

**Statement by
The Bangladesh delegation on Palestine at the Human Rights
Council**

29 September 2006

Mr. Chairman

I thank Special Rapporteur John Dugard for his presentation. His statement once again revealed the appalling human rights and humanitarian situation of the people of Palestine in the occupied territories.

It is unfortunate that the Special Rapporteur was not allowed to visit occupied territories to have first hand information on the human rights situation in Palestine.

Mr. Chairman,

The people of Palestine are in dire situation due to Israeli blockade, confiscation of their land, demolition of houses, erection of separation walls and a host of other illegal acts. The current military operations have only accentuated their suffering. In complete disrespect of the international norm, Israel has detained elected public representatives, lawmakers and Ministers of Palestine Government.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh has consistently supported the termination of illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory, as well as the right of self-determination of the people of Palestine. Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land represents a flagrant violation of human rights and international law.

A number of UNGA resolutions have reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to an independent state. Israeli settlements, land confiscation and the construction of separation wall in the occupied Palestinian territories are contrary to the Geneva Convention and other norms of international law.

The 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 validated that the separation wall was illegal. It effectively deprives the Palestinian people from enjoyment of their property and access to employment and livelihood, and access to natural resources necessary for human survival. The construction also seeks to negate the inalienable right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their native land.

Mr. Chairman,

We firmly believe that lasting and viable peace in the region cannot be achieved until the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are recognized and Israeli forces withdraw from the occupied territories. The international community and, in particular, countries which are in a position to exert influence on Israel must make all efforts to stop Israel from continuing with atrocities and construction of the wall. Furthermore, the Israeli settlement in the occupied territories and walls, already constructed, must be dismantled.

Finally, we call upon all parties concerned for immediate resumption of the peace process aimed at a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement in the region.

I thank you