts are guilty of serious war crimes and should be punished'.~~

This is deeply frustrating given the fact that only the other day, the Council met on a special session and condemned Israeli atrocities. Yet again, Israel has resorted to mindless and cruel actions against the Palestinians in defiance of the world outcry. ~~These incidents reflect a sheer lack of commitment of Israel to allow any progress in the peace process.~~ ✖ ✖

Mr. President,

The people in the Occupied Territories ~~were already in dire situation~~ <sup>continue to suffer</sup> due to Israeli blockades, closers, confiscation of land and demolition of houses. The illegal separation wall continues to divide and isolate communities, destroying livelihoods and preventing hundreds of thousands normal access to their jobs, families, markets, schools and hospitals. ~~The most optimists would struggle to see the shape of a viable, contiguous Palestinian State under the circumstances.~~

Gaza's borders have been subject to a regime of closure that is without precedent anywhere, both in terms of its extent and its human consequences for the people. This closure is aimed at strangulating an entire population of ~~5~~

~~million~~ <sup>2.5</sup> million Palestinians whose quality of life had already diminished to subsistence level ~~for lack of sufficient supplies of food, medicine, fuel and other necessities.~~ Israel is doing so purposefully to generate fear, fury and distress among Palestinians, including through air strikes, incursions, assassinations and other military action that regularly take civilian lives. The overwhelming majority of Palestinians cannot leave or enter Gaza. ~~Without fuel and spare parts, public health conditions are declining steeply as water and sanitation services struggle to function.~~ <sup>The UN Relief and Welfare Agency reports</sup> Hospital infrastructure and essential equipment are breaking down at an alarming rate with limited possibility of repair or maintenance. Many have had their treatment delayed or denied, leading to worsening of their medical conditions and preventable Palestinian deaths.

Mr. President,

The situation is grave and it is deteriorating every day with more deaths, more destructions. It reinforces the impression that Gaza and the West Bank are places to which international law does not apply.

Mr. President,

The present situation in Gaza cannot be allowed to continue. The international community must assume responsibility to compel Israel to cease aggression in Gaza and stop bloodshed. Every effort should be made to bring the violence to an end and to resume the peace process aiming at a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement in the region.

I thank you.

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These ~~are~~ are not isolated incidents. Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law have been occurring in a systematic and constant manner over many years. New violations of human rights and humanitarian law are added as such as the construction of the Wall, sonic booms, targeted killings, the use of the Palestinian as human shields etc. These are not my words. The distinguished

Special Rapporteur John Dugard said so in his latest report on the situation of O.P.T. ~~particularly, para 2-5~~ <sup>could have</sup> concluded my

~~statement~~ <sup>statement</sup> by just reiterating what Mr. Dugard rightly ~~said~~ <sup>stated</sup> in ~~the~~ his report

~~in a general comment under segment criticism of Special Rapporteur and~~ particularly from ~~para 2-5~~ para 2-5.

~~I agree~~ ~~in fact~~, I can not agree more when he says, "Israel must address the occupation and the violation of human rights and international humanitarian law it engenders, and not invoke the justification of terrorism as a distraction, as a pretext for failure to confront the root cause of Palestinian ~~occupation~~ the violence - the occupation."