

Statement by the

Islamic Republic of Iran

12th Special Session of the Human Rights Council

on

Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Geneva, 15 October 2009

Mr. President,

We welcome and fully support the convening of the Human Rights Council special session on human rights situation in occupied Palestinian territories, and consider the report of the Fact-Finding mission on Gaza as an important and serious report which deserves special attention by the international community with a view to bring to justice those who have committed heinous crimes including war crimes and crimes against humanity, during brutal aggressions against the innocent civilian Palestinians including many women and children in the Gaze Strip, and also to put an end to the impunity and defiance of the law.

We strongly believe that those atrocities perpetrated against the civilian Palestinians during the brutal aggression on Gaza, which have been well- documented in the report, and the relevant recommendations thereon, should be seriously taken and resolutely followed up by the international community through all relevant mechanisms with a view to holding accountable the perpetrators of such heinous crimes and to put an end to the persistent situation of absolute impunity and defiance of the law.

In fact, the international community anxiously is waiting to see how the Human Rights Council, as the main human rights body of the United Nations, is dealing with such an important and documented report, in fulfilling its mandate and responsibilities to promote and protect human rights.

Mr. President,

We also attach high importance to the first periodic report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights which covers some of the realities on the ground in the occupied Palestine, particularly during the recent brutal aggression against the Gaza Strip. In this context, the international community should exert all pressure on the occupiers to lift the inhumane severe siege imposed on more than 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied Gaze Strip.

Furthermore, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns recently intensified illegal policies and measures taken by the Israeli regime in occupied Palestine, including ongoing settlement activities, continued racist construction of Apartheid wall in occupied Palestine and in particular in and around the holy city and changing its demographic and geographic character, continued digging and excavation works and activities in and around Al-Aqsa mosque and its vicinity, restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians, their unlawful detention and imprisonment as well as limiting access of Palestinian citizens and worshippers to their properties and holy sites and so on.

Finally Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate, once again, that the root cause of all these violations lies within occupation itself. Therefore, resorting to any excuse, blaming or rendering accusations toward the others by the Israeli

regime, without putting an end to longstanding occupation as the fundamental element, would be misleading and self-projection.

Thank you,