

AFRICA / ITEM 7

Mr. President,

The African Group would like to welcome Mr. Richard Falk and to express its readiness to fully cooperate with him to insure the fulfillment of his mandate. *Commented John Dugals.*

The African Group would like to reaffirm its continued and 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 on the Palestinian Occupied Territories 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.

Mr. President,

Israel, the occupying power, has 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. Such Israeli practices reflect the Israeli indifference to the United Nations and its resolutions, as well as to the entire international human rights mechanism.

I thank you.