

**Statement by**  
**The Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**General Debate - Item 7**  
**22 March 2010**

**Mr. President**

The international community has been continuously witnessing a non-stop spate of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law against the people of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories which have been occurred in a systematic and consistent manner for more than half a century.

Expansion of settlements, demolition of houses, imprisonment of innocent people, use of torture, closure of crossings and military incursions as well as new violations of human rights and humanitarian law such as the construction of illegal wall, use of Palestinians as human shield, use of banned munitions against civilians have characterized the occupation of Palestine for the past decades.

**Mr. President,**

This situation was exacerbated by the blockade that the population of Gaza had endured in the months prior to the recent military aggression and as a result, a large number of innocent people have been killed and many others have been injured.

In addition to that, imposed restrictions on the movement of people and goods had a negative impact on the Gaza strip population's enjoyment of their human rights, particularly their economic, social and cultural rights and also their right to life, human dignity and freedom of movement. Furthermore, the blockade caused a humanitarian crisis which has a destructive impact on life in Gaza in terms of food, fuel, energy and water, health care, education, unemployment and poverty.

We also express concerns over the re-doubled efforts to eliminate the religious and cultural heritage of Palestinians as well as Muslims all over the world.

**Mr. President,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns all forms of crime committed against the innocent people in the occupied territories including Palestinian territories, Gaza strip as well as Syrian Golan Heights wherein the human rights situation is deteriorating and calls upon the international community to take more concrete measures to prevent further deterioration of human rights and humanitarian situation in those occupied territories.

In this context, we express concern on the delay in issuance of the Secretary General's report on the human rights situation in the occupied Syrian Golan.

We also condemn the recent scandalous terror of a Palestinian figure in one of the Persian Gulf countries through covert state sponsored terrorist operations.

In conclusion Mr. President, we firmly believe that the root cause of all those human rights violations and crimes perpetrated against people in the occupied territories is undoubtedly the very occupation itself and as long as occupation continues the world will not witness peace, security and realization of human rights in the region.

Thank You,