

MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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STATEMENT

**by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations,
Chairman of the OIC Group at the UN in New York,
at the Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly**

Madame President,

I am addressing the General Assembly today at its Resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session in my capacity as the current Chairman of the OIC Group at the United Nations on the issue of “Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. This Special Session is particularly important in view of the Israeli attacks in Gaza Strip, the killing of Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun that took place on 8 November 2006.

The OIC Group at the UN is deeply concerned about the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Palestinian Territory. The excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, particularly its recently perpetrated aggressions in Beit Hanoun and Yamun village, which led to extensive loss civilian Palestinian live, mainly women and children, and the on-going military assaults carried out in the Gaza Strip and in the occupied West Bank, which caused extensive destruction of vital infrastructure for the Palestinian people are severe developments that need to be addressed by the international community.

The dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people calls for the provision of emergency assistance to them. This situation also calls on the international community, including the Quartet to take immediate and serious steps to develop confidence-building measures between the parties involved, by bringing them back to the negotiating table to revive the peace process in accordance with the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

In that regard, as the current Chairman of the OIC Group at the UN, I would like to state that the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States will be convening an Emergency Session on Saturday 18 November 2006 at OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, to examine the repercussions of the serious escalation of aggressions committed in the Palestinian territories. They will consider ways and means to extend the necessary support to the Palestinian people in facing the Israeli assaults as well as the coordination of the Islamic position on the international scene.

Madame President,

In my capacity as the current Chairman of the OIC Group at the UN, I would like to state that the OIC Group at the UN fully supports the draft resolution entitled "Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory," as contained in the document number A/ES-10/L.19.

The on-going deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian Territory and the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israel have caused and will continue to cause extensive loss of civilian life and destruction of property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory if no immediate step is taken to put an end to the aggression.

Before concluding my statement, I would like to emphasize that while we can leave it to history to pronounce its judgment on the outcome of our joint efforts to help bring peace and stability to the region as a whole, and the people of Palestine in particular, the difficulties of our times place heavy burdens and common responsibilities on our shoulders today. In that regard, the OIC Group at the UN urges the international community, including the Quartet, to shoulder its responsibility towards Palestinian people by taking urgent steps to stabilize the situation, resume the peace negotiations and restart the peace process with the hope to preserve international peace and security as stated in the United Nations Charter.

I thank you Madame President.