



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

56 Rue de Moillebeau, 1211 Geneva Tel: (4122) 749.1930 Fax: (4122) 734.8085

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STATEMENT

BY

**AMBASSADOR ZAMIR AKRAM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN
ON BEHALF OF THE OIC**

**DURING THE
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE
INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL FACT FINDING
MISSION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7**

**AT THE
12th SESSION OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Geneva
29TH September 2009**

Mr. President,

I am making this statement on behalf of the member states of the OIC.

We welcome the fact finding mission among our midst and thank them for presenting an objective, impartial and most comprehensive account of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem, particularly during the 23 days aggression in the occupied Gaza Strip. The presentation made today adequately summarizes their comprehensive report and findings.

The Special Session rightly asked for a series of reports, which confirmed fears and concerns expressed during this session on the violation of human rights of defenseless Palestinians in complete disregard of all international human rights and humanitarian norms. This session also called for establishing an international independent fact finding mission to investigate the violations of IHL and IHR. We thank the President of the Council who took pains to appoint some of the most well reputed persons in their respective fields to conduct these investigations. These noble men and women, under the leadership of Justice Goldstone, have performed an excellent job by preparing the most comprehensive account of all allegations through detailed investigations that included in-situ visits, interviews by the affected population and exhaustive research of corresponding documents and reports.

Mr. President,

An important facet of this report is its findings on the causal effects of this conflict i.e. historical perspective that serves to once again highlight that the root cause of this conflict is Occupation. It also confirms the worst fears of international community about Israeli violations that amounted to war crimes and possible crimes against humanity, including willful killings, deliberate attacks on civilian objects, wanton destruction of civilian property, indiscriminate attacks, the use of human shields, and collective punishment against Gaza's civilian population in the form of a continuing blockade. Objective and apt recommendations made by this report not only address the human rights concerns but also make valuable contribution towards resolving this conflict in a comprehensive manner.

The OIC once again regrets the continued non cooperation by the Occupying Power Israel to all independent and international missions that were mandated to investigate human rights violations of the Occupied Palestinian People. Such an attitude is a reflection of an above the law mentality and clearly a refusal to acknowledge international community's human rights concerns.

Mr. President,

We are aware that in the course of today's interactive dialogue, the distinguished members of fact finding mission will be addressed a number of questions that are meant to distract Council's attention from the core issue through procedural carping as well as to undermine the impressive and the most objective report so far on the issue. The OIC, however, would like to reaffirm its support to the excellent work done by these distinguished members, that not only needs to be acknowledged but above all implemented to address the issue through a non-partisan, non politicized and objective approach.

We would also like to remind the distinguished Council members of the pledges and promises made by all of us to make this body a truly impartial and objective one that strives to promote and protect the universal human rights for all in a non politicized manner. A number of pledges were even made at the start of this Session. It is now the time for action. Words need to be converted into deeds. The OIC, in preparing the follow up resolution to this Special Session, has taken extreme care to be factual. We hope our partners will respond to the calls of their conscience and join us in adopting this resolution by consensus.

I thank you.