

ITALY

Statement for 'HRC urgent debate  
on Israel's military operation against Gaza flotilla

1 June 2010

Mr. President,

Italy fully aligns to the statement delivered by the Spanish Ambassador on behalf of the European Union.

Italy is gravely concerned about the events that took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. We deplore the acts of violence occurred during the Israeli operations in international water and resulting in the loss of many lives and a great number of wounded. We express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims.

These acts of violence have no justification and need to be condemned. An immediate, full and impartial inquiry into the events and their circumstances is necessary. We urge Israel to take all necessary measures to cast light on the dynamic of these dramatic events. We also urge Israel to allow immediate consular access to and information about citizens who were on the vessels in view of their prompt release.

While confirming Israel's legitimate needs to security, we underline the appalling humanitarian situation of the Gaza people and the need to guarantee their human rights. We call on Israel to promote and facilitate immediate and unconditional flow of humanitarian and reconstruction aid as well as commercial goods and the movement of persons to and from Gaza.

We call on all parties to avoid any escalation of tensions and to turn to the negotiating process in a constructive spirit in view of a comprehensive and final solution of the conflict.

Thank you, Mr. President.