

Statement
by
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Ambassador
Permanent Representative

of. JORDAN

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Charge de Affaires.

Hussam Al Hussaini

Mr. Chairman,

My Permanent Representative is out of Geneva and I have the honor to read his statement on the issue before us.

The Council is convened today to address the grave situation of human rights in Lebanon caused by the disproportionate Israeli retaliation against civilians.

The targeting and killing of civilians, the destruction of infrastructure and properties, the mass displacement of people, and the extensive damage to the environment are unlawful acts that should not be condoned. The magnitude of the Israeli bombardment and destruction has exceeded every limit and must immediately come to an end.

The tragedy that is unfolding in Lebanon is unacceptable and flies in the face of humanity. It is tantamount to a war crime. The international community, represented by this Council, must reject it and redress the victims promptly.

Mr. Chairman

The international community propelled and motivated by the need to protect the civilian people in all times, but in particular during military conflagrations, has articulated an elaborate and viable international humanitarian regime in the form of international human rights and international humanitarian law which are the sine qua non of the work of this Council. What is happening in Lebanon is a slap in the face for these efforts. Israel onslaught on civilians have made a mock of this regime. It is not only Lebanon that has been put back twenty years, but the progress of humanity in the humanitarian domain that has been put back almost a century by the Israeli unlawful acts. There can be no justification, whatsoever, for what seems to be a deliberate Israeli targeting of civilians to obtain political objectives. Non-combatants must not be, purposefully, targeted by any of the warring parties to enhance its military and political situation.

Millions of children are watching the most vulnerable in this conflict - the disabled, the elderly, children and women- mercilessly bombed in their shelters. This act, in our view, constitutes not only a grave violation of the principles and norms pertaining to international humanitarian and human rights law but also creates an environment for the flourishing of hatred, revenge, and extremism.

We believe that the Council should not only condemn these heinous acts in the strongest possible terms but should also redress them adequately. Further, the Council should, as a representative of the international community conscience, demand that Israel scrupulously refrain from targeting civilians, respect human rights of Lebanese people and abide by the principles of international humanitarian law. At the same time, it should put its moral and political weight to support the efforts aiming at bringing an immediate cease-fire, allowing the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, and sending a fact-finding mission to investigate these unlawful acts and their consequences.

Failing to do so, will send a wrong signal to the victims in Lebanon and will undermine the credibility of the Council.

I thank you