

Islamic Republic of Iran

Right of Reply

5 March 2009

Mr. President,

In exercising right of reply, I would like to place on record that my delegation strongly rejects the baseless allegations and fabricated distortions raised against my country by the representative of the Israeli regime, during the General Segment of the current session of the Human Rights Council. These are but a preposterous, and indeed tired practice to distract the international community's attention from the criminal policies and abhorrent atrocities of the Israeli regime in occupied Palestine and elsewhere in the region and most recently in Gaza Strip.

It is evident that no amount of slander, deception or smear campaign by the Israeli regime can cloud the obvious fact that this regime poses the sole and the most real, serious and urgent threat that the world and the region are facing today and should be countered by the international community urgently and decisively.

In fact, occupation, aggression, bloodshed, terrorism, in overt and covert forms, as well as gross and systematic violation of human rights and the crimes committed by the Israeli regime during the past 60 years in Occupied Palestine, Syrian Golan, Lebanon and elsewhere in the region are well known to all

members of the international community and well documented in international bodies.

Needless to say that the most recent heinous crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian civilians including many women and children in Gaza are just a fresh account of such atrocities. Undoubtedly these actions are among severe breaches of the international law including human rights and humanitarian law and constitute genocide, war crimes and crime against humanity.

Ironically, all these atrocities have being committed in a climate of impunity and in clear defiance of all international condemnations and the UN decisions and resolutions.

Therefore, we recommend the international community and the Human Rights Council, in particular, to take all necessary measures, as a matter of priority, to force the Israeli regime to stop its human rights violations and to put an immediate end to occupation as the most root cause of all those violations and atrocities.

Thank you,