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Human Rights Council

13th session



Item 7
Follow up to Special Sessions
(S-12/1 & S-9/1)

Statement of Ms. Navanethem Pillay
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Geneva, 22 March 2010

Mr. President,
Distinguished Members of the Human Rights Council,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present four reports under agenda item 7, which concern the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

Before you is the *Report of the Secretary-General on Human Rights in the Occupied Syrian Golan*. This report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 10/17, which requested the Secretary-General to disseminate the resolution as widely as possible and to report on this matter to the Council. The report reflects the views of Member States in this regard.

I now turn to my second periodic report, which falls within agenda item 7. This report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-9/1, entitled *Grave Violations of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly Due to the Recent Israeli Military Attacks against the Occupied Gaza Strip*. This report also responds to the Council's request for reports in sections A and C of resolution S-12/1, entitled *The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem*.

Allow me to recall that, in section C of resolution S-12/1, the Human Rights Council welcomed my first periodic report and endorsed that report's recommendations. It also called upon all concerned parties, including United Nations bodies, to ensure their implementation in accordance with their respective mandates. Consequently, my second periodic report contains information on the implementation of these recommendations. This includes addressing the need for accountability for serious human rights violations, and the negative impact on human rights of the continuing blockade on Gaza.

My second periodic report also examines a trend of increasing violence and discrimination against Palestinian women, who suffer not only as a group living under occupation but also as a group subject to a patriarchal value system. Other topics addressed include the human rights situation in and around East Jerusalem, in particular in relation to forced evictions and home demolitions, Israeli settlement activity in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and violence that appears to be linked to such settlement activity.

Let me now present the Report of the Secretary-General on the status of implementation of paragraph 3 of Human Rights Council resolution S-12/1 B. It should be recalled that paragraph 3 endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. It also called upon all concerned parties, including United Nations bodies, to ensure their implementation in accordance with their respective mandates.

In this context, the Secretary-General's report focuses on the status of the implementation of the broad range of recommendations contained in the report of the Fact-Finding Mission. It reviews every recommendation of the Fact-Finding Mission, following the order in which they appear in the Mission's report. The information contained in the Secretary-General's report is based on monitoring carried out by my field presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. It is also based on information received from States, inter-governmental organizations and other entities to which the Mission addressed recommendations.

Excellencies,

Allow me to also draw your attention to my report on the issue of Palestinian pregnant women giving birth at Israeli checkpoints. You would note from the report that there has been no case of concern within the reporting period. Moreover, you will note that this report will no longer be in an annual reporting cycle. From now on, the issue will be addressed in my periodic reports as appropriate.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to emphasize once again that respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights obligations requires that perpetrators of violations be brought to justice. I urge all parties to the Middle East conflict, as well as the international community, to be steadfast in demanding accountability for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

This concludes my presentation. I wish you a fruitful continuation of your work.

Thank you.