

NAM statement during the General Debate on Item 7
Human Rights in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories
29/9/2009

Mr. President,

I have the pleasure of delivering this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The situation of human rights in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories remains an issue of grave concern to the Non-Aligned Movement. The daily Israeli practices against the Arab population continue to violate internationally recognized human rights according to the international human rights law and the international humanitarian law.

In their last Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt of July 2009, the Heads of State and Government of NAM expressed their grave concern at the serious deterioration of the situation and critical political, economic, social humanitarian and security conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of ongoing unlawful policies and practices by Israel, the occupying Power.

NAM condemned Israel's detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, including hundreds of women and children and numerous elected officials, and called for their immediate release. We also condemn the illegal Israeli settlement activities by which the occupying Power continues to colonize the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international law. NAM is gravely concerned at Israel's continued imposition of collective punishment on the Palestinian people by various illegal means and measures. We reiterate our demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

NAM calls for the immediate end of Israel's inhumane, unlawful closure and blockade of the Gaza Strip, which has resulted in the virtual imprisonment of the entire Palestinian civilian population there by obstructing their freedom of movement, including the movement of sick persons, students and humanitarian personnel; hindering their access to humanitarian aid and all essential goods, including food, medicines, fuel, electricity and construction materials.

We would also like to express serious concern about the grave deterioration of socio-economic conditions and the deepening of the humanitarian crisis due to the blockade, which has caused widespread deprivation, poverty and hardship in addition to the vast trauma and suffering inflicted by the military aggression.

NAM would like to emphasize that such collective punishment measures by Israel are tantamount to grave breaches of international humanitarian law, by which it is bound

as the occupying Power and with which it must scrupulously comply. We demanded that Israel ceases such illegal practices against the Palestinian people, end its illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip and promptly and unconditionally open all its crossing points with the Strip in accordance with International Humanitarian Law and all United Nations resolutions, including relevant Security Council resolutions.

As for the Occupied Syrian Golan, the Heads of State and Government of NAM reaffirmed that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, such as its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 that purports to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect.

We would like to, once again, reiterate the demand made by the Heads of State and Government of NAM for Israel to comply immediately and unconditionally with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War, dated 12 August 1949, and to apply them to the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan. We strongly condemn the Israeli brutal practices in Israeli occupation prisons, and express our grave concern at the inhuman conditions of the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan which have led to the deterioration of their physical health and put their lives at risk, in a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

The Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement stressed, in Sharm E-sheikh Final Document, the need for urgent efforts to advance a Middle East peace process based on Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425, 1397, 1515 and 1850, the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace. They rejected attempts to alter the terms of reference of the peace process, including the imposition of unilateral measures and schemes by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at forcibly and illegally imposing a unilateral solution. They affirmed that such illegal measures, including in particular the construction and expansion of settlements and the Wall, are totally contradictory to the peace process and must be ceased completely for any resumption of peace negotiations. In this regard, we stress the need for intensified and coordinated efforts by the international community to promote a genuine peace process as well as to ensure respect for international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, the key to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

Thank you.