

African Statement  
General debate on item 7

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Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group is gravely concerned at the deteriorating human rights situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories, including the Golan heights.

Reports of UN bodies as well as highly credible media and civil society organizations show a consistent pattern of Israeli violation of the human rights of citizens living under its occupation. In the Palestinian Territories, Israel is still pursuing its policies of closure, collective punishment, extra-judicial killing and deprivation of the freedom of movement.

As for the Syrian Golan heights, Israel continues its practices of imposing Israeli identity on the Syrian citizens, establishing Israeli settlements on the Syrian confiscated lands and depriving Syrian detainees from their right to health. All resolutions of both the Council and the General Assembly in this regard were ignored by Israel.

The African Group is particularly concerned at the continuation of the siege of the occupied Gaza. While taking note of and endorsing the conclusion of the Fact Finding Mission that Gaza remains under Israeli Occupation, the Group calls on Israel, the occupying power, to fulfill its obligations under

International Law, the International Human Rights Law and the International Humanitarian Law, in particular the fourth Geneva Convention.

Mr. President,

The report of His Imminence Archbishop Desmond Tutu, that we discussed earlier today, clearly states that the Israeli occupation is the root cause for the bleak humanitarian situation in the occupied territories. It is the Group's conviction that no improvement of that situation could be expected before the end of the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories.

Mr. President,

The African Group demands the international community to take the necessary steps for the provision of protection to Palestinian civilians and to redress the grave violations of the human rights of the Palestinian People and to bring all Israelis responsible for such violation to justice.

As clearly indicated by African Summits, the African Group, once more, expresses its full solidarity with the Palestinian People and its unconditional support for their right to self-determination and the early establishment of an independent Palestinian state. It is the Groups conviction that the daily Israeli atrocities committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory hinder the possibility of the resumption of the peace process in the region.

I thank you.