

Final  
Version

In Trans. only  
H. Khan

Introduction by Ambassador Masood Khan, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC, of Resolution entitled "Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories", 6 March 2008.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the OIC and the Arab Group, which are members of the Human Rights Council, I have the honor to introduce the draft resolution on "Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories" contained in document A/HRC/7/L.1.

We are grateful to the African and Arab Groups as well as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for initiating and endorsing the call for moving Agenda Item 7 from 17 March to 6 March. We thank you and the Secretariat for making this possible.

We are presenting this resolution in the backdrop of a very serious situation caused by the incessant Israeli military attacks on Palestinian people in Gaza, which have resulted in the loss of over 125 lives, including women and children, in the past 10 days.

The resolution focuses on the present crisis and its tragic humanitarian consequences. The gravity of the situation requires instant response by the Human Rights Council to underline the urgency of the situation.

The preamble of the resolution underlines: a) the right of all peoples to self-determination and the acquisition of land by the use of force; b) the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and c) the applicability of international human rights law to the Occupied Palestinian Territory including Jerusalem. It recognizes that the Israeli military incursions particularly the recent ones in the occupied Gaza Strip constitute grave violations of the international humanitarian law and the human rights of the Palestinian people. These attacks undermine the efforts to reinvigorate peace process. The Israeli attacks in the occupied territories have led to loss of life and injuries among Palestinian civilians including women, children and infants.

In the operative part, the draft resolution:

- a) condemns the Israeli attacks and incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory particularly the recent ones which resulted in the loss of more than 125 lives;
- b) expresses shock at the Israeli bombardment of Palestinian homes and killings of civilians and inflicting collective punishment against the civilian population;

c) calls for immediate cessation of Israeli military attacks as well as crude rocket attacks by ~~Palestinian combatants~~; *some Palestinians*

d) calls for urgent international action to put an end to the grave violations committed by the occupying power including the siege of the Gaza strip; and

e) reiterates its calls for all parties to respect the rules of international human rights and international humanitarian laws and to refrain from violence against civilians.

We hope that in dealing with this grave humanitarian crisis, the Council this time will transcend the ideological fault lines and political machinations. We hope that the Council will adopt this resolution with consensus.

Mr. President, ~~consultation~~ right now consultations  
I thank you Mr. President.

are underway between the OIC, European Union, Switzerland, Russian Federation, and other interested delegations to address concerns so that we can have an agreed text. It will be prudent to ~~not~~ suspend the Council's session <sup>for at least 30 minutes</sup> to give delegations time to ~~reach~~ explore common ground.