

Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran
on the report of the fact finding mission on Gaza to the HRC

Geneva, 29 September 2009

Mr. President,

Following the 22-day long full-fledged military aggression against the defenseless people of the Gaza Strip by the Israeli regime which resulted in brutal massacre of more than 1400 civilians, including many innocent women and children, thousands of injured as well as indiscriminate targeting and destruction of many civilian infrastructures, the Human Rights Council during its 9th Special Session adopted a resolution and strongly condemned this military aggression and also decided to dispatch an urgent independent international fact-finding mission to investigate all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law against the Palestinian people.

My delegation while once again strongly condemning the aforementioned brutal aggression against the Gaza Strip, is pleased that the fact finding mission finally and in spite of continuous non-cooperation on the part of the aggressors, as indicated in the report of the mission, has been able to present its findings to the current session of the Council. This pattern of non-cooperation, of course, is not new at all and in fact reflects a common practice in clear defiance of all international community's decisions and resolutions in this respect during the past decades.

The report has extensively elaborated and substantiated in detail such numerous cases of gross and systematic violation of international human rights and humanitarian law by the Israeli regime as willful

killings, deliberate attacks on vital civilian infrastructure including water, sanitation facilities and electricity system, hospitals and ambulances, mosques, public institutions such as schools and several UN facilities, wanton destruction of civil property, indiscriminate attacks, the use of human shields and collective punishment against the Gaza civilian population in the form of an inhumane continuing blockade and so on, which clearly constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mr. President,

We strongly believe that those atrocities committed against the civilian Palestinians during the aggression on Gaza, which have been well-documented in the report, and the relevant recommendations thereon, should be seriously taken on board and followed up resolutely by the international community through all relevant mechanisms with a view to holding accountable the perpetrators of such heinous crimes and to put an end to the persistent situation of absolute impunity and defiance of the law by the occupiers. In this context, we further call upon all parties to the Geneva Conventions to fulfill their commitment to that effect.

At the same time, I would like to stress that putting the aggressors and the victims at the same position will be non-constructive and therefore unacceptable.

I should also reiterate that the root causes of all these violations committed, lies within occupation. Therefore resorting to any excuse, blaming or rendering accusations toward the others by the occupiers without putting an end to occupation as the fundamental element would be misleading and self projection.

Finally Mr. President, we are of the view that the important report presented today by the mandated fact finding mission to the Council, in spite of its length, deserves to be published in hard copy as well, like every other UN document, to be available for all those who want to have a comprehensive picture of yet another account of aggressions against the Palestinian people during the past six decades.

Thank you,