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**Statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC Member States under agenda item
7 during the 17th session of the Human Rights Council,
(Geneva, 14th June 2011)**

Mr. President

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Member States of the OIC.

For the last four decades, Israel, the occupying power, has continued to carry on with impunity a policy based upon the use of disproportionate force, deliberate destruction of infrastructure and killing of civilians, illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian territories in order to silence the voice of occupied Palestinians. The continuous flagrant violations by Israel of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and in particular the most fundamental right to life and the right to self-determination is a clear violation of the UN Charter, the ICCPR and IESCR.

Mr. President

The OIC reaffirms the international community's demand to end the occupation of Palestine and establish the independent and sovereign state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital and the return of Palestinian refugees in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions including GA resolution 194. We further reaffirm the applicability of International Law, International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, to the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem.

Mr. President

We condemn the ongoing illegal settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories and demand that Israel stop the establishment and maintenance of the settlements, including incentives to create them and the establishment of infrastructure to support them.

The OIC also demands that Israel release all Palestinian prisoners particularly children, women and members of the Palestinian parliament. We also call upon Israel to immediately lift the siege imposed on the occupied Gaza strip as well as facilitate the free movement and circulation of persons and goods within the OPT including East Jerusalem and with the outside world by removing check points and opening of borders and crossing points.

Moreover, the OIC calls upon Israel to stop the destruction of Palestinian properties in East Jerusalem as well as refrain from any measure aimed at altering the legal, geographic and demographic character or status of Jerusalem.

Mr. President

The OIC strongly condemns the use of live ammunition by Israeli security forces against civilians protesting inside Occupied Arab Territories including Occupied Syrian Golan on 15 May and 5 June resulting in killings and injuring tens of civilians, mostly Palestinians. These recent incidents are yet other examples of Israeli disregard of all International norms and laws. We demand that the Israeli authorities immediately take action against those responsible for these killings.

The human rights situation in the occupied Syrian Golan is also deteriorating as a result of the Israeli occupation which continues to violate the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Syrian population. The OIC has condemned the Israeli measures in the occupied Syrian Golan, and today we also demand an end to the illegal occupation of the Syrian land, the an end to the violations of the IHL and IHRL.

We thank the High Commissioner for presenting her report on the status of implementation of the Council's resolution concerning the incident of humanitarian flotilla. The OIC also notes with regret that despite a year after the attack targeting the humanitarian aid flotilla and eight months after the report of the fact-finding mission, no action has been taken by Israel. We believe that the Council should remain seized of this issue in order to ensure accountability and fight against impunity for those responsible for the violations. For this very reason, the OIC has tabled a resolution on the follow-up to the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. We hope that the Council members will be able to support and adopt these texts by consensus.

Mr. President

In conclusion, the OIC welcomes the recent reconciliation agreement between the Palestinian political factions signed in Cairo on 2 May 2011 which is an important step towards Palestinian unity and realizing the right to self-determination.

The OIC calls upon the international community to extend all support to the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian leadership in their ongoing efforts to put an end to the occupation, towards realizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their plans of building an independent sovereign state and its institutions.

I thank you.
